

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
June 1, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

The City of Buena Vista City Council met for a Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Melvin Henson  
Steve Webb  
Danny Staton

Mayor Bill Fitzgerald  
Vice-Mayor Cheryl Hickman  
Stanley Coffey

**Members Absent:** Tyson Cooper

**ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER**

Councilman Coffey delivered the opening prayer.

**ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Hickman to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Coffey, and carried by Council.

**ADG #3: MINUTES DELAYED**

**ADG #4: 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.

No one spoke.

**ADG #5: REPORTS**

**1. Mayor**

None.

**2. City Manager**

None.

**3. City Attorney**

None.

**4. Council Committees/Representatives**

Vice-Mayor Hickman mentioned that according to the Charter, City Council must confirm the appointment of all administrative positions, such as the Chief of Police. She suggested that we look into this as an addition to the "meet and greet" with the new Chief. She referenced Code 3.909 under the appointment duties of the City Manager: "the Chief of Police so appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the Council". Councilman Henson asked if this was something we could do tonight; Vice-Mayor Hickman responded that it is not on the agenda. Mr. Tyree deferred to City Attorney Kearney and Mayor Fitzgerald suggested adding it to the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Henson spoke about the community and first responders coming together to pay tribute to Fitch Crouch who had served with the Fire Department for over 35 years.

Councilman Webb welcomed Sarah Burch to her first meeting as Clerk of Council.

## **ADG #6: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

### **Central Shenandoah EMS Council**

Mr. Ronnie Slough's appointment expires on June 30, 2023. He is willing to serve again. This is a four-year term and the first time it has appeared on the agenda.

Councilman Coffey moved to approve Mr. Slough's reappointment to the Central Shenandoah EMS Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Staton and carried by Council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **OB #1: SECOND READING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Councilman Henson made a motion to have the memorandum read by title only as there were no changes to the memorandum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coffey and carried by Council.

Mr. Tyree read the memorandum by title.

Councilman Webb moved to approve and was seconded by Vice-Mayor Hickman.

Mr. Tyree completed a roll-call vote of Council as follows:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councilman Henson	X		X		
Councilman Cooper		X			
Councilman Webb	X		X		
Councilman Staton	X		X		
Councilman Coffey	X		X		
Vice-Mayor Hickman	X		X		
Mayor Fitzgerald	X		X		

The adopted Ordinance is as follows:

## **THE ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL HUMAN SERVICES CENTER AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS** the Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington and County of Rockbridge have agreed to jointly construct a government complex on two parcels of real estate located in the City of Buena Vista; and,

**WHEREAS** in order to clearly outline the obligations of each locality as to the construction of the center and the operation of the Rockbridge Area Department of Social Services to be located in the complex the attached Exhibit "A" has been prepared and is being presented to each localities governing body for approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA,** that the attached Rockbridge Regional Human services Center Agreement is approved, subject to the same being approved by the City of Lexington and the County of Rockbridge.

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date hereon.

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William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Attest:

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

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Date

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **NB #1: BROOKE DALTON TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON MAIN STREET BUENA VISTA**

Ms. Dalton stated that all Main Street Board meetings will now be at the Innovation Center and welcomed all Council members to attend those meetings.

They have recently participated in Artapalooza and the Blues Bash; both of which were successful. She spoke about the Business Appreciation Day on May 22, 2023, in Town Square. It was great for our business owners to come together and network with each other. Due to this being such a great success, the Board has decided to make this a regular event for our business. Beginning quarterly and seeing how the turnout is.

The Board has elected Elizabeth Braddy as a new member of the Board.

Placemaking is working on a vinyl project. Ideas include adding vinyl to some of the older buildings in town as well as promotional lettering on the top of some of those buildings to promote things such as "Dining in BV", "Shopping in BV", and "Exploring BV".

They are also ordering banners to go along with the same promotional lines as the vinyl. Bike racks are in the works.

Business Solutions is working toward the regular morning merchant meeting. This would include businesses on the outskirts of town as well as home businesses. They are working on direct-door- mailers that will hopefully be going out soon.

The organization is working on fund development and building a volunteer program through a new app. Promotions team is doing great. This includes their newsletter and social media. They are currently working on a "History of Buena Vista" series.

They will be participating in Rockbridge Recovery on June 24, 2023. They will be running the concession stand. As this is a fundraising event for Rockbridge Recovery and Main Street BV, they will be splitting the profits 50/50.

**NB #2: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND PAXTON HOUSE**

Mayor Fitzgerald mentioned that this was discussed at the last Council meeting and would now just need to be approved.

Mr. Tyree reiterated the details of that discussion: this would be \$50,000 for the Fire Department to purchase a new air tank machine. He then mentioned that Finance Director, Charles Clemmer, had reminded him that the Budget and Finance Committee had recommended \$4,000 for the Paxton House; they requested \$10,000; the budget had been approved for \$6,000 and this additional \$4,000 would cover that gap.

Vice-Mayor Hickman moved to approve the ARPA funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Webb and carried by Council.

**NB #3: MEET AND GREET WITH NEW CHIEF OF POLICE, WAYNE HANDLEY**

Mayor Fitzgerald introduced Chief Handley to Council and asked if he would like to come up and say a few words.

Chief Handley addressed the Mayor and Council and thanked them for having him. Chief spoke about his experience with the Marines, Norfolk Police Department, and Norfolk Sheriff's Department. He also talked about his intent as the new Chief. He stated that he wants to create an organizational culture where values are what lead decision making. He wants to build trust with the community, staying in contact with community leaders, business leaders, etc. Chief said his overall goal is to have Buena Vista be the model for small police agency action and organization. He spoke about the unique challenges and traits of a small organization (more money, more people, more resources).

Mr. Tyree reminded everyone that the July 6, 2023, Council meeting has been cancelled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Sarah M. Burch, Clerk of Council

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William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor