

**MINUTES
CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 19, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Melvin Henson
Steve Webb
Danny Staton

Vice-Mayor Cheryl Hickman
Stanley Coffey

Members Absent: Mayor Bill Fitzgerald & Tyson Cooper

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER

Councilman Coffey delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: BUENA VISTA CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Vice-Mayor Hickman opened the public hearing.

The City of Buena Vista will conduct a public hearing on October 19, 2023, at or about 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be conducted to receive public input on the proposed FY 2023 Budget Amendments. These amendments include federal ARPA funding, additional state grants, and additional general fund appropriations utilized during FY 2023.

No one spoke.

Vice-Mayor Hickman closed the public hearing.

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilman Coffey moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Staton, and carried by Council.

ADG #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 4, 2023, SPECIAL MEETING & THE OCTOBER 5, 2023, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Coffey, seconded by Councilman Staton, and carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Henson who was absent from that meeting.

ADG #5: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS

Citizens who desire to speak to council will be recognized at this time. Please limit your statement to three (3) minutes.

Mr. Calvin Smith, 171 E. 31st Street, stated that his wife had reached out to Tom Roberts to obtain the deeds of plats for the land that is for sale on 31st Street around his property. He said that Mr. Roberts provided them with an aerial survey but told them that it wasn't exact or up to date, but this was the

only thing we had for that property. Mr. Smith said that there was a surveyor there recently, but he disagrees with where he said the boundaries are. He then asked how anyone is supposed to know what they actually own if nothing is exact. Mr. Kearney explained that it is not up to the City to have a survey done on every property that is sold, that is the responsibility of the buyer or property owner.

Mr. Ronald Cash, 253 E. 32nd Street, brought up some further concerns regarding the Poplar Avenue abandonment. He stated that he looked at the area and opined that there are some significant issues. He suggested that the City should look at the area and study the drainage. He noted that the bottom of the culvert is rusted out and will collapse soon. Mr. Cash stated that whatever the City decides to do is going to affect the citizens down the hill from the new development, so we should proceed with caution.

ADG #6: REPORTS

1. Mayor

None.

2. City Manager

Mr. Tyree stated that the Christmas Parade will be on December 7th at 7:00 p.m.

The Candidates Forum will be at the Ramsey Center on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

The Annual Chamber of Commerce meeting is coming up, so he reminded Council to RSVP soon if they would like to attend.

He reminded everyone about the Buena Vista shirts and told them that if they would like one to let Sarah or Kristina know the size.

3. City Attorney

None.

4. Council Committee/Representative

Councilman Henson noted a few upcoming events. The Homecoming game will be tomorrow; Veteran Breakfast at the American Legion; Combat Warriors from Lynchburg coming to town on Saturday; Harvest Dinner at the Fire Department Saturday; music at the Park on Sunday

Vice-Mayor Hickman noted a pothole on 35th Street that she asked Mr. Tyree to have Public Works look at.

Councilman Webb mentioned that he had four community service workers paint the Christmas decorations.

ADG #7: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

NONE.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1: MR. BRYSON ADAMS TO PRESENT RARO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Adams was unable to attend the meeting.

NB #2: ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KIM SHAW, TO PRESENT RACS REPORT

Ms. Shaw noted that RACS is devoted to assisting those with substance use and/or behavioral and mental health issues. There are 40 CSBs across Virginia and the RACS was established in 1982. She stated that they are a “public safety net” as they cannot turn anyone away. Ms. Shaw noted some of their recent accomplishments: they celebrated their 40th Anniversary; they are serving over 1900 clients, 380 of whom are Buena Vista residents; they updated their logo and mission statement; their workforce has returned to pre-pandemic levels; they are operating a peer support program with Hugh Ferguson and Brittney Whitesell serving as Peers. She also said that their CIT assessment site was moved to Greenhouse Road from the hospital basement. This program is designed as a jail diversion. RACS collaborates with local hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. They are also working on the Zero Suicide framework where all staff are trained in what to do. Ms. Shaw also noted the 988 National Crisis Line which is a 24-hour service.

NB #3: MR. TOM ROBERTS TO PRESENT DRAFT TEXT FOR ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS

Mr. Roberts stated that they had made some updates since the last meeting. They reconstructed it to flow more clearly. They defined “passenger vehicle” more clearly and included the exceptions as discussed at the last meeting. They defined “street” more clearly and included all City rights-of-way. They also discussed the matter of time limits for construction dumpsters and suggested that this could be worked in with the building permit process. He noted that trailers with mowers, etc. will NOT be allowed under the new provisions. He also stated that this will be a slow implementation and we will get the word out to the public through all possible means, and we will have a public hearing on the matter prior to implementation.

NB #4: DISCUSS CITY CODE UPDATE TO BUILDING CODE REFERENCES

Mr. Roberts stated that this is just some minor clean-up and update to terminology. He noted that this will also “future-proof” us. We currently reference the International Property Maintenance Code but should change that to the Virginia Maintenance Code to match state law language. He stated that these are updated every three years, so if we remove the VMC publication date, we will not have to update our code each time the VA Board of Housing adopts a newer iteration. This update would allow us to automatically adopt the State Code updates every three years, which will also protect the City from appeals.

NB #5: FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY23 BUDGET

Ms. Burch read the following proposed amendment:

BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS on May 19, 2022, the City of Buena Vista adopted its budget for Fiscal Year 2023; and

WHEREAS the City Council approved certain ongoing projects and activities that required additional funds and usage of fund balances to be reappropriated during the fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE ORDAINED by the Council for the City of Buena Vista, Virginia, in accordance with Section 15.2-2507 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, that the Budget be amended to increase or modify the following line items by the amounts shown:

	Debit	Credit
Sheriff Vehicle	54,040	
PD Equipment	30,803	

PD Vehicles	317,972	
Federal Funds - PD ARPA Grant		317,972
Rescue Squad Allocation	25,000	
Regional Jail - Jail Fund Reserve	74,000	
Social Services Land Purchase	70,715	
To Be Provided - General Fund		144,715
Main Street Program	53,932	
Public Works Paving	250,285	
Sheriff SRO Grant		36,350
Sherrif SRO Officer	36,350	
Connect BV Grant Program	23,335	
Connect BV Grant		23,335
VBAF Mundet Grant Program	23,118	
VBAF Mundet Grant		23,118
Public Works Vehicles	119,179	
Public Works Equipment	152,114	
Water Department Leak Study	52,300	
Non-Profits Community Foundation	23,251	
Opioid Settlement Funding		23,251
Park Playground	106,675	
Playground Donations		31,500
To Be Provided - General Fund		5,175
Park Vehicles	39,750	
Park Electrical Upgrades	1,121,691	
Federal Funding - ARPA		1,969,094

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor