



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
(Via videoconference)  
**Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2020**

Mayor Schabell called the Alexandria City Council Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the invocation and the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Duncan explained because this regularly scheduled meeting happened in a place or time different than normal it is considered a special meeting. Only items listed on the agenda are allowed to be discussed. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic they are meeting via video conferencing, which is permitted because of the emergency declarations made by the President, Governor, County Judge Executive and the Mayor and the emergency statute.

The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus Present  
Bob Simon Present  
Kyle Sparks Present

Susan Vanlandingham Present  
Sue Neltner Present (joined @7:15)  
Tom Baldrige Present

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk  
Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt.  
JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer

Mike Duncan, City Attorney  
Lucas Cooper, Police Chief  
Jeff Pohlman, Fire Chief

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 5, 2020**

**MOTION:** Stacey Graus made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

**VISITORS & GUESTS – None**

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

*Mr. Duncan read the following:*

**MO #2020-09:** A Municipal Order of the City of Alexandria appointing and approving Jenny Vildibill to fill the unexpired term of Cathy Combs for the remainder of her full, four (4) year term on the City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Board, to expire on December 31, 2021, or as soon as her successor is appointed, approved, is qualified and sworn in.

**MOTION:** Kyle Sparks made a motion to approve Municipal Order 2020-09, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed 4-0-1, Ms. Vanlandingham abstaining.

**RES #2020-03:** A Resolution of the City of Alexandria, in Campbell County, Kentucky, in support of the 2020 Census.

**MOTION:** Stacey Graus made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-03, seconded by Tom Baldrige. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Closing Paper Alleys:** Mayor Schabell explained there are some alleys in the city which are not utilized by the public and the plan is to turn them over to the adjacent land owners. It will take a few years to get them all turned over as it is an expensive process.

**New Candidate Filing Deadline for 2020:** The new deadline to file is the first Tuesday in June which is June 2, 2020. Mayor Schabell wanted everyone to be aware since it is an election year for council members. Ms. Neltner announced she will not be running in the fall.

**New Business Coming to Alexandria:** Mayor Schabell shared Chipotle has submitted plans to turn the old Sonic into a Chipotle. He shared the design of what the new building will look like. In light of current circumstances an opening date is unknown, but Chipotle is eager to get started.

Mayor Schabell also announced Burkes was supposed to open this weekend but they have pushed their grand opening to sometime in May. Still no word on what will fill the other half of the former County Market space.

#### **COVID-19 UPDATE:**

**Mayor Schabell:** A state of emergency was declared on March 18 and following that the Community Park playground and basketball courts were closed. The Community Park is still open to passive recreation like walking and fishing and residents were encouraged to practice social distancing while at the park. The Community Center and all reservations were also cancelled and he is hoping to be able to start taking reservations for July and August. This week the City lowered all flags to half-staff at the request of the Governor and encouraged all business owners to do the same. He has been on three conference calls with St. Elizabeth's CEO and has participated in weekly conference calls with Judge Pendery and the other Campbell County mayors, and has been regularly communicating with the Northern Kentucky Health District, Northern Kentucky and Kentucky Chambers of Commerce. He encouraged any businesses with questions to contact the city through email or to visit the city's website. Mayor Schabell is going to reach out to the local businesses and maybe get a conference call set up with them. The conference calls with St. Elizabeth have been very informative; they have plans in place for alternate housing locations but they do not anticipate needing those. As of the morning of April 16, there were 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Campbell County and 5 deaths. Drive-thru testing has started in Independence, where they will be testing everyone regardless of risk and level of sickness. Up to this point the numbers only reflected those who have been tested who are at high risk or have been really sick. There may be a temporary spike in numbers due to the increase in testing. There are not enough tests for COVID-19 to go around for everyone. Washing your hands, staying home if you're sick and staying away from crowds is the best way to flatten the curve. Mayor Schabell took a moment to thank all of the employees of the City of Alexandria for all of their hard work during this time.

**Police Dept.:** Chief Cooper reported the office is currently closed to the public but still busy as usual. There is someone in the office to answer calls and officers are using the phone to respond to non-emergency calls to avoid face-to-face contact whenever possible. They have temporarily changed the way they do a few things in regards to sending out reports in order to get people what they need. They are doing their best to ensure people do not come in contact with the virus because of them, so when they do respond to calls, they will be in PPE gear. They have been working with other agencies and getting regular updates from Emergency Management. They are still working closely with the Alexandria Fire Department, but they no longer go on calls with them unless requested. Officers are still patrolling and doing what they need to do to keep everyone safe. Chief Cooper reported people may see an increase of police presence in high traffic areas like grocery stores. He thanked the community for the care packages and their support as it means a lot to the officers. The only problem they are seeing right now is during the evening hours large groups of juveniles are beginning to congregate. He understands teenagers are getting restless and they want to see their friends, but he asked parents and teens to help reinforce maintaining distance so we can all get through this.

