



CITY OF OAK HILL MINUTES

City Council Special Meeting – August 25, 2022

Public Meeting

The mayor opened the public meeting at approximately 6 p.m. and announced the reason for the public meeting was to discuss the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the acquisition of, and the design, construction, and equipping of additions, betterments, and improvements to, certain real estate located at 101 Main St. East, Oak Hill, West Virginia; the Issuance by the Oak Hill Building Commission of lease revenue bonds, Series 2022, to finance the above-described purchase and design, acquisition, construction and equipping of the real property and the costs of issuance thereof; and the leasing of the real property by the City from the Building Commission to serve as a City Hall.-3rd Reading

Public Attendees

Brian Meninger, Cat Merritt, Kevin Willis, Tiffany Willis, Tim Buskus, John Garvin, Chris Gill, Jim Aleshire, Calvin Kidd, Michelle Brooks, Don Brooks, Jeanine Robinson, Kristopher Balsamo, Henry T. Watts, and Frank Pauley.

Public comment

The following residents: John Garvin, Chris Gill, Jim Aleshire, Jeanine Robinson. Kristopher Balsamo, and Jim Ayers expressed their concerns about the city acquiring the former BB&T Bank building; they questioned if the purchase was in the best interest of the citizens.

The public hearing was closed.

Call to Order

Mayor Wright called the Council meeting to order.

Roll Call

The Interim City Clerk Ronda Falk called the roll.

PRESENT

Mayor Daniel Wright
Council-at-Large Thomas Oxley
Ward 1 Councilmembers
 Diana Janney
 David Perry (Via Zoom)
 Christa Hodges
Ward 2 Councilmembers
 Ronald Stephen Hayslette
 Charles Smallwood, Jr.

ABSENT

Ward 2 Councilmember Benitez Jackson

Attorney John Stump was also in attendance by Zoom.

Invocation

The invocation was led by Resident Calvin Kidd.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

Unfinished Business

- 1. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of, and the Design, Construction, and Equipping of Additions, Betterments, and Improvements to, Certain Real Estate Located at 101 Main St. East, Oak Hill, West Virginia; the Issuance by the Oak Hill Building Commission of Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2022, to Finance the Above-described Purchase and Design, Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of the Real Property and the Costs of Issuance Thereof; and the Leasing of the Real Property by the City from the Building Commission to serve as a City Hall.-3rd Reading**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Hayslette

Discussion: Council members voiced their individual views on the topic; the city following procedural code and statutes in relation to the Bond Ordinance, the need for an Architectural Engineer, and improvements with limitations.

Councilmember Hodges presented a petition with 254 signatures and Facebook comments opposing the city's purchase of the former bank building. (Document Copy A)

Councilmember Perry read aloud an email he received from Foxfire Realtor David Sibray assessing the value of the building, (Document Copy B) and a quote from Theodore Roosevelt (Document Copy C).

Mayor Wright called for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: 3-3. Due to a tie vote, the mayor shall have the casting vote.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr. ***Casting Vote: Mayor Wright***

Voting Nay: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Hodges

Motion Carried: 4-3.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Ronda Falk, Interim City Clerk

Daniel E. Wright, Mayor