CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of April 21, 2011

The Alexandria City Council met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor William T. Rachford, Jr. present and the following members answering roll call:

Council Members:

Barbara Weber  Present  Bob Simon  Present
Stacey Graus  Present  Dave Hart  Present
Scott Fleckinger  Present  Joe Anderson  Present

Also present:

Karen Barto  City Clerk  Mike Duncan  City Attorney
Mike Ward  Police Chief  Jeff Pohlman  Fire Chief

Mayor Rachford led the pledge to the flag. Dave Hart read the invocation. Mayor Rachford asked for a moment of silence for Pvt. 1st Class Pickering, a 21 year old soldier from Ft. Thomas, who was wounded in Afghanistan and died in a hospital in Germany. He will be buried at the Alexandria Cemetery on Friday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 7, 2011 Meeting

MOTION: Barb Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7th meeting, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-1 with Scott Fleckinger abstaining.

VISITORS & GUESTS:

None

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Mike Duncan read the following:

Second reading:

ORDINANCE #2011-03 - An Ordinance of the City of Alexandria amending Chapter 155 of the City Code of Ordinances entitled Fire Prevention Code, by enacting a new section therein to be designated as Section 155.10 and repealing Sections 155.01, .02, and .03 in order to designate the Alexandria Fire District as the authority having jurisdiction to perform all life, safety fire inspections within the City of Alexandria.

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2011-03, seconded by Scott Fleckinger. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

MUNICIPAL ORDER #2011-09 - A Municipal Order approving the re-appointment of Jeremy Toy to the City of Alexandria Park & Recreation Board.

MOTION: Scott Fleckinger made a motion to approve Municipal Order #2011-09, seconded by Dave Hart. Joe Anderson asked if this position was a volunteer position. Karen Barto said yes, and they receive a stipend per meeting. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.
DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Department: Chief Ward reported Students Against Distracted Driving Class was completed today. There were 8 who attended the course, which teaches what not to do on the road, and how to avoid accidents, etc. Lt. Schreiner heads this program, and Det. Vinson assists. He appealed to the parents in the community to consider having their new drivers attend this program. Information is on the website, and some insurance companies do offer discounts for attending.

Next week, Alexandria will host the Consolidated Citizens Police Academy class on Criminal Investigations presented by Lt. Wilson, Campbell County P.D., and Polygraph Exams presented by Alexandria Investigator Trapnell. Alexandria also has its own CSI class of 18 going on at this time.

Chief Ward announced that if a family member has a medical or special needs (physical, mental, or medical), to share this information with the Police Department. This way, if there is a call it helps first responders be fully aware of a situation before they arrive, and it may change the outcome of the call. Please call the office to report this information.

Chief Ward attended a public hearing two weeks ago regarding regional dispatch centers. Our dispatch center is funded through 911 fees, and the county is losing revenue because of residents dropping land lines in favor of cell phones. The elderly who still use land lines and the poor who cannot afford cell phones are the ones carrying the burden of the monthly 911 fees on their land line phone bills. There needs to be a different vehicle for assessment of these fees without increasing taxes. Chief Ward will keep everyone up to date on the progress of future meetings to work out details.

Zoning Department: See the report from Carol Hofstetter in packets. Joe Anderson asked if there was a time limit for demolition of the house on 11 Sunset. Mayor Rachford said there is, and the owner is in the process of getting someone to do the work.

Public Works: See the report from Sam Trapp. Mayor Rachford gave a brief outline. Also, Alexandria was awarded a safety grant in the amount of $1,370 to be used for playground safety mulch and to purchase safety coats and shirts.

Fire Department: Chief Pohlman said the fire department will be replacing an old ambulance in the Fall. The burn ban will go into effect on May 1, 2011, as per EPA guidelines. Also, he was part of a team that assisted with high water technical rescue at Pioneer Park/Banklick Creek. He also toured the Persimmon Grove/Jerry Wright area to see how high the water was. He reminded everyone to not drive through high water on roadways.

Planning & Zoning: There will be a couple of site plans in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stacey Graus asked if there was any progress about a possibility of putting in a turn lane on the AA Highway at the Connector Road. Mayor Rachford and Barb Weber met this morning with Rob Hands, Executive Director, DOT and one of the issues Mr. Hands agreed to look at was the turn lane.

Beautification Committee: Bob Simon was contacted by a couple of citizens who read the article in the Recorder and wanted to help the committee on May 14 at 9:00 a.m. They will meet at the City Building first.

Personnel Committee: Joe Anderson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled soon to continue discussion on what was on the agenda that was not covered this evening.
NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Rachford signed Executive Order #2011-02 regarding capitalization of fixed assets, designating $1,000 as a threshold for the capitalization of fixed assets. Prior to this, it was $500, and a lot of the equipment is more than $500 but less than $1,000.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Rachford said he and Mrs. Weber met with Mr. Hands, DOT this morning. Mr. Hands understood the issues they discussed which consisted of cutting tree limbs on Persimmon Grove; guard rails; grass cutting and street sweeping on US 27. The State will look into some of these issues.

The Mayor addressed issues brought up by council members:

1) Community Center: There was a meeting to discuss ways of improving the cash flow handling, booking schedule and combining the fee structure in order to better manage the activities of the Community Center. Within the next few months, this should be completed. Regarding maintenance, the rusty steel door in the rear upstairs will be replaced. The interior of the Center may be painted.

2) Budget: Each department head is working on their part of the budget, and this will be presented to council no later than the first meeting in June. The format of the budget has been changed/expanded in order to simplify it.

3) Easter Egg Hunt: This was pretty successful. It was a little sloppy, but the kids had a lot of fun.

4) Litter: Mayor Rachford said he still sees a lot of litter on the road. He appealed to everyone to please treat the public streets as you do your own home/yard and not throw trash on the road. Also, please be courteous when walking your pet, and pick up whatever they leave behind.

Dave Hart asked when to expect some street bids. Mayor Rachford said CDS is working on them, but no date yet.

Barb Weber asked people to please pick up after their pets at the Community Park. Bags are provided on the walking trails for this purpose, but are not being used as much as they should. Also skateboards and bicycles are not permitted on the walking trails.

Joe Anderson thanked the Mayor for following-up on the issues at the Community Center. He said the parking lot needs repairs. Mayor Rachford said that is on the list.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Scott Fleckinger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Hart. All in favor, the motion passed with a 6-0-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Karen M. Barto
City Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 6/23/11
Approved: 6/16/11

William T. Rachford, Jr.
Mayor

Date: 6/23/2011