

**CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA**  
**Special Meeting of City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

**1. Call to Order.**

The Special Meeting of City Council was called to order by Mayor Kochuba at 6:05 P.M.

**2. Roll Call.**

**Present:** Councilman Kenneth B. Frenier  
Councilman John E. Piotrowski  
Councilwoman Dr. Laura F. Poe  
Councilman Robert W. Wade  
Councilman John T. Wood  
Vice Mayor Elizabeth G. Luck  
Mayor T. Gregory Kochuba

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Mr. Douglas E. Smith, City Manager  
Mr. Hugh P. Fisher, III, City Attorney  
Mrs. Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk

**3. Declarations of Personal Interest**

Declarations were read by Mrs. Luck, Dr. Poe, Messrs. Frenier, Piotrowski, and Wade, and filed with the Clerk

**4. Reading of Manner of Addressing Council.**

Mr. Fisher read the Manner of Addressing Council.

Before moving to the Public Hearing, Mayor Kochuba requested Item 6D, Resolution No. 22-20, be moved to Item 5B. Although this item was not part of the public hearing, the request was made to allow the approval of both Ordinance No. 22-8 and Resolution No. 22-20 directly after the other for the convenience of the Commissioner of Revenue.

**5. Advertised Public Hearings:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE NO. 22-8**  
(First Reading) Providing for changes on the tax levy on certain personal property for the 2022 tax year; and providing for a tax levy on personal property for the 2023 tax year, for general municipal purposes.

A motion was made by Mr. Piotrowski, seconded by Mrs. Luck, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-8.

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**Mayor Kochuba advised of the temporary reduction in the Personal Property Tax rate of \$3.15 for the 2022 schedule. Continuing, Mr. Smith provided information and clarification of the proposed amendment in Section 8 of Ordinance No. 22-8, specific to the relief percentage change of 40%. Mr. Fisher advised this was an appropriate amendment.**

**Public Comment: None**

**Council Comment:**

**For the record, Mr. Wood stated he was in favor of a lower rate for certain vehicles; however, he understood the position of other Council members and would support the proposed amendment.**

<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

- B. A RESOLUTION NO 22-20**  
**Extending the due date for the payment of personal property taxes.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wade, seconded by Mrs. Luck, to adopt Resolution No. 22-20.**

**There was no additional information supporting the resolution; however, Mr. Smith advised the extended due date of July 29, 2022 would be advertised upon second reading of Ordinance No. 22-8.**

<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>

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	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

- C. AN ORDINANCE NO 22-9  
(First Reading) Providing for a levy on all real estate located in the City not exempt from taxation to be fixed at \$1.20 for the tax year commencing January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023 for general municipal purposes.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Frenier, seconded by Dr. Poe, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-9.**

**There being no comments or discussion, Mayor Kochuba opened the floor for public comment.**

**Public Comment:**

**Cecilia Lewis, 204 Ridge Road – Spoke in opposition of the proposed tax rate and requested Council reconsider lowering the rate for senior citizens.**

**Council Comment:**

**Mr. Wood noted that the City Budget and proposed pay increases were partly based upon the increase in assessments.**

**There being no further comments, Mayor Kochuba called for the vote.**

<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

- D. AN ORDINANCE NO 22-FIN-4**

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**(First Reading) Adopting the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, and appropriating the estimated yearly revenues for the objects and purposes stated herein.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Piotrowski, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-FIN-4.**

**Public Comment: There were none.**

**Council Comment:**

**Mr. Wade stated the budget was a balancing act and he felt Council was doing what they felt was in the best interest of citizens and employees.**

<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

**E. AN ORDINANCE NO 22-FIN-6  
(First Reading) Adopting the budgets for various funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, and appropriating the estimated revenues for the year for the principal purposes stated.**

**There being no additional comments or additions from staff relative to Ordinance No. 22-FIN-6, Mayor Kochuba opened the floor for Public Comments.**

**Public Comments: There were none.**

**Council Comments:**

**Mrs. Luck recalled Council's previous discussion not to increase the water and sewer rates due to an increase in trash collection; however, stated although there was no increase this year, Council must consider an increase next year in order for the water and sewer fund to remain self-sustaining.**

**Mr. Wood noted that stormwater rates were relatively state mandated.**

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**There being no further comments, Mayor Kochuba called for the vote.**

