

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2009, 7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION**

**PRESENT:** The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Mayor  
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman  
The Honorable Traci-Dale Crawford  
The Honorable Frank A. Kreiger

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager  
Judy F. Wiggins, City Clerk  
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney

**ABSENT:** The Honorable Arthur V. Holloway, Jr., Vice Mayor  
The Honorable E. T. "Tom" Meree  
The Honorable W. Eugene Hunt, Jr.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Mayor Helsel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Helsel rendered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Helsel paid tribute to Ms. Amy Rogers for her heroic efforts to save the life of a neighbor's child who had fallen into a pool and was unconscious when found by the parents. The parent and child as well as other friends and family were present to honor Ms. Rogers. Additionally the Mayor recognized the members of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) for their invaluable assistance before, during and after the November Nor'easter; City employee, Mark Boesen for receiving the "People Taking Action" award presented by Channel 3 in recognition of his efforts and those of the "Bubba Motorcycle Club" to assist those persons in need particularly during the holiday season with the "Toys For Tots" program; the Poquoson Police Department for its vigilant protection of our community; Dr. Jennifer Parish, School Superintendent, and her staff for making wise, timely decisions on school closures during the recent storm; and all City employees who worked long hours during and after the storm to assist wherever needed.

Mr. Robert G. Bielat of Cherry, Bekaert and Holland, LLP, the City auditors, provided a brief overview of the City's FY 2009 audit report. In response to a Council query, he stated that his firm, pursuant to State law, would perform a close-out audit on December 31, 2009 prior to the new Treasurer taking office on January 1, 2010.

**AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:**

There were no speakers.

(Councilwoman Crawford was excused by the Mayor and left the meeting prior to consideration of the minutes.)

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Councilman Kreiger moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held November 23, 2009 and the work sessions held on November 18, 2009 and November 23, 2009. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Kreiger, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COLONIAL SERVICES BOARD RELATIVE TO THE EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL DOWNSIZING INITIATIVE**

The Colonial Services Board (CSB), which serves several localities including Poquoson, recently adopted a resolution calling upon the Governor-Elect and General Assembly members to develop a responsible plan for the downsizing of Eastern State Hospital. A resolution endorsing the CSB's resolution was presented for consideration.

Councilman Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger, to adopt the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Freeman, Kreiger and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

**2. RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, stated that Mr. Kevin Brennan, a Central Precinct member of the School Board, had tendered his resignation. He explained that, pursuant to the City Charter and the State Code, such unexpired terms may be filled without a public hearing. A resolution to appoint his replacement was presented for consideration.

Councilman Kreiger moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, to appoint Garry W. Carter, Jr. to fill the unexpired term and to adopt the resolution with his name inserted. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Kreiger, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

**3. RESOLUTION MAKING AN ALTERNATE APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

A resolution appointing an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) was presented for Council's consideration.

Councilman Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger, that Bob L. Lippincott, Jr. be appointed as an alternate to the BZA and that the resolution be adopted with his name inserted. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Freeman, Kreiger and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

**4. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS**

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, explained that in order to obtain Federal financial assistance from the Department of Homeland Security an authorized agent must be formally designated by City Council. A resolution designating the City Manager as the City's agent was presented for consideration and adoption.

Councilman Kreiger moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, to adopt the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Kreiger, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

**5. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY 2008 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE CERT PROGRAM**

A resolution accepting the 2008 Department of Homeland Security grant for continuing efforts of emergency preparedness for the community through the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) was presented for Council's consideration. City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, explained that the grant funds will be used to continue training of the team members and to secure needed equipment and supplies.

Councilman Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger, to adopt the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Freeman, Kreiger and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

#### **6. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A MINI-GRANT FROM THE FIRE PROGRAMS FUND**

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, stated that the City had been awarded a mini-grant in the amount of \$8,179 from the Commonwealth's Fire Programs Fund to be used for training purposes. A resolution accepting the grant was presented for consideration and adoption.

Councilman Kregier moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, to adopt the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Kreiger, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:**

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, thanked Councilmembers for attending the reception honoring recently retired employees and long-term employees. He also reminded them that a January 11, 2010 work session would be held for the purpose of meeting with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and to discuss all City boards/commissions.

#### **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:**

Councilman Freeman congratulated all of the City's employees who had recently retired and those who had received longevity awards. He commended all employees for their hard work and devotion. He applauded the Poquoson Middle School Choir for their excellent performance at the recent Kiwanis "Tree Lighting" ceremony. In conclusion, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Kreiger encouraged the City to seek additional recognition, on the State and Federal level, for the successful life-saving efforts of Ms. Amy Rogers and the City's emergency medical response employees. He commended City employee, Sherri Coffey for her nomination of Mark Boesen to receive the "People Taking Action" award. He also applauded Poquoson businesses for their most recent generosity to those less fortunate and wished everyone a "Happy Holiday".

Mayor Helsel wished staff and the entire community a Merry Christmas and asked for prayer for Vice Mayor Holloway and Fire Department employee, Bunky Carr. He echoed Councilman Kreiger's gratitude to Poquoson businesses and to citizens alike for reaching out to those in need throughout the year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Councilman Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger to adjourn the meeting. Recorded vote on the motion:

**YES:** Councilmembers Freeman, Kreiger and Mayor Helsel.

**NO:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

TESTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk