

**CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA**  
**Special Meeting of City Council**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

**1. Call to Order.**

**The Special Meeting of City Council was called to order by Mayor Kochuba at 6:00 P.M.**

**2. Roll Call.**

**Present:**

**Councilman Kenneth B. Frenier  
Councilman W. Joe Green, Jr.  
Councilman John E. Piotrowski  
Vice Mayor Elizabeth G. Luck  
Mayor T. Gregory Kochuba**

**Absent:**

**Councilman Michael A. Cherry  
Councilman John T. Wood**

**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 of Personal Interest were read by Messrs. Green, Frenier, Piotrowski, Mrs. Luck and Mayor Kochuba and provided to the Clerk.**

**4. Special Meeting for the purpose of holding a Work Session for the following Purpose:**

**A. Presentation by Petersburg Area Transit**

**Mayor Kochuba introduced representatives from the City of Petersburg who provided information on the progress of the transit service to Southpark and along the Boulevard corridor. City of Petersburg officials provided background information relative to Council's approval and initial implementation of the program for the three-year trial program. According to PAT ridership data collected over the three-year trial program, it was determined that the Colonial Heights service route was needed. Information presented by PAT reflected that 63% of the businesses surveyed felt the program was a positive addition; allowing their employees transportation to and from work and reported that ridership to and from Colonial Heights businesses had doubled since implementation of the program. PAT officials provided performance indicators which determined the total operating costs to operate a single bus.**

**Addressing Mr. Greens question relative to the projected annual cost to the City for continued operation of the PAT service to Colonial Heights, officials provided an annual**

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figure of approximately \$217,000. After addressing additional questions from Council, Mayor Kochuba thanked PAT officials for their presentation and advised that staff would be in contact with them for further discussions.

**B. Discussion and Consideration of the Proposed FY2017-2018 City of Colonial Heights Annual Operating Budget.**

Before discussion of the annual budget, Mayor Kochuba asked Mr. Smith to address some concerns expressed by some Council members relative to the proposed 15% increase to City employee's health insurance. Mr. Smith stated that the proposed budget explained the 15% increase, with the City covering 10% of that increase. Mr. Smith stated that the budget figures for the higher cost plans factored in a 10% increase over the City's previous contribution.

Mayor Kochuba reviewed the proposed budget Department by Department. Department staff was present to address any questions from Council. There were no changes to the departmental portion of the budget.

Council continued with discussion relative to the contribution for PAT. Mayor Kochuba provided the following information:

- 8% of the ridership were Colonial Heights residents
- 22 bus stops in the City
- The average cost of a ride is \$1.75
- PAT administration was not in favor of raising their rates to offset the cost if Colonial Heights did not reimburse them.

Council members expressed their concern relative to the accuracy of the ridership information provided to Council. After further discussion, Mayor Kochuba polled Council as to their desire to continue with the PAT bus service at the 22 stops and if so, were they willing to have \$218,000 added to the proposed budget.

**Mr. Green – No**

**Mr. Frenier – No**

**Mayor Kochuba – No**

**Mrs. Luck – No**

**Mr. Piotrowski – No**

**Mr. Wood – No**

There was continued discussion at which time it was mentioned that Hopewell was considering transit service but it was not clear if that was true or not. Mr. Smith stated he would contact PAT to inquire about Hopewell and also discuss options to reduce the cost by reducing the number of stops.

Mr. Wood provided information relative to the location of the Multimodal Rail Station stating that the National Railway Administration has recommended that the new site be in Colonial Heights. Mr. Wood stated he would be providing Council with information

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relative to this recommendation. Mayor Kochuba conducted an informal vote as to Council desire to continue to move forward with the National Railway Administrations recommendation to locate the Multimodal Train Station in Colonial Heights.

**Mr. Green – Yes**

**Mr. Frenier – Yes**

**Mayor Kochuba – Yes**

**Mr. Piotrowski – Yes**

**Mrs. Luck - Yes**

**Mr. Wood – Yes**

**Mr. Smith stated staff would work to develop an official response to the recommendation.**

**5. Adjournment.**

**A motion to adjourn the Special Meeting was made by Mrs. Luck, seconded by Mr. Frenier, and carried unanimously on voice vote at 8:17 P.M.**

**APPROVED:**

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**T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Pamela B. Wallace, City Clerk**