

ORIGINAL



CITY COUNCIL MEETING (Via Video Conference) Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2021

Mayor Schabell called the Alexandria City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the invocation and the pledge to the flag. The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus	Present	Steven Shinkle	Present
W. David Hart	Present	Joe Anderson	Present
Tom Baldrige	Present	Kyle Sparks	Present

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk Mike Duncan, City Attorney
Lucas Cooper, Police Chief JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer
Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt. Jeff Pohlman, Fire Chief

CEREMONIAL SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL:

Mr. Duncan then administered the Oath of Office, and Mayor Schabell welcomed all council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 3, 2020

MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Duncan read the following:

(Second Reading)

ORD #2020-13: An ordinance of the City of Alexandria amending Section 50.15 of the City Code of Ordinances in order to modify the City's waste and recycling collection assessment.

Mr. Duncan explained the city has signed a new 3-year waste contract with 2 optional years. This ordinance amends the code section that allows the city to pass through this cost of waste and recycling collection to the residents as the fee has changed.

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-13, seconded by Steven Shinkle. All in favor, motion passed 6-0-0.

RES #2021-01: A Resolution urging the Kentucky General Assembly to enact legislation that increases transportation funding and modernizes Kentucky's road funding formula.

Mayor Schabell explained the Kentucky League of Cities has asked cities to pass resolution. The city's spending on streets has increased 35%, while state funding dropped nearly 24%. The state legislature has not changed this since 2015. Cars are getting more efficient, and costs to repair roads are going up. Something needs to be done to give cities more money to repair infrastructure.

Mr. Graus questioned the weight these resolutions would really have on the legislators, but he doesn't have a problem approving this resolution. Mr. Sparks agrees. As a courtesy to KLC, we should consider it.

MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, motion passed with a 6-0-0.

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MUN ORD #2021-01: Appointing and approving Susan Vanlandingham as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a full four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

MUN ORD #2021-02: Re-appointing and approving Brett Ruschman as an alternate member of the Ethics Board for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.

MUN ORD #2021-03: Re-appointing and approving Joshua Essner as a member of the Ethics Board for a full three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

MUN ORD #2021-04: Re-appointing and approving Steve Minshall as a member of the Ethics Board for a full three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

MUN ORD #2021-05: Re-appointing and approving Anthony Johnson as a member of the Code Enforcement Board for a full three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

MUN ORD #2021-06: Re-appointing and approving Fred Hollman as a member of the Park & Recreation Board for a full four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to approve Municipal Orders 2021-01 through 2021-06, seconded by Steven Shinkle. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk: Please let Jan know if any council member is planning on attending the virtual City Officials Academy so she can determine how many City Official Handbooks to order.

Police Department: The monthly report for December and the annual report are attached. There were 23,255 calls for service in 2020, up from 20,000 in 2019. A lot of that activity is self-initiated, with good police work and enforcement throughout the city. If anyone has questions about these reports, please let him know.

As of yesterday, Northern Kentucky first responders were getting their Covid vaccines. This is going very well. As an agency, about 85% of the officers have chosen to be vaccinated.

The PD is currently accepting applications for a police officer. He is hoping to find a lateral position. There is no deadline, and anyone interested should find the information and application of the city's website. Applications can be dropped off, faxed, or mailed to the offices.

Fire Department: Chief Pohlman referred to the report in council packets. Let him know if there are any questions. He will be doing a more extensive annual report soon. His department has been receiving vaccines and he was impressed with the way it is being handled. The only side effect he had was a sore arm. He would like to think this is a start to getting everything back to normal.

Mr. Sparks asked if there were any numbers on the recent coat drive. Chief Pohlman said it was very successful and he was impressed with the generosity of everyone who donated.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES - None

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Planning & Zoning Commission: They had a meeting this past Tuesday in council chambers, and held election of officers: Nick Reitman-Chairman; Sonny Markus-Vice-Chair; Randy Nehus-Treasurer; Derek Moore-Secretary.

Park & Recreation Board: This month's meeting was cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS

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Council Committees: Mayor Schabell explained the different council committees and the process by which council chooses their committees – first by seniority, then by the highest number of votes for the newer members. Each committee has a Chair and two council members.

