



## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING (Via videoconference) Meeting Minutes of May 7, 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 different than normal, it is considered a special meeting. Only items listed on the agenda are allowed to be discussed.

The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus	Present	Susan Vanlandingham	Present
Bob Simon	Present	Sue Neltner	Present
Kyle Sparks	Present	Tom Baldrige	Present

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk  
Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt.  
Jeff Pohlman, Fire Chief

Mike Duncan, City Attorney  
Lucas Cooper, Police Chief

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2020 Special Meeting

**MOTION:** Stacey Graus made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 special meeting, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

### ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS – None

### NEW BUSINESS

**New Website:** Mayor Schabell shared his screen showing the new website for the City of Alexandria. They are still making updates, but this website is easier to navigate and is mobile friendly. He thanked Kyle Sparks and Jan Johannemann for all of the hard work they put into the new website. Mr. Sparks is glad it is up and running and stated it can be tweaked much easier than the old website. It was pointed out the calendar begins on a Monday, and how that could be confusing for those who are used to calendars beginning on Sunday. Mr. Sparks will take this concern to the web designer.

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

**Mayor Schabell:** He shared a Powerpoint presentation (see attached) for those watching and gave an overall update on the office and city. The city offices remain closed to the public and residents were encouraged to call the offices if they need to speak with someone. The park is open for fishing and walking but the playground, basketball courts and shelters all remain closed.

Some good news: A local girl scout and her mom made several hundred masks for friends, neighbors, first responders, and government workers. Sgt. Nick Heiert of the Campbell County Police Department and resident of Alexandria started a Nick @ 9 Facebook page and has raised over \$10,000 for local charities. Campbell County Schools have served over 115,000 meals to kids and families.

Regarding concerns he has received about the gas prices in Alexandria, he asked Judge Pendery and other mayors why Campbell County gas prices are about \$0.30 more than other locations. No one seems to have the answer.

He then went over the most recent Covid-19 numbers for Campbell County and the State. Northern Kentucky Health District has reported 105 cases in Campbell County with 9 deaths. That is about 1 death per 10,000 residents in Campbell County. "Healthy at Home" seems to be working as the numbers were predicted to be higher for this time. He is hoping that businesses will be able to open soon.

Ms. Neltner had heard the higher gas prices were due to an additive in Campbell County gas that makes it more expensive. Chief Pohlman thought all of NKY had the additive and that was supposed to have been removed several years ago.

Mr. Sparks noted Governor Beshear said youth baseball could start June 10. He wanted to know if we would be following the same protocol. Mayor Schabell said the City will follow the guidelines from the Governor for reopening things in the city, and he is glad to hear the kids will have something to look forward to.

Ms. Neltner had heard about an inflammatory disease that is affecting young kids, particularly in New York and New Jersey. Mr. Sparks also shared he tested positive for Covid-19 while in New York in mid-February and it was worse than having a bad flu. Mayor Schabell reiterated that this virus is real and affecting people, but he is hopeful that with some common sense measures we can get on the road to economic recovery and spending time with family and friends.

**Police Dept.:** Chief Cooper reported the office lobby is still closed to the public and they are still sending reports electronically. Since the officers can't always use social distancing precautions on calls, the officers are now required to wear masks especially as things begin to open back up. They are still operating as usual and maintaining 6' distance when possible. He thanked the community for being so great and for their continued support.

**Fire Dept.:** Chief Pohlman reported they are still operating in emergency mode with no visitors allowed at the station, but they are starting to allow the certified students to return on a limited basis. Some things have been put on hold at this time to maintain social distancing. Before all of this started, the fire station had a sprinkler pipe burst and they are just now getting the building back to looking somewhat normal. The county is still at a Level 2, he gets briefing from the OEM 3 times a week, and is in constant communication with the other fire chiefs and medical professionals. The number of runs for this year are around the same as 2019. He explained what the department is doing on calls to ensure everyone stays safe with the use of social distancing and PPE. He echoed the sentiments of Chief Cooper in thanking the residents for their support and generosity. All of the Campbell County departments have had minimal exposure to the virus. Also, there is no open burning in the City until October.

**Public Works:** Mr. Trapp reported everything is staying about the same as before. They have been mowing, filling potholes and compiling a list of things to be done.

**City Clerk:** Ms. Johannemann reported everything is about the same. The office is staying busy with taking and issuing permits. They are seeing an increase because people are at home more and have the time to get projects completed.

