



CITY COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETING
Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2019

Mayor Schabell called the Alexandria City Council Town Hall Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the invocation and the pledge to the flag. The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus Present	Susan Vanlandingham Present
Bob Simon Present	Sue Neltner Present
Kyle Sparks Present	Tom Baldrige Present

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk Mike Duncan, City Attorney
 Lucas Cooper, Police Chief Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt.
 JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer

Mayor Schabell introduced all of the council members and the city staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 18, 2019

MOTION: Kyle Sparks made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting, seconded by Susan Vanlandingham. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-1, Stacey Graus abstaining.

NEW BUISNESS – None

OPEN FORUM – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Schabell explained how he would like to see the open forum run so that the meeting can stay on track. He welcomed the residents to share issues they are seeing and offer solutions as well.

Speeding in Subdivisions

Don Hilker, 7640 Alexandria Pike, shared there is speeding on Southwood. The speed device is currently located up hill, but he believes the device should be moved to collect data on traffic headed down hill, that is where most of the speeding occurs. Chief Cooper said they have done a speed study in that area, explained how they collect the data and it revealed that speeding was not a huge issue for that area. Also, if residents see the speed trailer on their streets and they are still speeding after the trailer is removed, they will be issued a ticket for speeding. There will be no excuse for not knowing what the speed limit is.

Ms. Neltner addressed speeding on Washington St. from the Middle School to the stop light. Also, the bushes should be removed at the corner of Washington and Pete Neiser for a clear view of oncoming traffic when pulling out. Mr. Graus echoed her concerns and suggested not only removing bushes but limiting how close to the intersection cars can park. Ms. Neltner said cars also speed on Stonegate coming from the back end of the subdivision to the stop sign.

William Campbell, 132 Breckenridge Dr, brought up that no one stops at the 3-way stop on Breckenridge Dr., and they are traveling at 30-40 mph. Chief Cooper said the speed trailer is going to be set up on Breckenridge very soon. Mr. Graus and Mr. Simon explained the traffic calming devices that were used in the past were not good for the streets and the City is looking at different ways to slow cars down that could be permanent and not damage the streets. Also, there was concern that traffic will increase after Arcadia reaches Tollgate Rd.

Mr. Sparks asked about the rules of engagement when it comes to speeding. Chief Cooper explained in order to write a ticket, you have to visually observe someone speeding and then confirm this by use of radar or other equipment. Officers cannot take action unless they get a good read on a radar. Most times, by the time someone sees an officer clocking speed, they brake enough to

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reduce their speed to a legal limit. There was discussion in regards to what would happen if more speed violators were ticketed. Chief Cooper encouraged residents to reach out to the department if there is a consistent problem with one of their neighbors, and he can send an officer out to speak with them. Sometimes that is all that is needed to solve the issue.

Shanel Criswell, 16 Breckenridge Dr, echoed what Mr. Campbell said and likes the idea of rumble strips. She suggested having a neighbor campaign to make people aware of the speeding issues. There were some suggestions of signs that could be made and placed in yards.

Gary Straus, 133 Breckenridge Dr, asked how traffic coming out of Arcadia onto Tollgate will be directed to US27. Mr. Graus explained at certain times of the day it would be almost impossible for anyone to turn left onto 27 from Tollgate, so people would have to use alternate routes. That would be taking Breckenridge to Rt. 10 then turn left at that traffic light. There had been discussion with the State to put a traffic light at the Tollgate/US27 intersection, but they refused since current traffic studies do not warrant a light. Petitions will not help, but contacting a legislator might.

Mr. Straus also heard that the City didn't have enough patrolmen to issue tickets. Chief Cooper explained the department was behind on man power, but their newest hires are now in training, and there are more personnel on the streets. If the only way he can get the attention of speeders and to keep residents safe is to write tickets, he will do this.

Mr. Straus then brought up a matter of holes along Tollgate where Arcadia will be installing culvert pipes for the second entrance/exit. Mr. Trapp has spoken with Drees and they are hoping to finish the project by next week.