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

**F. Public Hearing on the Proposed FY22-23 City of Colonial Heights Annual Operating Budget.**

**Mr. Smith recalled staff's recommendation and Council's previous discussions at the May 17, 2022 work session relative to employee compensation totaling approximately \$1M. Continuing, Mr. Smith advised that above the initial amount, there was an 25% in additional funding to cover increases in health insurance and VRS. Additionally, Mr. Smith advised that Council had been supportive of employee pay increases, the largest in City History, to include the addition of a step plan for public safety. Mr. Smith advised that any increases provided were baseline totals.**

**Mr. Smith presented the following information as a possible modification to the employee step plan previously presented:**

**Option 1:**

- A. Provide extra step movement for police officers and firefighters who have reached the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level of career development.**
  - Approximate cost: \$34,000**
  
- B. Provide extra step movement for Police and Fire Supervisors at current grade 17 and below.**
  - Approximate cost: \$45,000**

**Option 2:**

- Provide extra step movement for Police Officers, Firefighters, and supervisors with 5 years or more service to the City.**
  - Approximate cost: \$105,000**

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**Option 3:**

**Provide extra step movement for Police Officers, Firefighters, and supervisors with 10 years or more service to the City.**

**➤ Approximate cost: \$88,000**

**Mayor Kochuba recalled Council's decision to grant most employees a 5% COLA with Public Safety receiving 6% in addition to the implementation of the proposed Step Plan; with Mr. Smith further explaining there would be additional pay adjustments in the near future based upon the City's revenue. At this time, Mayor Kochuba opened the floor for public comments.**

**Public comments:**

**Don Anderson, 200 Lakeview Avenue – Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Tim Fontain, 1183 Wicker Drive - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Joey Hammond, 8767 Gasburg Road, Valentine, - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Allen Dodd, 1728 James River Drive, Disputanta, - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Eric Allen, 623 Charles Avenue - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**CPT Mike Foster, 101 Waterfront Drive - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Dr. Dustin Anderson, 7930 Duntara Court, Chesterfield - Spoke in support of pay increases for Colonial Heights Public Safety.**

**Council comments:**

**Mayor Kochuba, with the consensus of Council, advised they would further discuss pay adjustments for Public Safety personnel at the June 14, 2022 meeting.**

**Mr. Wood stated that he felt the primary concern was the compression of senior level employees who are not being compensated the same as younger employees.**

**Mrs. Luck stated she did not want any public safety employee to think Council was not appreciative of them and reaffirmed Council's desire to reconsider the proposed pay increases.**

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**6. A Work Session on the following Item**

**A. AN ORDINANCE NO 22-5**

**(Second Reading) To amend §§ 273-37 and 273-41 of Chapter 273, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Colonial Heights City Code to increase the minimum citation amount and minimum fine for illegally parking in a handicapped parking space from \$100 to \$250.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wade, seconded by Mr. Piotrowski, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-5.**

**Mayor Kochuba recalled Council's previous discussion; specifically noting Mr. Wade's request to bring this before Council. There was not discussion other than Mr. Wade stating he felt the fee should be raised to \$500; however, he would support the proposed increase.**

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier Piotrowski Poe Wade Wood Luck Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

**B. AN ORDINANCE NO 22-7**

**(Second Reading) Amending § 286-506.04 of Chapter 286, Zoning, of the Colonial Heights City Code, to eliminate a conflict in the fee listed for preliminary site plans and clarify that such fee is \$500.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Piotrowski, seconded by Dr. Poe, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-7.**

**Mr. Smith provided brief comments relative to the proposed ordinance after which time Mayor Kochuba called for the vote.**

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier Piotrowski Poe Wade</b>

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	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

- C. A RESOLUTION NO 22-19**  
**Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Mutual Aid Agreement for the City of Colonial Heights to become a member Utility in the Virginia Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Luck, seconded by Mr. Wade, to adopt Resolution No. 22-19.**

**Mr. Smith clarified this was a mutual aid agreement for water and wastewater of which; Chesterfield County City of Richmond, and Prince George were already participants.**

<b><u>Vote:</u></b>	<b>7-0</b>
<b>Yes:</b>	<b>Frenier</b>
	<b>Piotrowski</b>
	<b>Poe</b>
	<b>Wade</b>
	<b>Wood</b>
	<b>Luck</b>
	<b>Kochuba</b>
<b>No:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstained:</b>	<b>None</b>

**Motion UNANIMOUS PASS**

- D. A RESOLUTION NO 22-20**  
**Extending the due date for the payment of personal property taxes.**

**At the request of Mayor Kochuba, this item was moved to the beginning of the agenda after Item 5.A An Ordinance No. 22-8.**

**7. Adjournment.**

**There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting was made by Mr. Wade, seconded by Dr. Poe, and carried unanimously on voice vote at 8:36 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**



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**T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk**