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
- Stacey Graus  Present
- Joe Anderson  Present
- Bob Simon  Present
- Dave Hart  Present
- Scott Fleckinger  Present

Also present:
- Karen Barto  City Clerk/Treasurer
- Mike Ward  Police Chief
- Gail Jewell  Ethics Board
- Jeremy Toy  Park & Rec
- Mike Duncan  City Attorney
- John Jewell  P&Z
- Ron Johnson  P&Z
- Rebecca Reese  Park & Rec.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

August 2, 2012

**MOTION:** Dave Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2012 meeting with one change (at the top of page three, change “a couple of things they were not happy with” to “Park & Rec. were unanimously against the contract”, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

**VISITORS & GUESTS:**

1. **Kevin Gordon, Independent Business Association of Campbell County** - He wanted to know about the proposed rate, the current rate, and the compensating rate. Mayor Rachford replied the current rate is $0.178, the proposed rate is $0.181 per thousand, which is the compensating tax rate. It would be an increase of $3 for a house valued at $100,000. Mr. Gordon hoped that when it came to trimming expenses, everything was looked at so that Alexandria continues to keep taxes low and that the citizens get the best bang for their buck.

2. **Dave Fields, Co-Owner of Candy & Cones at 7505 E. Alexandria Pike** – He would like to petition Mayor and Council for the ability to increase the signage for their store. He passed out pictures showing their current sign and then a sign that he would like to have. The only sign they have now is attached to the building and parallel to traffic, so it is only visible when vehicles are passing the store. He also asked for an explanation of a temporary sign, including the number of days and frequency per year. Mayor Rachford explained that temporary signs are limited to 14 days per year, and there is an item on tonight’s agenda to recommend that Planning & Zoning look into a proposed change to address temporary signs for new businesses.

Joe Anderson asked him to clarify the dimensions and height of his proposed sign. The height from the ground to the bottom of the sign would be well over 6'.

Stacey thinks safety, aesthetics, and uniformity are key issues. He agreed that the sign would allow more visual room, and it would definitely look better than what was there. Barb Weber said this sign is on state property. The pole that is in question has not been taken down, but it should come down. John Jewell explained that was the original pole sign, and then the larger, marquis sign was erected. Stacey asked Mr. Fields if there was something that could be added to the Hayloft sign pole. Mr. Fields their options are very limited and would be very expensive. John Jewell said this property is zoned NSC...
(Neighborhood Shopping Center), and only marquis signs are permitted in the zone. HC (Highway Commercial) zones, or property with only one business, can have a marquis sign, but an individual sign per shop is not permitted.

Mr. Duncan asked if anyone has investigated where the right of way line is, that separates the property. Signs are not permitted in the right of way.

Barb Weber said she has been discussing the need to help new businesses and she is submitting a resolution to council.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Duncan said Barb Weber has proposed Resolution #2012-07, which would be for Council to ask the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing to make a revision to the temporary sign ordinance, and to "loosen up" or allow temporary signs for new businesses. He then read portions of the Resolution that would propose changes to the sign ordinance. In addition to the 14 days per year, a new start-up business would be permitted to have a temporary sign for up to 90 days to give a boost to the businesses. Ms. Weber explained that anyone asking for the 90 days would still have to follow the sign requirements. Stacey agreed that this idea is a good start but may not be the perfect solution. Mr. Duncan added that during the public hearing, other good ideas may come up in discussion. After the Commission makes their recommendation, then council is free to take any of those ideas and make a better ordinance.

**MOTION:** Barb Weber made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-07, seconded by Scott Fleckirger. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

*Mike Duncan read the following:*

*Second 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 also read a portion of the Ordinance. He has recently come across a statute that requires a specific date, and would like to ask for an amendment to change "shall be due upon receipt" to "shall be due on September 1, 2012".

**MOTION:** Dave Hart made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2012-06, as amended, seconded by Bob Simon.

Joe Anderson had some questions about the amount generated this year versus what was generated last year. Mr. Duncan said if everyone pays their tax bills on time, it will generate $1,019,874.02. Stacey Graus explained that the City won't be raising more money, but just trying to raise as much money as last year. Mayor Rachford said a number of businesses were re-assessed and the City's total assessment went down by about $5,000,000, so the tax increase will generate revenue equal to last year, and slightly less than what we budgeted.

Stacey stated that the rate has not been raised for several years, and Scott added that at one point it did go down from $0.1788 to $0.178. There has never been a situation where real estate values went down as much as they did from last year for some of the larger properties. The Finance Committee has looked at everything and has done a pretty good job at keeping our budget numbers down without sacrificing safety or the infrastructure. The only way to come close to the budget was to adopt the
compensating tax rate. Scott noted even with the higher tax rate, the value of his house has gone down, so his tax bill will be slightly less than it was.

Mr. Anderson then read a letter from the Chairman of IBAC addressed to the Mayor and council, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Barb Weber said she does not like tax increases, and although she is known as an extremely conservative person, this needs to be done. We need to stay with what will keep the City going and she supports the matter.

Mayor Rachford called for a vote on the Ordinance: Dave Hart-Yes; Bob Simon Yee; Scott Fleckinger-Yes; Barb Weber-Yes; Joe Anderson-No; Stacey Graus-Yes. The motion passed with a 5-1-0 vote.

