

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, CITY COUNCIL WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2018 AT 6:00PM AT 300 LEE STREET, BRISTOL, VIRGINIA WITH MAYOR KEVIN MUMPOWER PRESIDING. COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE VICE MAYOR KEVIN WINGARD, WILLIAM HARTLEY, AND NEAL OSBORNE. COUNCIL MEMBER DOUGLAS FLEENOR WAS ABSENT. CITY MANAGER/INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY, RANDALL EADS, AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TAMRYA SPRADLIN WERE PRESENT.

Mayor Mumpower called for a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mayor Mumpower commented on the anniversary of 9/11/18 and the potential for severe weather due to Hurricane Florence. City Manager Randall Eads spoke about the Bristol Casino proposal and about the importance of transparency in government activities.

Scott Campbell said he no longer had a non-agenda item to address in public comment.

Victor Smith spoke about an issue with grass clippings and brush blocking his mailbox and preventing his mail from being delivered.

1. Consider a Resolution of Support for the Bristol Mall Project.

City Manager Randall Eads spoke about the Bristol Resort and Casino project, a proposed development project at the Bristol Mall, which would require a change in state legislation to allow casino gambling. Mr. Eads said the economic impact of this project would employ hundreds of individuals at an average salary of \$46,000 and would not require any financial assistance from the City.

Tommy Griffin, Joshua Davis, Nancy Marney, Dewey Williams, Michael Pollard, Emilyne Lewellyn, Holly Lewellyn, Scott Price, Judy Hall, and Barbara Smiley spoke against the casino project and the resolution. Michael Cooper asked Council to consider putting any tax revenues from the casino project towards the debt associated with the Falls.

Jason Eige from the United Company spoke about the project and the economic benefits that they are anticipating as a result.

City Manager Randall Eads read the proposed resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, VIRGINIA SUPPORTING THE RESORT AND CASINO REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT THE BRISTOL MALL, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO PETITION THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the City Council met on September 11, 2018, to consider the revitalization of the former Bristol Mall location; since its closure in August 2017, the City has lost more than \$2.5 million dollars annually in direct and indirect revenues from the Bristol Mall, with no certain means of recovery or future use;

WHEREAS, after consideration of information provided by the potential developers, all long-standing business leaders in our community, including independently verified data regarding the employment and fiscal impact for the development of a resort and casino operation on premises, as well as hotel, restaurants, entertainment, and convention space;

WHEREAS, this proposed redevelopment project is intended to bring unprecedented employment opportunities and significant new revenue to the City, the costs of which will be borne by the business leaders and not City taxpayers, and time is of the essence to prevent this unique opportunity from being irretrievably lost to an adjoining state with similar efforts pending; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that in consideration of the foregoing in light of the best interests of Bristol, Virginia and the general welfare of its citizens, the City Council fully supports the efforts of the local business community to petition the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor for approval to repurpose the property formerly known as the Bristol Mall into a Resort and Casino.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Bristol, Virginia, at a regularly scheduled meeting of said Council on September 11, 2018.

Mr. Wingard made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion.

Mr. Wingard said that he understands the concerns of the community and says that the state will have the final say on legalizing casino gambling in Virginia. Mr. Hartley said that he agreed with many of the concerns presented and that the City needs to be prepared to handle some of the issues that the casino will bring. He said that the additional resources the casino will bring will allow the city to address many of these problems. Mayor Mumpower said that he thinks that the developers of the Bristol Mall will do the project in the right way to minimize negative impacts.

Mayor Mumpower asked for a roll call on the motion from Mr. Wingard that was seconded by Mr. Hartley. The motion carried by the following votes:

AYES: Hartley, Osborne, Wingard, Mumpower.

2. Consider a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on ZMA#01-2018 – REQUEST TO AMEND THE BRISTOL VIRGINIA ZONING MAP TO REZONE A 5.4 ACRE SUBDIVIDED PORTION OF MAP #190-A-6A FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE) TO B-3 (INTERMEDIATE BUSINESS).

Mayor Mumpower opened the public hearing. City Planner Sally Morgan gave an overview of the rezoning request for a 5.4 acre tract on Stagecoach Road and the notifications required to adjoining property owners. Scott Campbell spoke about his objections to the rezoning request. Nancy Marney spoke about concerns with the rezoning request.

City Manager Randall Eads asked that the public hearing be reopened as the Planning Commission did not formally open their public hearing. Planning Commission member Michael Pollard opened the public hearing on behalf of the Planning Commission. Mayor Mumpower asked if there were any other public comments to be made. Scott Campbell spoke again on his objections to the rezoning request. Planning Commission member Bart Long spoke about the Planning Commission's actions on this request. Mr. Wingard spoke about the property he owns that is in the vicinity of the rezoning request. Mayor Mumpower and Planning Commission Michael Pollard closed the public hearing.

Mayor Mumpower asked for Council to take a short recess.

3. Consider a Public Hearing on the CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Mayor Mumpower opened the public hearing. Director of Community Development Bart Poe said that the public hearing is a requirement for CDBG funding. Mayor Mumpower closed the public hearing with no public comments.

4. Consider Approval of a Non-Exclusive License to Lease City Owned Property at 501 Scott Street.

Mr. Wingard made a motion to table item 4 which was seconded by Mr. Hartley. The motion was carried by the following votes:

AYES: Hartley, Osborne, Wingard, Mumpower.

5. Receive annual report from the Planning Commission.

City Planner Sally Morgan said that the annual report is a state requirement which summarizes the activities of the Planning Commission over the last year and provided an overview of those activities.

6. Receive annual report from the Industrial Development Authority.

Director of Community Development Bart Poe gave an overview of the IDA activities contained in the annual report. Mr. Hartley said he would support a joint meeting of the City Council and the IDA to establish mutual goals for economic development. Mayor Mumpower spoke about the economic development director position.

7. Receive information on NextGen 911 updates.

GIS Coordinator Kelly Miller gave a presentation on the requirements for the NextGen 911 updates which will go into effect in the year 2020. These requirements may make it necessary to renumber properties throughout the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Consideration of Street Closures for a downtown special event to be held by the cities of Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee.
- 8.2 Consideration of Traffic Plan Approval Request for the Rhythm & Roots Reunion Festival.

Mr. Osborne made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written, which was seconded by Mr. Hartley. The motion carried by the following votes:

AYES: Hartley, Osborne, Wingard, Mumpower.

E. Adjournment

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City Clerk



Mayor