**Budget Concerns:** Mayor Schabell gave an update on the decrease in payroll taxes between April 2019 and April 2020. He mentioned all cities across the state are struggling with this and the biggest disadvantage is the City does not have a huge nest egg. The city has been working on saving more money and investing to build a larger rainy day fund. The City is doing its best but may need to make some cuts in the future. The plan for next year's budget is to use current budget numbers until we have better numbers to work with. The Mayor is expecting the city to have about a 12% decrease in revenue.

**Future Meetings:** Mayor Schabell stated that during this Healthy at Home, things are changing rapidly. He would like to keep meetings as usual on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

A resident had asked Mr. Graus whether the AFD had to transport their calls to St. Elizabeth in Ft. Thomas. Chief Pohlman said within reason, they can transport to any hospital that the patient wants to go to. A lot of the car accidents go to UC since they have a Level 1 Trauma unit. Mr. Graus then asked whether or not the fire department is only allowed to share obtained information, like EKG readings, to St. Elizabeth hospitals and not to other hospitals. The Chief said there are protocols they have to follow regarding sharing information like EKG readings, and a lot of times they are on the phone with the ER doctors from the squad. If they do anything outside of those protocols, they have to clear that with the St. Elizabeth medical director. He will check with Asst. Chief Ford on what is allowed and pass that along.

Ms. Vanlandingham asked if there was any word on when the county would be opening their offices for driver's license and tags/taxes. Mayor Schabell reported they discussed it briefly during the meeting with Judge Pendery and the other city mayors, but they are patiently waiting for directives from the Governor's office to see how to proceed. The Governor did release information on opening the state back up in phases and what would be included in each phase.

## OLD BUSINESS

**New Candidate Filing Deadline:** If anyone is interested in running for City Council the deadline to file is June 2, 2020. The City and the Campbell County Election Office has extra applications. Residents interested in running need signatures from two Alexandria residents and a \$50 payment and turned in to the Campbell County Election office by the deadline.

**Primary Elections:** The Primary has been moved to June 23 and will be a mail-in vote. More information will be sent out later this month via postcards to registered voters.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

**Tom Baldrige:** He filed for the election on Wednesday, May 6 and when filling out the on-line financial disclosure he ran into an issue with Alexandria not being listed as a jurisdiction. He spoke with someone in Frankfort and the issue is now fixed.

**Kyle Sparks:** He thanked Ms. Johannemann for all of her hard work on the new website. Tweaks are still being made. The new website cost came in under budget.

**Sue Neltner:** People are treating the recycling dumpster area at the TANK lot across from Campbell County Police Station as a garbage dump rather than a place to take recycling items. Because of this, the dumpsters will likely be removed. The County is aware of the issues, and are also looking at getting a Campbell County Clean-Up Day on the calendar, but are not sure when that will happen.

**Susan Vanlandingham:** She thanked Mr. Sparks and Ms. Johannemann for the hard work on the new website and for the fillable forms.

**Stacey Graus:** He is glad that Mr. Sparks is okay and recovered. He is ready to move forward with the "new" normal as things open back up and is looking forward to next year when we can have a real normal.

**Mayor Schabell:** Every Thursday he participates in a conference call with the other city mayors and Judge Pendery sharing information. He has been on conference calls with Mitch McConnell and with Governor Beshear trying to collect all of the information to make the best, most-informed decisions for the residents. He is also hoping to begin to reopen things like the playground, and also encouraged residents to support the local businesses now and as things begin to open back up.

QUESTIONS FROM EMAIL

Mayor Schabell announced they will answer questions from email, but not from Facebook as it is too difficult to keep up with the questions. If people have questions, they can send them in ahead of time via email or they can email the office staff after the meeting. The agenda will be posted the Friday before the meeting, on the website, Facebook, and on the City Building door so residents have plenty of time to look it over and send in questions.

Chief Pohlman had an answer to Mr. Graus' question in regards to sharing information with the hospitals. Right now, St. Elizabeth and the Fire Department both use the same system so it is easier to share information. The Cincinnati hospitals use a different program but they are working on getting connected. In the meantime, they take a picture of their screen to share information with the hospitals in Cincinnati.

Ms. Vanlandingham saw one question on Facebook about whether people are required to wear facemasks in public. Mayor Schabell said that while he is no expert, there is a strong recommendation from the Governor's office to wear a mask in public places. Some stores may make it mandatory.

Mayor Schabell asked everyone to stay tuned after the adjournment for a 2-minute video.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Tom Baldrige made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Simon. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor Schabell encouraged everyone to stay healthy at home and to reach out to him, Jan Johannemann or call the office with any concerns or questions.

Jan Johannemann  
Jan Johannemann, City Clerk

Date: 5/21/2020

Andy Schabell  
Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 5/21/2020