



TOWN HALL COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes of March 19, 2015

ORIGINAL

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

	Bob Simon	Present	Sue Neltner	Present
	Stacey Graus	Present	Andy Schabell	Present
	Sandy Decker	Present	Scott Fleckinger	Present
Also:	Susie Clark	Admin Clerk	Mike Ward	Police Chief
	Mike Duncan	City Attorney	Sam Trapp	Pub Works Supt.
	Lt. Kilby	Alex Fire Dept.	Todd Schafer	CC Manager

The Mayor read the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

Mayor Rachford opened the Town Hall meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He asked that anyone who wishes to speak, to please sign in and step up to the microphone stating your name and address for our records.

Mayor Rachford updated everyone about projects in the City:

- **Arcadia Development** – A 379 acre tract of land being developed by Fischer and Drees. It will include apartments, condos, single family homes and patio homes. The single family homes will range in price between \$200,000 and \$400,000. When complete, Arcadia will be larger than the City of Southgate and will change the complexion of Alexandria. Many homes are already built and occupied in Arcadia.
- **Baptist Life Center** – Will be located at the bottom of Rt. 709, and sits on a 10 acre tract. It is a \$40,000,000 project and will house 240 clients and employ about 200 people.
- **Whistlers Point** - A planned subdivision located on Persimmon Grove Pike and will consist of around 75 homes.
- **The Bridge** - The old Thriftway building has been purchased by a church called "The Bridge". They have a very active community of about 600 people.
- **Shaw and Sheridan Street Reconstruction** – Will take place this fiscal year, and will be doing two years worth of work in one year. We will totally reconstruct the road, not an overlay, and tear up the curb and sidewalk and rebuild those at the same time at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000. Prior to our reconstruction, the Water District will replace and enlarge the existing water line.
- **City wide Spring Clean Up** – Council member Sue Neltner has initiated a city wide clean up on April 18 from 10 – 1:00 p.m. The Public Works men will be available to remove larger items in conjunction with the County Clean up that weekend.
- **New Playground equipment** – The Alexandria Community Park will have new playground equipment coming soon.
- **Arbor Day** – April 25 will be Arbor Day and the City's Park and Recreation Committee will be giving away saplings at the Park.

- **Revitalization of Main Street** – The Mayor and Carol Hofstetter had a meeting with the residents of Main Street. The project will start on the end of U.S. 27 and continue to Jefferson Street. The project is to guide people with painting, planting bushes and trees and clean up some existing landscaping. The Mayor has a meeting with the State Highway Department because Main Street is on the schedule to be resurfaced and the Mayor would like to know exactly what they are doing and let them know what we would like done. The Mayor has met with the County regarding the old Courthouse on Main Street. He also met with Southern States regarding moving the mulch to the rear of the building instead of the Main street side. The Mayor has met with them previously regarding changing the façade of the building.

The Mayor then opened the meeting up to the audience.

1) Greg West – 31 Sheridan Drive – Mr. West thanked the Mayor for this meeting and asked from where the \$1,000,000 for the reconstruction of Shaw and Sheridan was coming.

The Mayor responded the money will come from our revenue source. We have Road Aid from the State which is from the gasoline tax revenue that is divided up. We currently have \$150,000 in our reserve from previous years and if we receive \$150,000 this year we will take that money and get the rest out of our budget. As a safety measure, we have applied for a line of credit if we can't take it all out of the budget which the Mayor plans to pay off quickly if we do need it.

Mr. West went on to say his sidewalk is in good shape and maybe the City could save it thus saving some money.

The Mayor wants to eliminate the grass strip between the street and sidewalk.

2) Louis Morrison – 6 Breckenridge - Mr. Morrison asked if we could put cameras on the poles of U.S. 27. He said he was struck by a truck crossing U.S. 27.

The Mayor said it is a State Road and he will follow up with the State about that.

3) Edward Messer – 33 Shaw Drive – Mr. Messer has a problem with water runoff ruining his mother's side lot.

The Mayor referred him to Sam Trapp to review the drawings.

4) Chris Field – 27 Sheridan Drive - Mr. Field asked if the City could install sidewalks from Main Street to the Fairgrounds and then from the Fairgrounds down Persimmon Grove to Shaw and Sheridan. He said as more families are becoming health conscious, it would be beneficial. Mr. Field also asked how putting that many children in our City will affect the school system.

The Mayor responded we have looked at installing sidewalks from the Fairgrounds down to Stillwater Subdivision. It was determined it was very costly. That is not currently on our radar. The Mayor also responded to Mr. Field's question regarding our schools that Mr. Miller is the School Superintendant so he could answer that question.

