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CITY OF BUENA VISTA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 19, 2018

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting, on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present:	Mayor Bill Fitzgerald
Steve Baldrige	Melvin Henson
Stanley Coffey	Daniel Staton
Lisa Clark	Tyson Cooper, Vice-Mayor

Members Absent: None.

ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Mayor Fitzgerald opened the meeting by requesting that everyone stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Clark delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 5, 2018:

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

ADG #3 RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS: **Citizens who desire to speak on matters not listed on the agenda below will be heard at this time. Citizens who desire to speak on a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.**

Mr. Calvin Smith, 171 East 31st Street, Buena Vista, complained that his trash has not been picked up. He said that he talked to Mr. Scudder and was told the trash would be picked up on Monday and it was not.

CORRECTED

Mr. Scudder said the problem has been taken care of. If not, he said the trash would be picked up on Friday.

Mayor Fitzgerald asked Mr. Smith to give him a call if the trash is not picked up as promised.

ADG #4 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

Mr. Scudder stated that he had sent Council an email about Auto Recyclers and the recycling that we take there. They are going to start charging us \$32.00 per ton in another week. We will have to work on recycling along with our solid waste issue. Recycling has fallen off the charts for what anyone gets for it. He opined that most everyone knows the history about how we got into this business and this has kind of come full circle to where we are today.

Mr. Scudder said that he and the Mayor went out and looked at the condition of the Oyler pavilion and talked about some of the options they have looked at for construction on Monday. They think we need to proceed with a bid to replace the roof and do a few more minor things. Staff is going to be working on getting the bid out. The bids will be bought before Council for approval.

Mr. Scudder said we will purchase some equipment so the meeting can be live streamed if that is what Council wants to do. The equipment will cost approximately \$1,200.00.

Council Member Clark wanted to know where the money for the equipment was going to come from.

Mr. Scudder said the funds will be pulled from the City Council budget.

Councilman Baldrige opined the most important thing is to make sure that we have agendas going out to the public at about the same time they go out to Council and the minutes going out to the public once they have been approved. He opined the minutes are far more valuable than watching the meeting. He said if the minutes are not available to the public, he understands why people say they need to know what is going on.

Mr. Scudder said as the City Manager he would rather not live stream the meetings.

Councilman Baldrige said he understands.

Mr. Scudder said that Vice-Mayor Cooper brought this subject up at a couple of meetings ago.

CORRECTED

Councilman Baldrige said live streaming has been suggested before as well as in other localities.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that everyone think about it and discuss the subject at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Wheeler stated that the agenda goes out to the public at the same time it goes out to Council. The minutes are put on our web site by Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts said the minutes on the web site are pretty current.

Councilman Baldrige opined they should be put on the web site as soon as Council approves them. He also opined that the minutes are the best way to find out what is going on in the City.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if there has been interest shown from the public for live streaming the meetings. He does not want to live stream the meetings.

Councilman Baldrige said that one person came to a Council meeting and said they would like to see the meetings live streamed.

Council Member Clark said the most recent minutes on the web site are the minutes from the February 15, 2108 meeting.

Ms. Wheeler said they will be updated tomorrow.

Vice-Mayor Cooper said that he has spoken with a half dozen people in the last 3 or 4 months that have expressed interest in having the meetings live streamed. He said he is not sure live streaming is necessary and the minutes are a good record. The downside to that is there **is no context** for them. He opined it is just a pure transcription. A lot of times you can understand a lot about people's positions by body language, the conversation surrounding and the information of voice. As far as an official record goes, he agrees with the minutes but you lose something when it is just minutes.

Mayor Fitzgerald said that Council will think about it and discuss it at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Scudder then addressed the budget for FY2019. After the first page is his budget message and there is also research in there on different funding's and other things that have been discussed in the past. This budget is a very status quo budget. He told staff to look at their budgets that they have now and it will be level funding. We will try to make do with that. The budget does include a 2% pay raise for employees and we also are going to have a health insurance increase of 5% which amounts to \$153,000.00. He said he did make some cuts. He went over most of the budgets with the Finance Committee. Not a whole lot changed in most of those budgets. Some of the budgets for Economic Development and Planning were split into different pieces because of Mr. Roberts and Ms. Moore taking on different aspects of their domain. Their budgets have changed from last year's budget but the amounts are still in the same realm as far as overall funding. He level funded Public Works budgets for the most part for their operations. Ms. Mastran is working with staff to try