Barb Weber asked if there were a number of big box stores that received a decrease in valuation after the Finance Committee met and reviewed the budget. Scott said the assessment numbers didn’t come in as expected. Barb pointed out that the drop in the assessment did affect the overall budget that was passed which necessitated the tax increase. Dave Hart said nobody feels good about the rate increase, but the way the property values are going and having trust in the Finance Committee and those who worked on the budget, he believes they did everything they could to bring it into line.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Clerk: Karen Barto stated tax bills will be printed and mailed shortly.

Police Department: None

Public Works: See Report attached. The Mayor stated there have been a number of street improvements consistent with the road program, and there have been improvements made at the Park. The walkway has also been replaced in the annex building behind the Community Center.

Zoning Administrator: See Report attached. Carol is doing a great job of staying on top of issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Ball Field Contract between Bishop Brossart High School & City: As discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Duncan made the changes to the contract. Last Thursday, the Mayor, Sam Trapp, Tom Baynum and Mel Webster met and discussed the removable home run fence. Dave Hart noted that when he made the suggestion, it did not resemble the pictures. He and Bob Simon have seen fences that are removable and know it is possible. Dave said he would like to see something that wouldn’t eat up more green space. There was a lengthy discussion about fences.

Rebecca Reese, Park & Recreation, thinks this is something that needs to be compromised. Brossart will be getting a ball field, but we still need the green space. A permanent fence will interfere with a lot of other activities and park functions because there are limited “flat” areas at the park. Rebecca contacted J. T. Taylor from District 10, who oversees the softball teams in the area, said he sees no reason that it can’t be a temporary fence. Rebecca also pointed out that the Park & Recreation Board had discussed this matter several times and had a list of other items that they wanted to see in the contract which were not included.

Jeremy Toy, Park & Recreation Chairman, had attended meetings where charge for admissions and concessions were discussed. At the first meeting, he was told there would be no charge, but later it was mentioned that this could be a possibility. The Park Board is concerned that park patrons may be asked to pay to use the park. Another request was that there be no weekend games, and they were told that if there were rain-outs, a weekend game may be scheduled. There is nothing about this in the
event the Board has an event on that day. Also, he would like to see plans, both phasing and final, as to exactly what will be done before the contract is signed. He believes there needs to be further discussion on this matter.

Mayor Rachford said that the city should receive a schedule of games no later than January. Dave Hart feels strongly about the removable fence and would like to see that as a part of the agreement. He will try to find out more about these.

Sue Neltner, an Alexandria resident, had just heard about this idea and had many questions about how this came about. She doesn’t want the softball team to monopolize the park by taking something away from the citizens of Alexandria and letting an organization run the park. Mayor Rachford, Stacey Graus, and Dave Hart addressed Mrs. Neltner’s concerns. The ball field will probably get more use than it does right now because of the condition of the field, as well as an improvement to the park as a whole. Stacey mentioned the possibility of a scoreboard. Ms. Neltner then asked about signage on a scoreboard/fence. John Jewell said it would probably not fall under any regulations because it is a city park. Bob Simon mentioned other places where a city park is used by schools as a home field.

Ms. Weber asked for an explanation of a couple of areas of the contract so that there are no misconceptions later on:

- **Item #3** – “In the event the field is not being used by BBHS the City shall have the right to allow other uses of the facility. However, the City shall attempt to coordinate use of the premises with BBHS.”

Does this proposed contract give them the use of the ball field on the scheduled days that would be provided to the city? Any necessary rainout dates seem to be covered under item #3. Why would the City coordinate use of the premises of BBHS outside of the scheduled time frames? Mr. Duncan explained that the city would consider the times they have pre-scheduled, and the City would be able to allow use of it any other time. Stacey Graus used the example of BBHS asking for a date and the City needing that same date for an event.

- **Item #12** – “BBHS may not enter into non-exclusive agreements with other organizations from Campbell County who wish to regularly use the field.”

Ms. Weber suggested this sentence be changed to read: “BBHS may not enter into non-exclusive agreements with any organizations for the use of the ball field.” This change would clearly state the limitations of BBHS on any agreements with any organization, whether it’s regularly or temporary. Mr. Duncan was agreeable with this change because it would emphasize that Brossart doesn’t have control of the field and cannot sub-lease it to someone else.

Ms. Weber again brought up her previous suggestion for the need to create a restricted public parking area, where anyone not wishing to attend a ball game would have the opportunity to find parking spaces. They have been told that parking problems should not be an issue, so what would the harm be to establish a restricted parking area for those who regularly use the park for fishing, walking, etc. and not for attending a ball game? Mike Ward said it may be an enforcement issue. His officers occasionally run plates on vehicles in the parking lots during the day, and about 80% not live in Campbell County or the City of Alexandria. He doesn’t think parking is going to be as big a problem as it is perceived.

Bob Simon will check into a removable fence. Dave Hart agreed with Barb Weber’s suggestion to clarify the wording in Item #12.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Barb Weber requested that the next Council agenda include a resolution adopting the Northern Kentucky Area District Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. She has discussed this with Chief Ward. If
any council member would like to review this, it is available through the NKADD. Contact Karen Barto for the e-mail link.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Travis Tritt Concert – Friday, August 24th at the Alexandria Fairgrounds. Tickets are available at County Market.
- Alexandria Fair Parade – Wednesday, August 29th at 6:45 p.m. Washington Street will be closing at 6:00 p.m.

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 8:45 p.m.

Karen M. Barto
City Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 9-1-12

William T. Rachford, Jr.
Mayor

Date: 9-1-12

Approved: 9-6-12