Sue Neltner said she heard the Bd. of Education was looking to possibly purchase some property off Orchard Street.

Andy Schabell said he had looked into putting sidewalks in and because there is a wall, telephone poles and hills, it was extremely costly.

5) Mindy Baird – 1 Sheridan Drive - Ms. Baird thanked the Mayor and Council for redoing the sidewalks and getting rid of the grass strip on Shaw and Sheridan. She also asked for sidewalks on Main Street and Persimmon Grove. More and more kids are riding their bikes and walking along

those streets. Sidewalks may be costly but a death would be more. Since Persimmon Grove is a State road, maybe we could talk to the State about sidewalks along Persimmon Grove.

Council member Bob Simon explained he's on the Public Works Committee and is in construction. Regarding keeping some sidewalks on Sheridan or Shaw, that really doesn't work due to an issue of the height of the street and the sidewalks. It's cheaper to redo all the sidewalks at one time. He is also on the Finance Committee and they have been planning to redo Shaw and Sheridan and budgeting for it. The City has a five year plan for the infrastructure so next year they won't do any streets because of the cost of Shaw and Sheridan. We have been saving money every year, planning for Shaw and Sheridan.

6) Jannene Maudlin – 24 Sheridan Drive – Mrs. Maudlin asked if the storm drains will be redone because the one behind her house is collapsed. When it rains, water pours out of it.

Sam Trapp responded that the city is working with SD#1 to correct these problems. SD#1 now owns the storm drains. They own everything under the ground and we own what's on the surface, like the grates, etc. He said the storm box will be replaced. Sam said before any project like this, SD#1 will video the pipe and suggested Mrs. Maudlin call SD#1 when it rains so they can see it.

7) Lisa McElfresh – 106 Quailwood Ct - Mrs. McElfresh thanked Council and the Mayor for the Community Center. She has invited everyone she knows to join and get some exercise. She also thanked the City for the food pantry donation. She belongs to the Alexandria Church of Christ and they really needed the food that was collected by the City of Alexandria.

The Mayor said for the past couple of years, approximately 40,000 people have used the Community Center on an annual basis. That is weddings, walkers., etc.

8) Mindy Baird – 1 Sheridan Drive - She said when she grew up in Alexandria she had the bowling alley and the roller rink. Now as an adult, Alexandria still has bowling and skating. She asked if the City could do something for the teens in our community.

The Mayor said the City has looked at that. We tried to find private sector to build a teen center. He has spoken to the pastor of "The Bridge" about the possibility of using some of that space for our youth. We have talked about it, but haven't gotten it together yet. The Fire Department does have a number of teen functions there; dances, etc.

Stacey Graus commented that our youth do go to other cities, Newport on the Levee, Wilder movie theater, etc. and that's because of the demographics and finances of Alexandria. From a financial standpoint, we only have so many resources we can spend. We have the park which is great. They can fish etc. The private sector is going to invest in the more populated areas. People aren't going south. Our slogan is where the City meets the Country. That is true and in the country it's less populated. Since 1998 when he first came on council, they have been looking for something for the teens. He also said the schools have so much more for the kids these days then when he was in school. Council is always looking at offering more amenities to our citizens, but we have to look at ways to fund the Shaw and Sheridan project also. We budgeted and planned for it. We have to meet the basic needs of Alexandria first which is the streets, etc.

Mindy Baird – She asked if a group could be formed to take a serious look at bringing something for the youth.

Stacey Graus said that might not be from the government but maybe a group of residents because any project has to be funded, so he feels the private sector would have to come in.

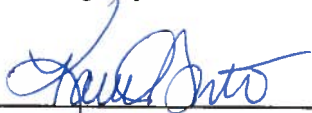
9) Kirk \_\_\_\_\_ – He remembered playing basketball in the Community Center and asked if we could put on a movie night for kids there or play basketball there.

10) Anita Judge - 36 Sheridan – Mrs. Judge asked if the residents were going to be assessed?

The Mayor said no, at this point we have no plans to assess the residents to pay for the Shaw and Sheridan project. The Mayor also asked if anyone wants to talk to Sam Trapp after the meeting, he has the maps and will be happy to answer any questions they have.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Scott Fleckinger made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sue Neltner. All in favor, the meeting adjourned 6-0-0 at 7:45 p.m.



Karen M. Barto  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 4/3/2015



William T. Rachford, Jr.  
Mayor

Date: 4/3/2015

Approved: April 2, 2015