

DECEMBER 6, 2007

The Clarksburg City Council met in REGULAR SESSION on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia, with Mayor Thompson presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Bailey
James Hunt
Sam Lopez
Martin Shaffer
Patsy Trecost II
Vice Mayor B.K. Vanhorn
Mayor Dan Thompson

ALSO PRESENT:

Martin Howe, City Manager
Greg Morgan, City Attorney
Annette Wright, City Clerk

The opening prayer was offered by Vice Mayor Vanhorn with Councilman Trecost leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thompson called for petitions, communications and public hearings with the following individual appearing therefor:

Ugo Annibale – apprised Council that the tires which he complained about three months ago were finally removed. Mr. Annibale inquired as to the plans for the Adamston Flat property and informed that there was little interest from the residents in Adamston to form a Neighborhood Watch Program commenting that nothing had changed after the October community meeting held in Adamston. Mr. Annibale also expressed concern with property owners underestimating the cost of improvements to their properties. Mr. Annibale remarked to Council that he wanted to work for and with them.

MOTION by Councilman Trecost, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Vanhorn for approval of the minutes of the regular session held on November 1, 2007. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Councilman Hunt, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Vanhorn for approval of the minutes of the conference (work) session held on November 6, 2007. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTION by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Bailey for approval of the minutes of the special session held on November 20, 2007. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/UPDATE

City Manager Martin Howe discussed the following written report provided to Council:

Follow-up/General Updates

1. Streetscape Project FY 2006 – (Third and Fourth Streets and 200 linear feet along West Pike Street) – The contractor has completed installing the lights on Pike Street and awaiting delivery of the lights to be installed on Third and Fourth Streets. A new 200 amp service has been installed on Third Street near the old City Hall site.
2. Streetscape Project FY 2008 – We are currently preparing the re-submittal of the grant application due January 15, 2008. This area will encompass parts of downtown and Glen Elk. The total grant amount is for approximately \$500,000.
3. Safe Routes to School Grant – We are continuing to work with the Board of Education on these two (2) grants (infrastructure and education). The infrastructure grant is for \$75,000 to replace sidewalks at intersections within the community. This application is due January 15, 2008.
4. Traffic Signals – The contractor has begun upgrading the existing traffic signal system from the intersection of Joyce and Pike Street to Buckhannon Pike and Haymond Highway. This

upgrade includes five (5) traffic signals, four (4) of which will be interconnected. The completion deadline is summer of 2008.

5. The former North View Fire Station lot bid opening was held on Wednesday, November 28. The highest bid was in the amount of \$10,600. I recommend we accept this bid.
6. The Clarksburg Welcome Sign, located at the southern end of Emily Drive, has been installed.
7. Fall Clean-Up has produced 173 loads in the amount of 229 tons of waste for the three weeks at a cost of \$8,695.
8. I have been working with the Code Enforcement Supervisor on implementing several new programs in late winter to early spring to encourage community development and improvements. These programs would partner the existing neighborhood watch groups, various community groups with code enforcement and also include support and assistance from the Public Works and Police Departments.

Brownfields and Construction Projects
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1. Quality Foundry Project – The formal application has been submitted to the WVDEP to participate in the voluntary remediation program.

In connection with the Manager's Report, Councilman Shaffer expressed his appreciation to Mr. Howe for working with him in trying to get a business to locate here from Ohio and announced that the outcome looks good.

CITY CLERK'S INFORMATION:

- A. ZONING FORM IN CONNECTION WITH A "NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO OPERATE: A PRIVATE CLUB, PRIVATE WINE RESTAURANT OR TAVERN" FILED BY S.E. McINTIRE d/b/a BON APPETIT, 318 W. MAIN STREET – RETURNED TO APPLICANT ON 11/26/07

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vice Mayor Vanhorn requested that the following items be placed on the next work session agenda: (1) IP person to address Council concerning updates, goals, objectives, the City website, etc.; (2) Code Enforcement to address Council concerning the things they want to do and what the administration is trying to accomplish; and (3) the Board of Park Commissioners to discuss the amphitheater project. Vice Mayor Vanhorn informed that the Committee which he chaired could reconvene with regard to neighborhood revitalization.