**Fire Dept.:** Chief Pohlman reported they are working in emergency mode and staying in contact with the Mayor and Chief Cooper. They are not allowing visitors at the firehouse except for in the lobby. The Asst. Chief and the Fire Marshall are still working at the station, but he is working from home.

They have suspended all life safety inspections, hydrant inspections and public relation activities, and have put a hold on the student program. Volunteers are responding from home. Each shift has their temperature taken 3 times throughout the shift and if it is above 100 degrees, they are sent home. They are decontaminating every day and have moved things around to ensure social distancing during shifts. They are attending multiple meetings to keep up to date on things and to come up with best operations and plans. The fire department has had three personnel exposed to the virus, so they were isolated for a time, and have since tested negative for the virus and are back to work. All of the Fire Departments are working well together; they all use the same software so they can see who is on duty when and can easily call on other departments if one is overwhelmed. They have had about 12 COVID-19 runs. When folks call 911 they will be asked some questions to assess exposure to the virus. If people are able, they are asked to meet the first responders on the front porch. Chief Pohlman went on to explain how things are operating when they do respond to calls, what they are doing to limit exposure, and how they are decontaminating after a run. He thanked the public for their continued support and thanked the firefighters for all they do on a daily basis.

**Public Works:** Mr. Trapp reported they are working 2-3 days a week and are on call when they are at home. They are doing general maintenance like grass cutting, filling pot holes, building maintenance but not anything major. He is in the office every day and encouraged folks to reach out to him if issues arise.

**City Clerk:** Ms. Johannemann reported the office is still operating every day during normal hours but the office is closed to the public. They are utilizing the overnight box to allow residents to drop off things during normal business hours, taking in applications via email, and taking payments via credit card over the phone. Everyone in the office is doing a great job and working well together. She also reported some of the online forms are now fillable, making things a bit easier for residents. The staff is working in split teams so not everyone is in the office at the same time, but there are always at least two people in the office. She encouraged residents to contact the office if they need anything.

**Budget Concerns:** Mayor Schabell reported he is concerned about the budget because there are a lot of unknowns on how this pandemic will affect the budget. The only answer right now is to wait and see what happens. Some businesses are still open and doing really well but others are working under limited hours and staff and he is rooting for them, but is unsure what will ultimately happen.

Mr. Graus wondered if they should schedule any sub-committee meetings even though things are still uncertain. Mr. Duncan stated they could create a budget using a best guess of what the numbers will be or they can carry over the budget they are working under now. Either way the budget will be a best guess. Mayor Schabell stated they could possibly renew the old budget and get preliminary numbers from the Police Department and Public Works on what might be needed. Mr. Duncan said if they wanted to hold committee meetings, they could do those the same way as this.

**Future Meetings:** Mayor Schabell will reach out to the other boards and commissions about their need for future meetings and see about getting the meetings scheduled.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**2020 Census:** Mayor Schabell reported the 2020 Census has been sent out and so far, 65% of Alexandria residents have responded. He shared some other information in regards to the county and the state as a whole. During the 2010 Census, Campbell County had an 85% response rate and they are looking to bring that number up for the 2020 Census. He also shared that each person counted equates into about \$2,000 in funds to be used that is split up between city, county and state. Federal money goes toward schools, lunch programs, college scholarships, grants, etc. to help the community. Mayor Schabell pointed out the information will not be shared and is strictly for statistical purposes. He urged everyone to fill out the census like your tax rates depended on it, because they do.

**QUESTIONS FROM EMAIL AND FACEBOOK**


- **What is going in the old County Market:** Burkes is going into half of the County Market space and the city is unsure of what will go in the other half. Chipotle is going in the old Sonic building.
- **Teens congregating at the Bridge Church?** Chief Cooper stated they are seeing this more and more with younger kids and they are trying to break up these groups. He cautioned that if these teens live with folks who are at risk or if the officers have to respond, then this puts everyone at risk. We could potentially get out of this a lot sooner if everyone would take it seriously.
- **When will Chipotle be open?** There is no way to know other than they are really wanting to get started.

Mayor Schabell asked attendees to stay on the meeting after the adjournment to watch a short video he put together from pictures around town.

Ms. Neltner asked everyone wearing gloves and masks right now to please put those in the trash can when they are finished using them instead of throwing them on the ground or leaving them in grocery carts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Sue Neltner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

  
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Jan Johannemann, City Clerk

Date: 5/7/2020

  
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Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 5/7/2020