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

Council Members:
- Barbara Weber Present
- Stacey Graus Present
- Joe Anderson Present
- Bob Simon Present
- Dave Hart Present
- Scott Fleckinger Present

Also present:
- Karen Barto City Clerk/Treasurer
- Mike Duncan City Attorney
- Mike Ward Police Chief
- John Jewell
- Gail Jewell
- P & Z Chairman
- Ethics Board

Mayor Rachford led the pledge to the flag. Joe Anderson read the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 15, 2011

MOTION: Barbara Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting, seconded by Scott Fleckinger. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

VISITORS & GUESTS:

Holly Cetrulo and Peggy Walsh, GED Instructors: Ms. Cetrulo gave a brief presentation on the GED program. The Annex Building behind the Community Center is used for the instructions on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Each council member received a copy of the report showing performance and the success of the Alexandria Adult Learning Center. The goal is to provide adult learning services to the Alexandria area. These services are possible thanks to the Alexandria City Council for the use of their facilities, and the Newport Adult Learning Center, a non-profit organization, that provides teachers, materials, books, copiers, computers, etc. The program is also supported by local businesses and volunteers who help tutor the students. Last year, 29 of the students earned their GED's.

Joe Anderson stated the City has been paying for utilities and supplying a parking lot, but no rent is paid. He does not want to see this program go away, but because of the budget crunch, could the program be moved to the unoccupied room on the second floor of the Community Center that is already heated or cooled. That would free up the annex building to be rented out. Mayor Rachford isn't sure whether that room is large enough to accommodate the number of students. Ms. Cetrulo said there are usually two different things going on at the same time and having two separate rooms in the trailer is very helpful.

Dave Hart asked how many of the students are from Campbell County. Holly said out of the 30 students currently enrolled, one or two do not live in the county. Stacey Graus pointed out that the GED students will be contributing back to our society and believes this little investment is very worthwhile.

Mayor Rachford commended Holly and Peggy for the success rate of the program and the fact that 40% of the students did obtain their GED’s last year.
Holly said the $60 fee that is charged is for the GED testing, and anything that goes on in the trailer is free.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**
None

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Police Department:** With all of the discussion lately regarding speed and traffic, particularly in the Summerlake Subdivision, Chief Ward pulled information from a “stealth stat” which is a device on poles that collects speed data. The report was from this past March and over a period of two days, 1,942 vehicles came across Summerlake. Looking at the 85th percentile, and speed was 22 mph (20 mph zone); at the 50th percentile it was 18 mph, and the overall average speed was 17.8 mph. Although there are a few that speed on Summerlake, Chief Ward does not believe that speeding is a problem. He will continue to monitor this during the construction of the Dollar General Store.

Mayor Rachford said they are going to request a traffic count from the State to see if that intersection of warrants a traffic signal.

Barbara asked Chief Ward if there had been any problems with traffic exiting the Hayloft parking lot onto 27. He has not heard of any, and there is a “trip” in the parking lot that will cycle the traffic light for patrons exiting left. He will check this to make sure it is working correctly.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Stacey Graus again asked whether we have had any notification from the State that Main Street is completed. Mayor has not heard anything, and will try to contact them again.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Scott Fleckinger said Finance Committee has been looking into a gross receipts tax and have researched what surrounding cities are doing. Currently, our occupational license fee is a flat $75 for all businesses. Surrounding cities have a minimum fee, but then they charge a gross receipts tax which varies. The Committee discussed the rate of 0.0035%, which would mean $.35 for a $100 sale; $3.50 for $1,000; and $350 for $100,000 sales. There would be a maximum of $1,750, which would mean that over the course of a year sales would have to be $500,000. He asked council members what they thought.

Barbara clarified there is a payroll tax attached to every occupational license we have now. Scott stated Highland Heights has a maximum of $10,000, and some cities have no maximum at all. Barbara didn’t think it was wise with the economy to put any additional tax on anyone.

Stacey doesn’t think a new business would make a decision to come to Alexandria based on whether or not we have a gross receipts tax. Scott said right now, a small "mom & pop" business pays the same fee as the big box store. Stacey thought the cap should be tiered to be fair across the board. Scott suggested a lower rate with a higher cap. Stacey would be more in favor of that. Scott doesn’t think our current structure is fair and Bob agreed. He is a small business owner and gave examples of what he has to pay in different cities. A gross receipts tax would help keep the property tax down.
Barb has talked with business owners who were very unhappy with the taxing on water, sanitation, etc. She thinks there are going to be some very angry business owners. The idea of a public hearing was brought up.

Stacey said we would have to make a decision based on what is good for the entire city. Mayor Rachford thinks a gross receipts tax is a way of generating revenue for the city that compensates the city for expenses incurred in servicing the customers that are not necessarily city residents. He used the example of Walmart, who pays a flat $75 business fee. He also thinks a public hearing is a good idea.

Stacey suggested the Finance Committee set a rate and set a cap since the tax is already on the books, then have a public hearing. Scott wants to put the numbers together and then present it to the ACBA to see what they think. Bob Simon said the committee would like to generate $150,000. The Mayor asked Scott to talk to the ACBA and finalize numbers as much as possible and then hold a public hearing.

**COMMUNICATIONS** –

- The Mayor said the Schumann property at 8339 East Main Street has been sold, and the new owners plan to do significant renovations and to use it for their business.

- Campbell County Clean-Up will be November 4, 5 and 6.

- The streets will be crack sealed within the next few weeks. Please be aware of the Public Works employees doing this and be considerate.

- The Halloween Train Fest will be held at Southern Lanes, starting the weekend of October 14th. Tours are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and open to the public from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Admission is $5 and includes a small pumpkin and a train display. It is sponsored by the Kentucky Amateur Baseball Group, an organization that helps purchase equipment for Little League Baseball.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Scott Fleckinger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed with a 6-0-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Karen M. Barto  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 10/21/11

Approved: 10/20/11

William T. Rachford, Jr.  
Mayor

Date: 10/21/11