

price; not top priority of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), other projects don't jump; the city shares some expenses with Rockingham County at the Public Safety Building, so they would need to be involved; staff to review and prioritize; move current money that is being spent on an inefficient building and redirect to loan payments to pay off energy improvements; bond market to be visited in January for the Municipal Building Complex, suggestion of joining in with that bond issuance; a smaller scaled project has already been completed by ABM (previously LINC) at the Parks and Recreation Community Center; and department heads had been asked to cut budgets. Council Member Degner retracted his original motion specifically to ABM and the new motion is as follows: Council Member Degner offered a motion to direct the City Manager to pursue the design and construction contract with a performance contracting company certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia for the buildings previously stated not to exceed \$2 million and present to Council by the end of July with an analysis of financing options. The motion was seconded by Council Member Baugh and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes – Council Member Baugh, Council Member Degner and Vice-Mayor Chenault

No – Mayor Byrd and Council Member Shearer

City Attorney Brown stated City officials have received numerous complaints regarding a blighted property at 226 Kelly Street over the past several years. City Attorney Brown stated on March 22, 2012, the Building Official issued a notice of violation and notice of structure unfit for human habitation to the owner of the property. The Building Official and the City Manager have issued additional notices to the owner regarding the condition of the property and the owner has refused to respond or accept certified mailings. The owner was also served a notice of the building code violations and finding that the property is blighted by a personal process server of March 29, 2013. The owner has not responded and failed to produce a spot blight abatement plan within 30 days as required by Virginia Law. City Attorney Brown presented Council with an ordinance declaring the property a nuisance and authorized City staff to have the building razed to abate the nuisance. City Attorney Brown stated the cost of the abatement is estimated between \$8,000 and \$12,000 and would be filed as a lien on the property. Assistant City Manager Lewis presented Council with pictures showing the condition of the house which included the following: peeling and fading paint, leaving the bare wood of the siding exposed to the elements; rotting and weathering structure; metal surfaces rusted and corroded; deteriorated columns on the front porch; and cracked foundation. Assistant City Manager Lewis presented the following recommendations and options: by ordinance, declare the property blighted and raze the structure (place lien); City exercises eminent domain due to blight issues; and/or continue with status quo. Discussion on the following occurred: sell to adjacent property owner (Habitat for Humanity); neighbors want something done with the property; taxes are currently 6 months delinquent, but property owner eventually pays; title of the property looks clean, one owner recently deceased; owner has avoided being served; the property has been a concern and discussed for many years; if lien put on property, eliminates the eminent domain option; and the

property is a public safety hazard. City Attorney Brown stated with the ordinance presented, if Council would like to move towards eminent domain, section two would be edited. Council Member Baugh offered a motion directing staff to report back to Council about how to proceed with eminent domain on the property to move forward by making changes to the ordinance to include eminent domain and the public safety hazard of the property. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Chenault and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes – Council Member Baugh, Mayor Byrd, Council Member Degner, Vice-Mayor Chenault and Council Member Shearer

No – None

City Clerk Kann left the meeting at 8:34 p.m., and returned at 8:36 p.m.

City Manager Hodgen stated the City received a 2013 Petition to change Parking Permit Status to Blue Zone for 700 block of Ott Street. City Manager Hodgen stated the procedure is to have the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) survey the area and make a recommendation to staff whether the requested changes are justified or necessary. City Manager Hodgen stated the memo that he received from the HPD indicated they did not feel changes were needed based on the results from their survey. Assistant City Manager Lewis presented pictures of the area and stated the following: citizen concerned with steps that are at the end of the cul de sac which leads to Cantrell and gives easy access to the JMU property; Survey 1 indicated 25% non-resident use, the follow-up collections during Survey 1, and all of those taken during Survey 2, indicate well below this percentage; the study did not appear to be justification for further restrictions to be implemented; and HPD will continue enforcement efforts and work with residents to remedy parking issues on this block; and parking is currently red zone. With no further action needed, Council thanked HPD for their outreach.

City Manager Hodgen presented the following two supplemental requests from the HPD:

The first supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$500.00 are funds donated from the Fraternal Order of Eagles for purchase of supplies. Crime Prevention education materials and public safety handouts will be purchased.

The second supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$19,475.00 are funds that will be transferred from the State Asset Seizures budget to the Administration Hardware, Software and Service Contracts line items to provide a system to collect online reports from citizens. Police Chief Monticelli stated the funds were for the purchase of actual software that would interface with their current record system and a new computer and monitor for the lobby area. Police Chief Monticelli stated citizens would come in to report minor incidents and would wait long periods of time for an officer. This online, 11 language system, will allow them to submit a report without waiting and also will help