CORRECTED

to get a little bit more detail and categorization of how the money flows in that budget. The budget is still a level funded budget for the most part. The big costs are Regional Jail and Social Services (80% of the budget is reimbursed). We have stretched the revenues of the City realistically to the level that we really can't exceed at this point. The only item that he proposed to increase is our solid waste cost. That is because of the increases we are absorbing in solid waste and tipping fees under the current circumstances that we are in with the County landfill. In FY2016 the tonnage rate we paid was \$37.59; FY2017 was \$36.81; FY2018 is \$53.00. The new County rate is \$63.25 per ton. Basically we are looking at a pretty substantial increase in what we are being charged. The household door to door collection of the recyclables was private before the City took it over. We have provided that service to the citizens and now we are going to have to pay to have that disposed of. What does not get recycled, which a pretty large percentage, goes into another bin and those are the bins that will be taken to the Rockbridge County Landfill and have to be paid for. There are some things we will pay a tipping fee twice. He opined this is something that we are going to have to roll up our sleeves and really look at what we want to do. He said he does not think this is a budget consideration in this budget right now. He thinks it will be a lot more studying of math on where we want to go. He feels this will be a task for FY2019 to figure out what we are going to do with solid waste. He has talked to the Mayor about going before the Rockbridge Resource Authority and talk to them about where we are and what kind of rate they may charge us.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if we do away with recycling how much more tonnage will it add to the regular tipping fee at the landfill.

Mr. Scudder said it will be a savings to not recycle and simply throw it away.

Councilman Henson said when we were doing all of the trash pickup and recyclables we were doing about 220,000 tons per month.

Mr. Scudder asked Councilman Henson and Councilman Coffey, who are on the Public Works Committee, to get with him to discuss solid waste.

Council Member Clark wanted to know if any funds were added to the revenue side for delinquent taxes or tax sales.

Mr. Scudder said that amount is under local tax revenues. He said we usually include an estimated amount every year.

Council Member Clark wanted to know if we received a statement about the increase in Social Services on the expenditure side.

Mr. Scudder said we did not get a statement concerning Social Services.

Council Member Clark said on the revenue side, because of that increase, we are partially reimbursed. She wanted to know if on the revenue side it included the 80% reimbursement. She also wanted to know if the refuse fee on the revenue side includes the increase.

CORRECTED

Mr. Scudder said he was not sure but he would find out about Social Services and the refuse fee on the revenue side is included in the budget. He said we raised the refuse fee back in 2012 or 2013 to \$17.00.

Council Member Clark wanted to know if the Regional Jail costs were estimated or if that is the number.

Mr. Scudder said that their number was a little bit higher than that but again they did some guess work. He said that he and Tim think the estimate they have will pan out.

Council Member Clark wanted to know if the \$46,000.00 on the landfill is the actual rate based on what we normally take there.

Mr. Scudder said he will have to look at solid waste again to make sure his numbers are correct.

Council Member Clark wanted to know why there is a \$7,600.00 increase in park expenditures.

Mr. Scudder said it is from some of the movement we had in the park budget. He will check it out and let Council know exactly what the increase is.

3.) City Attorney:

Mr. Kearney introduced his secretary, Ruth Ann Snyder, who will fill in for Ms. Wheeler while she is out on Medical leave.

4.) Council Committee/Representative:

Councilman Baldrige advised that Saturday is Comcast Community Cleanup Day. Comcast will make donations to the City for the number of volunteers that shows up. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. at GMP. Also, on Saturday it will be the last orchestra concert for SVU. It will start at 7:30 p.m. in Chandler Hall. The following week is when the SVU 5K run will be held.

Councilman Coffey said that tomorrow at 6:30 there will be a concert at the Rockbridge Community Church of the Nazarene to benefit the food pantry. The food pantry helps approximately 500 people per month.