Mayor Schabell said the City will ask for another traffic study once the Arcadia entrance/exit is complete. By then there will be more up-to-date numbers to convince the state to put a light at Tollgate and US27.

Cory Nordwick, 16 Breckenridge Dr, asked how the culvert pipe and the extra water running along Tollgate is going to affect those who live along the creek. Mr. Trapp explained the developers have to do subdivision studies on water runoff and build retention basins to slow down the water so it shouldn't flood those areas. SD1 must also approve storm water runoff. Mr. Nordwick has noticed over the years since Arcadia started that some of the houses in the lower areas of Low Gap have almost flooded, so the rate of flooding might increase as more houses are built.

City/Citizen Communication

Don Hilker wanted to know if there was any more discussion about a council member liaison to work with business owners. Is this something that the Business Retention & Development Committee could take on? Mr. Graus invited current and potential business owners to come to the Committee meetings and talk about any issues/needs they might have. The City website will have meeting dates and times posted. Mr. Hilker thinks a personal touch from the City is a good idea. In the past, Alexandria had a reputation of not being business friendly and he believes the city is changing with new ideas and is looking to the future.

Kyle Sparks, Chair of Business Retention and Development Committee, said the retention portion of the committee is about speaking with the current businesses and not only finding out what their needs are and how the city can help them, but also about how the businesses can help the city. Currently the committee is going from 0 to 100 mph getting this off the ground. Their next scheduled meeting is June 20, but there may be special meetings before then.

Shellie Baker, 1075 Parkside Dr., would like to see one community calendar for the city. She sees a lot of events happening on the same day. Is it possible to have one common calendar so that events don't overlap? This would encourage more community engagement and build a reputation of

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collaborating with the schools. Mayor Schabell is looking into ways to use social media to engage more residents.

Business Development

Shanel Criswell, would like to see an arcade for the kids. Mr. Graus explained the city is at a disadvantage, geographically and demographically. Businesses look a lot of information, including traffic studies to determine whether they can make a profit in an area. Unfortunately, the city has no "carrot" to entice businesses to the City. The Business Retention and Development Committee will do everything they can to get new business but they can't make them come. The goal is to have all information in one place to make it easier for a potential business owner. Mr. Sparks would like to see Alexandria be an easy city to deal with when it comes to opening a new business.

Gary Straus, said there have been rumors of several different potential businesses going in the property across from The Seasons, but nothing has panned out. Also, it seems like all the city gets are car washes and used car lots.

Mr. Graus explained that area is a great spot for the right business but the lot is privately owned and there is only so much the City can do. Certain types of business are good for the City of Alexandria by bringing in revenue and people from outside the city, like the car dealerships. People come to buy or have a car serviced, and while in the city may visit a local restaurant, or shop at Walmart, or Walgreens. The city could be sued if we told a business no because there were already too many of that type of business. Mayor Schabell said the city is looking at new zoning for the future.

Mindy Baird, 1 Sheridan Dr., asked how the city would attract businesses. If residents are interested in a particular type of business can they contact them?

Mr. Simon said anyone can contact a business to let them know there is an interest for something, but it does not mean that they will come into the city; they have to believe they can make a profit. He explained he had contacted a Friday's and was told the traffic studies showed there was not enough traffic for them to open in Alexandria.

Brady Baker, 1075 Parkside Dr., would like to see a SkyZone in Alexandria. Right now, the only option is Recca, and on Friday evenings that is very busy. It would be nice to have more options for young kids.

Brian Painter, 1892 Grandview Rd, Campbell County Commissioner, spoke about networking with businesses and coordinating with the Alexandria Community Business Association.

