

City Council
WORK SESSION
November 10, 2016
5:45 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Dull, Vice Mayor Kier, Council Members Curren, Harrington, Holmes, Oakes and Obenschain.

The Mayor called the work session of City Council to order. The invocation/moment of silence was given by Dr. Harrington.

1. Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas

Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, amended by Council at its organization meeting on July 1, 2016, the agendas were presented for Council consideration.

Mr. Obenschain moved to approve the Work Session and the Regular Meeting agendas as presented.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Curren and carried unanimously as follows:

Dr. Harrington	aye	Ms. Oakes	aye
Mr. Obenschain	aye	Dr. Curren	aye
Vice Mayor Kier	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Mayor Dull	aye		

2. Discussion of High School Project

Mr. Stephen Owen, City Manager, stated that Council has narrowed the range of options for the high school project to the middle of the originally suggested scenarios. He noted that Jeanne Colvin, Chief Financial Officer, has new spreadsheets and another suggestion offered by Ms. Oakes. He stated that they would continue to run through numbers and different scenarios as long as Council wanted.

Ms. Colvin presented Council with different tax revenue scenarios based on ½ percent meals tax increase instead of 1 percent which was presented at the last meeting. She noted that there were options for \$35 million, \$40 million, \$45 million and \$50 million. She explained that if the first option was for \$50 million construction costs, a 4-cent increase on the real estate tax rate, a ½ percent increase on the meals tax rate and a 39-cent increase on the personal property tax rate would have to take place in order to afford the \$3.2 million debt payment, for a construction date starting in 2019.

Mayor Dull stated that she had asked for the ½ percent instead of the 1 percent scenario to keep the City in line with the highest paying locality for meals tax, which is Harrisonburg.

Discussion ensued concerning delaying the project, repairs to the existing building, length of bonds, existing debt, future projects and different tax scenarios.

3. Discussion of 2017 Legislative Program

Each year, City Council adopts a legislative program which is transmitted to the Governor, local General Assembly members, the Virginia Municipal League, and the Virginia First Cities. Council was presented a draft resolution setting forth the 2017 program, with proposed changes to last year's program.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council that the proposed changes to last year's program be made, with a further change to oppose any exemption from the stormwater utility fee, and not just exemptions for churches and railroads. Council also supported new legislation to increase the sales and use tax revenue distribution statewide to provide funding for capital for new or renovated school building projects.

4. Closed Meeting for Discussion or Consideration of the Possible Acquisition of Real Property for Public Purposes and/or of the Possible Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Related to Education and Other Facilities Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3)

Mr. Obenschain moved to enter a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of the possible acquisition of real property for public purposes and/or of the possible disposition of publicly held real property related to existing and future education and other facilities, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3).

The motion was seconded by Dr. Harrington and carried unanimously as follows:

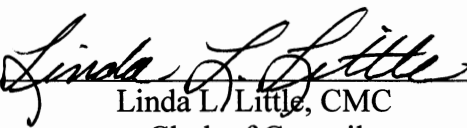
Mr. Obenschain	aye	Dr. Curren	aye
Vice Mayor Kier	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Mayor Dull	aye	Dr. Harrington	aye
Ms. Oakes	aye		

Dr. Curren moved that Council reconvene in an open meeting and certify to the best of each member's knowledge that only lawfully exempted public business matters were discussed and that only public business matters as identified in the closed meeting motion were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Harrington and carried unanimously as follows:

Vice Mayor Kier	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Mayor Dull	aye	Dr. Harrington	aye
Ms. Oakes	aye	Mr. Obenschain	aye
Dr. Curren	aye		

The work session adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


Linda L. Little, CMC
Clerk of Council