

City Council Meeting MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 2018, 7:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, Salem, Virginia 24153

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Salem, Virginia, was called to order at 7:30 p.m., there being present the following members to wit: Byron Randolph Foley, Mayor, William D. Jones, Vice-Mayor, Council members: Jane W. Johnson, James A. Martin, and James L. Chisom; along with Kevin S. Boggess, City Manager; James E. Taliaferro, II, Assistant City Manager and Clerk of Council; Rosemarie B. Jordan, Director of Finance; Melinda J. Payne, Director of Economic Development; Mike Stevens, Communications Director; Charles E. Van Allman, Jr., Director of Community Development; and Stephen M. Yost, City Attorney.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Bid Openings, Awards, Recognitions

4. Consent Agenda

A. **Minutes**

Consider acceptance of minutes from the January 22, 2018, work session and regular meeting.

Approved

B. **Financial Report**

Consider the Acceptance of the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the six months ending December 2017.

Vice Mayor Jones asked Mrs. Jordan if she could explain the negative number for the "Charges for Services." Mrs. Jordan asked if he was referring to the "General Fund," and Mr. Jones noted that this was correct. She noted that was actually a change from where the Transfer Station reverted over to the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority a year ago in November. So this is the reason for the continuing change. Mr. Jones noted that the Community Development budget is up over \$300,000 as far as expenditures and asked if this is due to the downtown expenses. Mrs. Jordan noted part of that could be the Downtown Plan but the other portion is moving two employees to the department. Mr. Van Allman's department has picked up Zoning and Planning so this is an increase in the expenditures due to the two

additional employees and the workload.

Mr. Jones noted that with regards to taxes it looks like the lodging taxes are down over the first six months of this year versus last year. He asked if she knew why it is down. Mrs. Jordan noted that December is always a drop in lodging tax because of the holidays. Mr. Jones further noted that August and October were also down. He asked if there might be a reason for those two months. Mrs. Jordan noted that August was a trend downward, but she would need to check to see why October was more of a variance than the other months and get back to Council.

There was further discussion regarding the financial report.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

A. Amendment to the City Code

Consider ordinance on first reading amending Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-189, AND CHAPTER 90, ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 90-278 AND 90-280 pertaining to removal of defective electric wires or appliances and electric metering.

Mr. Van Allman noted the ordinance amendment is basically a clarification of the current code. He explained that the equipment is a public utility up to and including the meter. From the point where it goes into the house, it is the responsibility of the property owner. When the Electric Department goes to install a electric meter on a structure and the box and the electrical wiring is in bad shape even though it is on the private side, repairs must be undertaken for safety before the City will install the meter. This has always been that way but the updates to the ordinances just makes it a lot clearer and concise that the City can tell the property owner they need to make repairs to the equipment. He noted that the repairs do not necessarily have to be up to the current code but certain necessary repairs for life and safety.

Mayor Foley asked why they would not have to bring the equipment up to code. Mr. Van Allman noted that it would depend on when the structure was built and lot of other factors. The repairs would have to be to a minimum of safety. There was further discussion regarding the necessary repairs and the ordinance amendments.

Mr. Yost noted as Mr. Van Allman said this is the practice that we have been following. All we are doing now is clarifying or making it more clear. He further discussed the changes to ordinances.

James Martin motioned to approve the ordinance on first reading amending Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-189, AND CHAPTER 90, ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 90-278 AND 90-280 pertaining to removal of defective electric wires or appliances

and electric metering. Jane Johnson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Chisom, Foley, Johnson, Jones, Martin

B. Olde Salem Days 2018

Consider adoption of Resolution 1330 closing Main Street on September 8, 2018.

Mr. Boggess noted this is the second Saturday in September and something that the City does annually for Olde Salem Days. He also noted that Tony Rippee with the Salem Rotary Club was in attendance if there were any questions.

William Jones motioned to adopt Resolution 1330 closing Main Street on September 8, 2018, for Olde Salem Days. James Chisom seconded the motion.

Ayes: Chisom, Foley, Johnson, Jones, Martin

C. Emergency Medical Transport Services Resolution

Consider adopting Resolution 1331 regarding Emergency Medical Transport Services fees and collection processes. **Audit-Finance Committee**

Vice Mayor Jones noted that the Audit Finance Committee met to review this request. The City Code provides that City Council may establish reasonable fees for the provision of emergency medical services. These fees are periodically adjusted based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services fee schedule and recommendations from the City's third party biller. In addition, procedures for the collection of unpaid fees will be updated. The Committee reviewed the request and recommends approval of the attached resolution to modify emergency medical transport fees and collection processes.

Mayor Foley asked if there are provisions to take care of the indigent or those who meet certain poverty levels. Mr. Martin noted that there are provisions for this. He further noted that this provides a little more structure and understanding when fees have not been paid. There is a process in place to work with people who may have a challenge in meeting the obligation.

William Jones motioned to adopt Resolution 1331 regarding Emergency Medical Transport Services fees and collection processes. James Martin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Chisom, Foley, Johnson, Jones, Martin

D. Appropriation of Funds

Consider request to accept and appropriate grant funds from Rotary Club and Rotary District 7570. **Audit - Finance Committee**

Vice Mayor Jones noted the Rotary Club of Salem and Rotary District 7570 have awarded grant funding of \$4,000 to the City to support the City's downtown renewal project. Funding will be used to purchase patio seating for the downtown area. A local match of \$4,000 is required and is available in the Downtown Plan account. The Committee reviewed the request and recommends approval of accepting and appropriating the \$4,000 grant to purchase patio seating.

William Jones motioned to accept and appropriate grant funds from Rotary Club and Rotary District 7570. Jane Johnson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Chisom, Foley, Johnson, Jones, Martin

E. Boards & Commissions

Consider various appointments on boards and commissions.

James Martin motioned to appoint Dr. Forest Jones to the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare to replace Linda Franke for a partial term ending December 31, 2020; to appoint Roland Braelith to the Board of Appeals (USBC Building Code) to replace Greg Lewis for a five-year term ending January 1, 2023; to recommend to the Circuit Court to appoint Macel Janoschka to the Board of Zoning Appeals as an alternate member for a five-year term ending March 1, 2023; to appoint Pat Dew to the Fair Housing Board to replace Kathleen Manson for a three-year term ending March 1, 2021; to reappoint John P. Shaner to the League of Older Americans for a three-year term ending March 1, 2021; and to appoint Chief Deputy-Major B. Todd Clingenpeel to the Western Virginia Regional Jail Authority as an Alternate for a one-year term ending December 31, 2018. James Chisom seconded the motion.

Ayes: Chisom, Foley, Johnson, Jones, Martin

7. Closed Session

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.