Youth Services:

Kelly Pompilio, Alexandria Police Social Worker, introduced Kristen Snow, Karen Minshall, Kim Wagner, Bruna Souza & Mindy Baird. Mindy Baird originally approached city council about providing a physically safe place for kids to go. After surveying middle school and high school students and getting a big response, the top two things they wanted were a Rec Center and a swimming pool. Her group talked with organizations that had successful programs and contacted a Human Intervention Specialist who provided guidance on how to run a program. They started out small on March 27th with an open gym for middle and high school kids on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm, and hope to extend this to 2-3 days a week. Their ultimate goal is to have a standalone rec center. Volunteers are needed to make the program work and to spread the word about the program and encourage students to attend. Also, please consider donating products, ideas, drinks and snacks and use their registry list at Target and Amazon. People can reach out to Kelly Pompilio to send in donations. Until they can obtain 501(c)(3) status, monetary donations cannot be accepted. Currently they have been utilizing the City of Alexandria's Facebook page to send out information.

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Don Hilker, likes the idea of the youth services. He offered to coordinate with them and utilize his Kid's Bowl Free program that he runs from May-August at Southern Lanes. Adults can sign up any child under the age of 18 at www.kidsbowlfree.com/southern. Mr. Hilker also offered to spread the word of the Youth Services program on his Facebook page.

Tim Lanter, 1084 Rosebud, is interested in a skate or bike park for his son and wanted to know if there is any money from the city to build a skate park or city pool. Currently the budget is tight and does not have room for either option. Also, there is limited space and liability insurance to consider. The city would like to save funds for capital improvements for the future and this is one of the reasons for a gross receipts tax. Hopefully in 3-4 years they will have a better understanding of how much revenue will be generated. Mr. Lanter asked if this was something that could be done in partnership with the county.

Karen Minshall, Park and Recreation Board Chair, has visited a few different skate parks in other cities and has learned from those city officials that skate parks can be a huge liability and headache.

Other Comments

Betty Rauch, 8879 Constable Dr, has watched the city grow and while she is not against growth, she is now seeing issues with her property as a result. Because of the pitch in the road, water is draining from the newer construction on Constable, onto her driveway then into her back yard. With the amount of rain we've had the past several months, her yard has stayed so wet that she cannot even mow the back yard. Her property is in the county, but the road and the new development is in the city, and she is asking for help to avoid more damage to her property. Part of the issue is the road does not have the right crown to divert the water. In order to fix the issue, the road would need to be resurfaced. Mr. Trapp and Mr. Simon will visit the property and look into the issue for possible solutions.

Don Hilker Addressed the gross receipts tax. He realizes that it won't be repealed and believes that it is needed, but many business owners do not like the rate and amount. Mayor Schabell stated the gross receipts tax is something that is a high priority on his list. The rate was lowered last year and a cap was added but the city does not have a good idea yet of how much revenue to expect. Even though not all members of council agree with a rate reduction, they are having discussions about it and will continue to do so as more information comes in.

Mr. Hilker also advised Campbell County has funds set aside specifically to help those with intellectual disabilities or mental health issues and thought these funds might be something that could help out the PD social workers.

Commissioner Painter explained typically it's individuals or organizations that request these funds; however, they would entertain inquiries from the City.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- May 7, 2019, 7:00pm – Planning & Zoning Meeting

COMMUNICATIONS


- May 11 – Letter Carriers' Food Drive, place non-perishable food items by your mailbox and your letter carrier will pick them up. All donations in the 41001-zip code benefit the Care Mission.
- May 17 & 18, 8:00am-5:00pm – Campbell County Spring Clean-up
- May 18, 9:30am-11:30am – Kid's to Park Day @ Community Park
- June 1, 10:00-12:00 – Fishing Derby @ Community Park for kids 14 and under

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Chief Cooper reported that Smart 911 is now active in Campbell County. Go to www.Smart911.com to sign up and fill out a profile, which can be used nationwide for any dispatches that are using the system, potentially saving first responders valuable time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Sue Neltner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.



Jan Johannemann, City Clerk
Date: 5/16/19



Andy Schabell, Mayor
Date: 5/16/19