



ORIGINAL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of August 2, 2012

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

Council Members:

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

Also present:

Jan Johannemann	Asst. City Clerk	Mike Duncan	City Attorney
Joe Alexander	Asst. Police Chief	Sam Trapp	Public Works
Gail Jewell	Ethics Board	John Jewell	P&Z
Rebecca Reese	Park & Rec.	Ron Johnson	P&Z

Mayor Rachford led the pledge to the flag. Barb Weber read the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 19, 2012

MOTION: Dave Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2012 meeting, seconded by Scott Fleckinger. All in favor, the motion passed 4-0-2, with Bob Simon and Barb Weber abstaining.

VISITORS & GUESTS:

Bob Simon, Beautification Committee Chairman, presented Volunteer of the Year Awards to Rebecca Reese and Mary Ann Seibert for their hard work in beautifying Washington Street and the Alexandria Tribute Park. Barbara Weber also presented them with a shirt.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

*Mike Duncan read the following:
First Reading:*

ORDINANCE #2012-06 – An Ordinance of the City of Alexandria providing for the assessment of real property within the corporate limits of the City of Alexandria and levying an ad valorem tax of \$0.181 on each One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars of assessed valuation (\$1.81 per Thousand) of real property in the City for the 2012 assessment tax year and specifying the purpose for which the tax is levied.

Mr. Duncan explained the proposed compensating tax rate, the rate at which if applied to the 2012 assessment would raise the same amount of money that was raised in 2011. With the economy, assessments in Alexandria has been reduced by about \$5,000,000, which means the 2012 compensating tax rate will be a bit higher than last year. Mr. Duncan did the calculations as required by Kentucky statute to come up with the rate, which would generate about the same amount of money as what was in the budget ordinance this year.

Joe Anderson had some questions about the tax rate and the dollar amount it would generate. Mr. Duncan explained that provided everyone pays their taxes on time, the rate of 0.181 multiplied by the current year assessment, is anticipated to raise \$1,019,874.02. Last year's rate of 0.178 generated \$1,020,695.75. Because home property values have dropped, the amount would generate

approximately \$1,000 less. Barb Weber commented that it has been 20-plus years since we've had to raise the tax rate.

Barb Weber asked whether there has been any more discussion about a gross receipts tax being enacted in lieu of raising property taxes. Scott Fleckinger said they saw no need to pursue it, because the "increase" is only 3/1,000 of a percent.

Joe questioned whether there was any more room in the budget to cut back to compensate for the increase. Mayor Rachford said after sitting in on all Finance Committee meetings and going over everything, the answer is no.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Clerk: The Mayor asked when the tax bills would go out if the ordinance setting the tax rate was approved at the August 16th meeting. Jan estimated they could possibly be mailed by or before the end of August.

Police Department: Joe Alexander reported that Chief Ward is doing well and came home from the hospital today.

Officer Mark Branham and Officer Natalie Selby were recognized for receiving awards. Mark replaced Officer Sticklen as school resource officer. He finished his training, has met the high standards set by Jim Sticklen, and is doing an excellent job. He has been awarded School Resource Rookie Officer of the Year for the State of Kentucky.

Natalie received an award for the CIT Officer of the Year and was recognized by the National Alliance for Mental Illness. She handles problems that are not necessarily criminal in nature, but individuals who are dealing with a mental illness. She is also an instructor and a Crisis Negotiator.

Public Works Committee: Dave Hart reported there was a meeting prior to the council meeting. Sam Trapp gave an update on the street projects and some of the other projects they are working on. The Public Works crew has done a great job all through the city and at the park.

Beautification Committee: Bob Simon reported the flowers and other plants are doing well despite the hot weather, thanks to the Public Works Department's watering efforts. He wants to do some weeding and cleaning out the flower beds on Washington Street before the Alexandria Fair Parade.

Personnel Committee: They will be having a meeting probably in the next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ball Field Contract between Bishop Brossart High School & City: Everyone received a copy of the proposed contract. Representatives from Brossart have also reviewed the contract and this is an agreement with the BBHS Girl's Fast Pitch Softball team to use of the Community Park's ball field for their home field from about February through mid-May (after-school practices and 12-15 home games). In exchange, BBHS has agreed to make significant improvements to the ball field. The initial contract is for a five-year period, renewable for 5 more years and then 1-year at a time for 10 more years.

Dave Hart questioned why the contract says "automatically" extended instead of "mutually". Mr. Duncan explained the automatic extension is only for the first additional five-year period, and only if they are not in breach of the agreement. Brossart is going to be making a substantial financial commitment, and they will need time to come up with the money. It was set up for them not to be in breach of the agreement. After that, the one-year extensions are by mutual consent, and if the city wanted to terminate the agreement, they could do so.

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Barb Weber asked if the Park & Recreation Board was agreeable with the contract. The Park Board was unanimously against the contract at their last meeting. Mayor Rachford said there are a couple of things that they are not happy with, including erecting the home run fence which is required, parking problems, and some other issues. Rebecca Reese, Park & Rec Board member, was researching a removable fence to see if this would work.

After a lot of discussion among council and input from Rebecca, the Mayor asked for a vote to approve the contract.

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to approve the contract between the City of Alexandria and Bishop Brossart High School, seconded by Scott Fleckinger. Dave Hart would like to see some stipulations added to the contract: (1) Having a responsible delegate of the Mayor to sign off on any improvements before they are done; and (2) the removable fence that was discussed earlier is something that will be actively pursued, as he agrees that having something permanent is going to limit what you can do with that area. Mayor Rachford said he would talk to BBHS about the removable fence to see if it is in compliance with their league. The council members all agreed that Sam should be the person to oversee the plans. Mike Duncan will make these additions to the contract. Joe thinks there should be a drawing for the improvement plans. It was then brought up for a vote. All in favor, the motion passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

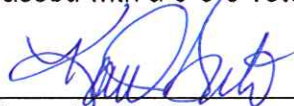
Mayor Rachford said the Journal News is interested in publishing a semi-annual magazine about the City of Alexandria, similar to the Independence magazine that was distributed to council members. This is at no cost to the city. He would like council, the police chief, etc. to submit articles to be put into the magazine, which will be mailed to every household in the City. The deadline for submitting these articles is August 20th.

COMMUNICATIONS:

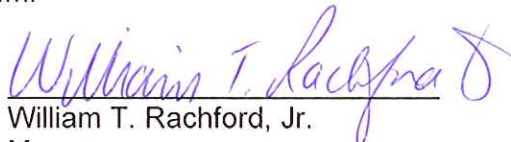
- The Alexandria Fair Parade will be Wednesday, August 29th at 6:45 p.m.
- August 24, 2011 is the Travis Tritt concert at the Alexandria Fairgrounds. Tickets can be purchased at County Market.
- Anyone who wants to run for the office of city council must file their application before the deadline of August 14th.
- Scott Fleckinger announced that the Center for Chiropractic Orthopedics at 8333 Alexandria Pike is offering a free, 30-minute massage and wellness exam during the month of August for all firefighters, police officers, and city workers.

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 7:48 p.m.



Karen M. Barto
City Clerk/Treasurer



William T. Rachford, Jr.
Mayor

Date: 8/17/12

Date: 8/17/12

Approved: 8/16/12