

WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES



Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Waynesboro High School Auditorium, 1200 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia with Vice Mayor Williams calling the meeting to order:

- PRESENT:**
- Council Members:** Lana Williams, Vice Mayor
Bruce Allen, Council member
Terry Short, Jr., Council member
Sam Hostetter, Council member
 - City Staff:** Michael Hamp, City Manager
James Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Julia Bortle, Clerk of the Council
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director
Luke Juday, Planning Director
Gary Critzer, Emergency Operations Director
Ginny Newman, Director, Office on Youth
 - City Attorney:** Jason Ham, Litton & Sipe, LLC.
 - Guests:** Dr. Jeffrey Cassell, Public School Superintendent
Dr. John Downey, President,
Blue Ridge Community College

ABSENT: Bobby Henderson, Mayor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OPENING REMARKS

The Vice Mayor opened the meeting and the City Manager reviewed the process for citizens to comment during the public hearings and the citizen comment period.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Council member Allen moved to adopt the Business Meeting Agenda. Having been seconded and with no objections, **the Business Meeting Agenda was adopted 4:0:**

Mayor Henderson	Absent	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Short moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Having been seconded and with no objections, **the Consent Agenda was adopted 4:0:**

Regular Business Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021
Adopted April 26, 2021

Mayor Henderson	Absent	Council member Allen	Aye
Vice Mayor Williams	Aye	Council member Short	Aye
		Council member Hostetter	Aye

- a. Council Meeting Minutes: March 17, 2021 Budget Work Session and March 22, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.
- b. Zoning Code Amendment – Second consideration/adoption of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 98, Article 9. **(2021-28)**

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE MAYOR

The Vice Mayor welcomed everyone who attended the in-person council meeting and announced the following:

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation: Vice Mayor Williams read the proclamation naming April, 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Waynesboro and presented the proclamation to the Director of Office on Youth who reviewed the City data on foster care, statistics on neglect, homelessness, and abuse for Virginia and Waynesboro and the services provided by the Office on Youth for those affected.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week Proclamation: Council member Hostetter read the proclamation naming April 11-17, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in the City of Waynesboro and presented the proclamation to Mr. Gary Critzer, who thanked City Council for their acknowledge and support of those providing this vital service.

Rockingham Co-Op Anniversary Certificate of Appreciation: Council member Short read the Certificate of Acknowledgement for Rockingham Co-Op’s 100th anniversary, which will be sent to the Marketing Manager of Rockingham Cooperative in Dayton, VA.

COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Council member Hostetter provided a COVID-19 update for the City and an update on vaccination availability and qualifications.

PRESENTATION – BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. John Downey presented the 2020 Blue Ridge Community College Board annual report, a copy of which was provided to Council prior to the meeting. He thanked Council for appointing the two members to the Blue Ridge Community College Board, representing Waynesboro, acknowledging their outstanding work on the Board.

PRESENTATION – SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Jeffrey Cassell, School Superintendent, provided the School Board’s adopted fiscal year 2022 budget, noting their priority was to increase school employee compensation. The presentation included class sizes, student demographics, instructing in a virtual environment, funding sources and a budget comparison of fiscal year 2021 to 2022. The budget was balanced at \$42,389.703 versus \$38,437.591 for fiscal year 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING – REASSESSMENT TAX RATE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

As required by § 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, because the City real estate reassessment would result in an increase of 1% or more in the total real property tax levied, City Council must conduct a public hearing concerning the “effective tax rate increase”. The effective tax rate increase equates to \$.07 per \$100. The real property tax rate would be \$.90 per \$100 assessed value.

The public hearing was opened at 7:57 p.m. The following are summarized comments from speakers:

Dwight Williams, Waynesboro: advocated for a tax-neutral position of \$.83 per \$100 of assessed value.

Gabriel Laconi, Waynesboro: opposed to real estate tax rate increase to \$.90 per \$100 of value.

Charlotte Badenhop, Waynesboro: asked that the City improve services with the tax money they get.

Leroy Wells, Waynesboro: advocated for the rate to remain at \$.83 per \$100.

Curt Lilly, Waynesboro: advocated for a neutral tax rate.

David Sheldon, Waynesboro: advocated for a neutral tax rate position of \$.83 per \$100 of value.

Herman Wells, Waynesboro: advocated for a neutral tax rate of \$.83 per \$100 of value.

Judith Westwood, Waynesboro: supported the tax rate increase to help maintain and improve the city.

Andrea Jackson, Waynesboro: distribute the taxes collected properly.

There was one caller but unable to make an audible connection. The City Manager asked the caller to submit their comments to the City Clerk or to Council.

The following citizens submitted their written comments to Council:

Andrea Biscay, Waynesboro: asked that the Council consider delaying the tax rate increase until the economy improves.

Regina McLaughlin, Waynesboro: advocated for approval of the \$.83 cent rate.

Maria Adela Martinez Aunon, City property owner: questioned the basis of the reassessment and the unjustified increase.

The public hearing was closed at 8:20 p.m.

No action was required from Council on this matter.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONE 1115 IVY STREET

Council was originally scheduled to hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding a request by Ms. Roxana Karimianpour to change the zoning of 1115 Ivy Street (Tax Map #35-4126A-4) from H-B Highway Business to L-B Local Business. Because the published public hearing advertisement stated the meeting would be held electronically but instead is being held live, the public hearing will be re-advertised to be held live on Monday, April 26, 2021. One citizen signed up to speak at this advertised public hearing but declined to do so at this time.

REZONE 312 AND 316 WALNUT AVENUE AND 325 CHESTNUT AVENUE

A public hearing on a request to rezone 312 Walnut Avenue and 316 Walnut Avenue and 325 Chestnut Avenue from RS-5 Traditional Residential to RG-5 General Residential was held on Monday, March 22, 201. With no citizens expressing concerns or comments, Council member Allen moved to introduce an ordinance rezoning 312, 316 Walnut Avenue and 325 Chestnut Avenue, Waynesboro,