Councilman Henson advised that BBQ chicken will be for sale at the Fire Department on Saturday. He also said that "Team Buena Vista Emergency" held a mock disaster at PMHS today. He said it was great team work between the Police Department, BVFD and the BVRS. The helicopter did not get a chance to land due to high winds. He said there were about 100 to 150 kids in attendance. Councilman Henson then stated that he and Mr. Scudder ride around town and that Mr. Scudder

CORRECTED

takes notes on things that need to be done but it seems to him that nothing is getting taken care of. He said that he has found things that they talked about a couple of years ago that have not been taken care of. The light on the big sign at GMP is not working properly. He also pointed out that grass is coming up in the sidewalks and it needs to be sprayed. He opined we are getting some interest in downtown so we need to keep it looking good.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the new brick is going to be cleaned. He said on 20th Street and here on this street both need to be cleaned.

Mr. Scudder said he will check into it and let Council know.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

APT #1 PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY:

Mr. Tim Dudley's term will expire June 30, 2018. This is a 4 year term. Mr. Dudley is not willing to serve again. This is the second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS: ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE APRIL 4, 2018; CHANNEL 18 MARCH 28, 2018; WEB SITE MARCH 28, 2018**

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

APT #2 ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD:

Mrs. Jane Armstrong's term will expire May 31, 2018. This is a 4 year term. Mrs. Armstrong is not willing to serve again. This is the second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE APRIL 4, 2018; CHANNEL 18 MARCH 28, 2018; WEB SITE MARCH 28, 2018**

APPLICANT: THOMAS BELL

Councilman Baldrige motioned to appoint Mr. Thomas Bell to the Rockbridge Regional Library Board, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cooper, carried by Council.

APT #3 ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

Ms. Lori Turner has resigned. Her term will expire on December 31, 2020. This is the second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE 3/21/18; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 3/15/18**

CORRECTED

APPLICANT: BRENT STYLER

Councilman Baldrige stated that Mr. Styler's name has come up multiply times and he has been willing to serve in multiply ways. He asked Mr. Kearney to find out how many committees or boards a person can serve on at one time.

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

APT #4 PLANNING COMMISSION:

Ms. Simone McKelvey has resigned effective April 10, 2018. Her term will expire 12/31/20. This is the first time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE 4/11/18; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 4/11/18**

APPLICANTS: BRENT STYLER, CASEY CROOKSTON

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1 DISCUSS CITY CHARTER COMMITTEE.

Five applicants: Mr. Tom Roberts, Mr. Bob Gay, Mr. Jerry Miller, Mr. Tim Petrie, Mr. Brent Styler

Councilman Baldrige wanted to know how many people will serve on this committee. He opined that all of the applicants are valid but he is not sure how many we can have on the committee.

Mayor Fitzgerald said possible 7: Council Member Clark, Vice-Mayor Cooper, Councilman Baldrige and 4 citizens.

Councilman Coffey opined that 7 are too many. He feels there may be some conflict with so many different ideas.

Council Member Clark said she does not think there will be much of a conflict because everyone knows what needs to be done. Any changes that are made have to be legal and Council will decide if a change is to be made.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that 7 will be fine to serve on this committee.

CORRECTED

Councilman Henson said that all of Council has seen the Charter and they all know the problems. He feels that Mr. Kearney should be a part of the Charter review.

Mr. Kearney suggested that Council meet and see how they want to do the changes. He said there are different ways to do the procedure. He suggested they get together before the next Council meeting to discuss how they would like to review the Charter.

This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 PINNING OF A NEW POLICE OFFICER:

Chief Hartman announced the resignation of Lt. Randy Chittum. He has accepted a position with the U.S. Marshalls Office.

He then introduced our newest police officer, Patrolman Will Hargiss. Chief Hartman said that Officer Hargiss is from the Hampton Roads area and will be a great asset to the Buena Vista Police Department. He was pinned by his fiancée.

Next Chief Hartman announced that Mitchell Harrison was promoted to the position of Lieutenant. Chief Hartman said the Lt. Harrison came to work for the Buena Vista Police Department in 1997 as a patrolman. He mentioned some of Lt. Harrison's accomplishments during his career with the Buena Vista Police Department. His daughter, Lacy, pinned her father.

Council Member Clark thanked Chief Hartman and his staff for the safety of our community.

Chief Hartman said the Police Department is building a garage to house their UTV and golf cart. He said this project is being paid fully by a grant.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Dawn M. Wheeler

Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald

Mayor