Bs. Retention & Development:	Chair – Kyle Sparks	Stacey Graus	Steven Shinkle
Finance	Chair – Stacey Graus	Tom Baldrige	Joe Anderson
Public Works:	Chair – Tom Baldrige	Dave Hart	Stacey Graus
Beautification:	Chair – Dave Hart	Kyle Sparks	Steven Shinkle
Safety:	Chair – Joe Anderson	Tom Baldrige	Dave Hart
Personnel:	Chair – Steven Shinkle	Kyle Sparks	Joe Anderson

Christmas/Winter Beautification Award: This year's winner is Michael Eglian, 151 Lake Park Drive. Mayor Schabell shared a picture of this house. He hopes to continue with these awards as it is a good way to recognize residents who help keep Alexandria beautiful.

Small Business Grants: At the last council meeting, Mayor Schabell shared that he would like to do another round of small business grants. The last round was very successful and well-received by business owners. The city received over \$800,000 in Cares Act monies that can be applied to small business grants. If there are no objections to pursuing this again, he would work with the ad hoc committee. Hearing none, he will start the process and report back at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 Update: Mayor Schabell said the Community Center is still closed, and they will continue to re-evaluate as time goes on, but he doesn't foresee any changes in the future as the numbers are still going up. He has spoken with other cities and all their facilities are still closed. The majority of people that use the walking track are senior citizens who want to exercise and stay healthy. When it is so cold, there is nowhere else for them to walk, but knowing that this population is the most at risk, the safest thing to do is to keep the center closed. City offices are open, business as usual.

Mr. Sparks asked if there is a schedule of who will be getting vaccinations, and how it is going to play out in Campbell County/Alexandria. The Mayor explained there is a schedule that was discussed on a conference call this morning. Dr. Sadler from the No. Ky. Health Department had said they would be adding this information to their website. Chief Pohlman explained a lot of this scheduling has to do with the number of vaccinations they receive from the State, and other factors that may cause the schedule to be adjusted.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stacey Graus: He is looking forward to some normalcy toward the end of this year and he hopes council will all work together for the best interests of the City.

Kyle Sparks: He is looking forward to normalcy as well, and working together with all council for the good of the City.

Tom Baldrige: He welcomed the new members and looks forward to working with everyone. Thanks to all those who decorated their yards for Christmas. He enjoyed driving through the city looking at the impressive decorations. Congratulations to the owners of 151 Lake Park Drive.

Joe Anderson: He introduced himself and stated he is retired, married, and has two sons. He looks forward to working with everyone, and hopes with the new year brings positive things.

Steven Shinkle: He had been on Planning & Zoning for a few years prior to running for council. He is from Northern Kentucky and moved to Alexandria about 6 years ago while getting his degree at NKU in economics. He currently runs the e-Commerce Department at Nestle. Mr. Shinkle thanked everyone for their welcoming words and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Dave Hart: He wished everyone a Happy New Year, and is excited for the new year and grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone.

Mayor Schabell: He continues with the weekly phone calls with other mayors in Northern Kentucky, that have proven to be very effective and helpful. It is nice to know what other cities are doing. Campbell County is working hard to make sure there are consistent and good programs for all residents in the County.

Mayor Schabell has participated on conference calls with Governor Beshear, the most recent being last week. He appreciates the Governor's honesty, openness, and willingness to answer questions. While there are no in-person meetings, Mayor Schabell feels there is better communication in Campbell County and with the State because of these calls.

He also feels optimistic about this year. There are a lot of good things going on in the city. 2020 started with a bang, and then Covid hit. As things hopefully start to get back to normal in 2021, we can do some good things in the City moving forward. Thankfully, he doesn't think any restaurants have closed which shows the support the residents of Alexandria have for their businesses. According to Governor Beshear, the 50% capacity in restaurants will not change until all of this is over. Grants and waiving alcohol fees for bars and restaurants should help a little, along with the continued support from everyone. He is excited for 2021.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Planning & Zoning Public Hearing – Jan. 19, 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS


- A resident thinks Alexandria should be a golf cart friendly community. Mayor Schabell explained this had been discussed in the past, but discussions can continue.

Mr. Anderson asked when was the last time there was an all-male city council. The city clerk will check and report back.

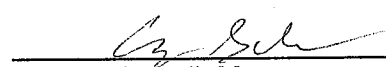
There was then discussion about virtual versus in-house meetings. In addition to a council meeting on January 21st, there are two committee meetings – Finance and Business Retention. Mayor Schabell asked the Chairs to let him know what they decide to do about those meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Sparks. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Jan Johannemann, City Clerk



Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 1/21/2021

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