



City of Buena Vista City Council Regular Council Meeting

February 15, 2024, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers – 2039 Sycamore Avenue

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Tyson Cooper

Vice-Mayor Danny Staton
Michelle Poluikis
Melvin Henson

Steve Webb
Ronald Cash

Members Absent: Todd Jones

ADG #1: CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER

Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order and delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Staton moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Webb, and carried by Council.

ADG #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 1, 2024, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Webb, seconded by Vice-Mayor Staton, and carried by Council.

ADG #4: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS

- Ann Albin, 114 Longhollow Road, asked if it would be possible to update the City's payment system to allow for online payments.

ADG #5: REPORTS

1. Mayor

Mayor Cooper read a letter from Dr. James Bradford and Mrs. Gloria Martin thanking City Council for recognizing them for their years of service on the Electoral Board.

He recently met with the Glasgow Town Council, the Rockbridge Regional Jail Board, Main Street BV, RARO, and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission. He also attended and represented the City at the USA BMX event and at the ribbon cutting for Art on Magnolia

2. City Manager

Mr. Tyree reminded everyone of the Town Square project and the ongoing need for donations.

3. City Attorney

None.

4. Council Committees/Representatives

Councilman Henson noted that March and April will be busy months throughout the City.

Mr. Tyree also mentioned that the first Budget and Finance Committee meeting will be on February 27th. Time and location to be determined.

5. Department Heads/Constitutional Officers/Court Clerks

a. Kristina Ramsey – Economic Development

- There was a ribbon cutting for Art on Magnolia and Little Beasties. There will be a grand opening on Saturday, February 17th from 2-6 p.m.
- Town Square Project:
 - Outreach is ongoing
 - Signage has been put up with the donation tracker and QR code
 - We will begin moving dirt in the next couple of weeks
 - We are still seeking support for meal donations
- The Gauntlet Program is underway. There are four businesses for the Rockbridge area this year, three of which are from Buena Vista. The curriculum and process has been revamped this year and the businesses taking part are actively engaged.
- TAF is in the process of selecting a contractor to begin construction for the façade, restrooms, retail and restaurant space, and visitor center for the Virginia Innovation Accelerator. They have submitted a non-profit budget request to support the project and their efforts to attract and support entrepreneurs in our area.
- CDBG Façade Improvements and Wayfinding:
 - There are nine properties participating in the program
 - Vinyl Cuts has replaced their windows, completing their CDBG funded improvements
 - Improvements are nearly complete at the BeeVe property
 - Steve Baldridge's office and White Tree Inn have begun their improvements
 - The other six properties are moving along, most waiting on materials to arrive or for their contractor to be available
 - She and Tom Roberts are working on finalizing the list of signage to be included in the CDBG funded wayfinding signage
 - We have been using the signage plan that was completed in 2013 but are making some changes to the wording and items listed on the signs, adding a couple, removing others, and adjusting the design to accommodate our needs more appropriately
- Website upgrade:
 - She is working through the process to hopefully utilize a supplier contract through the state's IT agency with hopes to get final approvals from the state soon then begin the

process to redo our site. It will take about 26 weeks to build an entirely new website. Copywriting and content input will be included so that we can refresh all the pages.

- We have been approved for the and obtained our .GOV domain, so our new website will be www.buenavistava.gov; this will go live with the new website when it is complete.
- She has begun conversations with local photographers to get some new photos taken
- She is seeking quotes from agencies that do content creation for social media and websites with hopes to include that in her budget request for next fiscal year
 - As things have picked up in the City, the time available to spend on creating this content has dwindled. The hope is that by hiring a local agency or individual to do this it will likely be a lesser cost than hiring another staff member
- Housing Study:
 - Originally slated to be completed by February or March, but due to staff turnover at the CSPDC it has been extended to May or June
 - We already have most of the data and preliminary recommendations and have been putting them to use as there is a demand for housing and conversations taking place with developers
- Glen Maury Park's event calendar has been released and is available on the website
- She is working with Tourism to execute a grant they received from the State Tourism Corporation to execute a handful of projects in the area. For Buena Vista specifically, the grant will fund the tee pads to complete the disc golf course at the Park as well as movable kayak locker

b. Corey Henson – Public Works

- The Route 60 paving project is set to begin in April
- Street signs have been replaced on 1st through 15th Streets, and they have ordered the signs for the rest of the City
- The water main leak on 3rd Street took about two days to repair. Now that it is fixed, it has taken the City's water usage down from 1.4 million to about 800,000 gallons per day
- They are working with the Park to remove stumps
- They have been cleaning and brightening up the Public Works building
- They are working with gov.deals to clean up surplus vehicles

6. Invited Community Organizations

None.

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

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

NB #1: AUDIT PRESENTATION BY ROMINSON, FARMER, COX

Sadie Bagoon presented the audit for FY 2023. She shared the following highlights from the report:

- The City has once again received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting. This make the 25th year that the City has received this award.
- The City also received an Unmodified Audit Opinion, which is the highest level of assurance available.
 - In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City.
 - The respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the US.
- There were no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or noncompliance identified. The prior year material weakness in the Education Stabilization Fund was fully corrected.
- The ending net position was \$10,548,131 which is an increase of \$4,322,931 compared to FY 2022.
- The combined ending fund balances for governmental funds was \$4,397,051, an increase of \$1,605,127 from FY 2022 fund balances.
- For business-type activities including the water/sewer and golf funds (final closeout of golf fund) had a combined ending net position of \$1,556,207; an overall operating income of \$300,859; and a combined increase in net position for all proprietary funds of \$6,097,561.

Mayor Cooper quipped/questioned that if the City were graded, would we get an 'A'? Mrs. Bagoon said yes, we got an A.

***A complete copy of the audit and presentation are available in the City Manager's office.*

NB #2: DISCUSSION OF AQUA VIRGINIA OFFER

Councilman Henson made a motion to **decline** the offer from AQUA Virginia. Vice-Mayor Staton seconded the motion, and it was carried by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

Tyson T. Cooper, Mayor