

City Council Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, March 11, 2019, 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 all the members to wit: Byron Randolph Foley, Mayor, Jane W. Johnson, Vice-Mayor, Council members: William D. Jones, James A. Martin (absent), and John E. Saunders; along with James E. Taliaferro, II, Interim City Manager and Clerk of Council; Rosemarie B. Jordan, Director of Finance; Judy L. Hough, Deputy City Clerk; and Stephen M. Yost, City Attorney.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Consent Agenda

A. **Minutes**

Consider acceptance of the minutes from the February 25, 2019, work session and regular meeting.

Accepted as presented

4. New Business

A. **Taxicabs**

Hold public hearing in accordance with Section 98-94 of THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA, and consider issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the next twelve (12) months, beginning April 1, 2019. (Date set for public hearing at February 11, 2019, meeting. Advertised in the February 28, 2019, issue of the Salem Times Register.)

Mayor Foley noted that this date had been set at the February 11, 2019, meeting to hold a public hearing regarding the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity, and it was advertised in the February 28th issue of the Salem Times Register.

Mr. Yost noted as most of Council is aware every year in order to operate in the City of Salem, just like every other jurisdiction in Virginia, cab companies have to receive a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the local governing body. The process we have in Salem is the company completes a formal written

application, and then an investigation is done by the Police Department. The investigation is on various aspects of the company, but primarily that the automobiles are in good working order and everything is insured. In looking at Officer B. P. Critz's report, it appears that there were no questions or problems with any of the four applicants. He noted the four companies are: East Coast Petroleum and Trading, Inc. trading as City Cab; B. Early Cab Service LLC; Daniel Stephen Reid, trading as Reid Taxi; and Yellow Cab Services of Roanoke, Inc.

Mayor Foley opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak regarding this issue. There was no response, and the public hearing was closed.

William Jones motioned to award Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the next twelve (12) months, beginning on April 1 to East Coast Petroleum and Trading, Inc. trading as City Cab; B. Early Cab Service LLC; Daniel Stephen Reid, trading as Reid Taxi; and Yellow Cab Services of Roanoke, Inc. Jane Johnson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Foley, Johnson, Jones, Saunders

Absent: Martin

B. Opioid Addiction Epidemic Resolution

Consider the approval of Resolution 1353 regarding the Opioid Addiction Epidemic in the City of Salem.

Mr. Yost noted that Council has some familiarity with this situation. The City of Salem along with a number of other jurisdictions in Virginia has been approached by various law firms. The group which approached us is represented in Virginia by Kaufman and Canoles, P.C., which is a large firm that is in various places in Virginia. They are in the process of representing numerous jurisdictions in Virginia, and in fact at this point, there are over 40 jurisdictions who have done what is before Council this evening. They have retained this firm and the DC law firm of Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP, to make an examination or determination as to what kind of damages the City may have incurred as a result of the Opioid epidemic. They will make an investigation to determine what kind of costs we have had from the standpoint of Social Services, Police, Fire, and EMT. Roanoke City and Roanoke County also passed this same resolution in late January of this year so they also will be partners in this litigation. There is a proposed retainer agreement which is attached to this resolution. He further discussed the retainer agreement and the process with Council.

Jane Johnson motioned to adopt Resolution 1353 regarding the Opioid Addiction Epidemic in the City of Salem. William Jones seconded the motion.

Ayes: Foley, Johnson, Jones, Saunders

Absent: Martin

C. Appropriation of Funds

Consider request to appropriate Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) funds. **Audit - Finance Committee**

Mr. Jones noted the Audit Finance Committee met this morning to discuss this request. The City of Salem Fire Department was awarded LEMPG funds totaling \$13,483 from the Department of Homeland Security, which will be administered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Funds will be used to purchase three computers. A 50% local match is required and is provided by in-kind contributions. The Committee reviewed the request and recommends accepting and appropriating the LEMPG funds for the purchase of the computers.

William Jones motioned to accept and appropriate the Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) funds for the purchase of the computers. John Saunders seconded the motion.

Ayes: Foley, Johnson, Jones, Saunders

Absent: Martin

D. Boards and Commissions

Consider appointments to fill vacancies on various boards and commissions.

William Jones motioned to appoint Reverend C. Todd Hester to the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare Board to fill the unexpired term of David Wells ending December 31, 2019; to reappoint William Q. Mongan to the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term ending March 9, 2023; and to reappoint David G. Brittain to the Real Estate Tax Relief Review Board for a three-year term ending February 14, 2022. Jane Johnson seconded the motion.

Ayes: Foley, Johnson, Jones, Saunders

Absent: Martin

5. Closed Session

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.