With regard to the Rocky's building, Vice Mayor Vanhorn commented that the party wall/shared wall between the buildings is the reason said building is so important and that should the building be removed; there would be a missing wall in the remaining building. Recognizing the interest of the two property owners in this matter, Vice Mayor Vanhorn remarked that it was not Council's place to interpret the law and that this would be a matter best decided by a jury.

Councilman Trecost requested that the Adamston Flat property be placed on the Urban Renewal Authority's next agenda to consider providing one acre of said property to Health Access. Councilman Trecost also informed Mr. Howe that a certain property located on Paula Boulevard was in worse condition and in need of attention.

With the recent snowfall, Councilwoman Bailey noted the need for property owners to clear the snow from their sidewalks and that we need to remind property owners of this responsibility.

Councilwoman Bailey shared the following information that she believed to be of importance to elected officials which she received from New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's speech while attending the NLC Conference. Mayor Bloomberg focused on leadership and accountability noting the importance of independence, honesty and integrity, courage to confront big problems and investing in the future.

Councilwoman Bailey referenced the GIS system and requested that Thrasher Engineering be invited to a work session to discuss the program and its capabilities.

Councilwoman Bailey informed that she, along with Chief Goff, attended the Governor's Highway Safety Program luncheon on this date and commended Georgia Hatfield for her work on the program.

Mayor Thompson inquired if Columbia Boulevard could be added to the list as part of the snow removal route with Mr. Howe advising that said road has been added. Mayor Thompson expressed his appreciation to Councilwoman Bailey for her work with the City's annual Christmas dinner.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF BID FOR SALE OF FORMER NORTH VIEW FIRE STATION LOT ON NORTH 16TH STREET

MOTION by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Bailey for approval of the bid by Jackson Holt in the amount of \$10,600.99 for the above-stated property. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRIBUTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VANCE HOUSE

MOTION by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilwoman Bailey for approval of the above-captioned contribution. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMISSION

MOTION by Councilwoman Bailey, **SECONDED** by Councilman Hunt to reappoint Robert Caplan to the Municipal Building Commission. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

In other New Business, Councilman Hunt inquired as to the status of the cameras for the Police Department with Chief Goff apprising that the cameras have been received and will be installed within the next two weeks. Councilman Hunt noted the dangerous situations wherein drugs are being filtered into our communities from large metro areas and the benefit these cameras would have in the protection of our public safety officers and citizens. Councilman Hunt requested that Council be kept up-to-date on the camera project as well as receive a demonstration of the cameras. Chief Goff informed that they will be starting with seven cameras hoping to obtain two more through grant funding.

Vice Mayor Vanhorn advised that a bill would be going before the Senate regarding Homeland Security which would cut the money for first responder grants in half and expressed the importance in contacting our Senators opposing this cut. Vice Mayor Vanhorn provided Mr. Howe with a copy of the e-mail which he received regarding said bill.

Councilwoman Bailey thanked everyone for coming to the meeting recognizing several in attendance as well as recognizing and extending well wishes to firefighter Patrick SanJulian who suffered an injury while on duty.

Councilman Shaffer expressed his appreciation in seeing Patrick SanJulian at the meeting informing that Mr. SanJulian is currently undergoing therapy and rehabilitation as a result of the September 16th injury. Councilman Shaffer remarked that "hopefully we will be there for you because you were there for us as part of our family." Councilman Shaffer also expressed his appreciation to Cris Green and Connie Poe referencing the funding for the Vance House. Councilman Shaffer also recognized the long hours and fine work performed by the Public Works Department in cleaning the snow from the streets.

MOTION by Vice Mayor Vanhorn, **SECONDED** by Councilman Hunt to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 9A, Section 4 of the West Virginia Code to discuss matters involving the purchase, sale or lease of property, advance construction planning, the investment of public funds or other matters involving competition which, if made public, might adversely affect the financial or other interests of the city and that the following persons be present: Mayor and Members of Council, City Manager, Finance Director and City Attorney. Council will reconvene for the purposes of adjournment only. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no further business to come before Council, **MOTION** made, **SECONDED** and **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** for adjournment.

Mayor Dan Thompson

January 3, 2008

Approved

Annette M. Wright, City Clerk