



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

(Via Video Conference)

Meeting Minutes of January 21, 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 Baldridge	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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7, 2021

MOTION: Tom Baldridge made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting, seconded by Dave Hart. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Duncan read the following:

ORD #2021-01 (First Reading): An ordinance of the City of Alexandria approving a recommendation of the Alexandria Planning Commission to approve a zoning map amendment for the real estate located at 7813 Alexandria Pike, from Residential One-D (R-1D) zone to Neighborhood Shopping Center (NSC) zone, in order to operate a professional office, subject to the submitted Development Plan.

Mr. Duncan explained the Bezolds applied for this zone change back in October but because of COVID, the public hearing was delayed. It did take place this past Tuesday. This property is next to their tax office and they will be using this as professional office space for overflow. They propose no changes to the building or the premises at this time. If they wanted to change anything later on, they would have to come back to P&Z for approval. The report from the Chairman of the Planning Commission is attached to this ordinance as an exhibit. It includes a recommendation for approval subject to the Development Plan, as it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. There was no opposition to this zone change at the public hearing.

MUN ORD #2021-07: Appointing and approving Sam Ruebusch as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a full four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

MUN ORD #2021-08: Re-appointing and approving Louis Vogelwohl as a member of the Alexandria Board of Adjustments for a full four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

MOTION: Steven Shinkle made a motion to approve Municipal Orders 2021-07 and 2021-08, seconded by Dave Hart. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

Mayor Schabell explained Mr. Ruebusch is the third appointment he has made to P&Z; all three have come from other boards within the city. He thinks this is a good way to have people get familiar with how the city works and then appoint those who have had prior experience.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk: Business as usual. Per Mr. Anderson's question at the 1/7/21 meeting, the last time there was an all-male council was 1976-1977.

Police Department: Chief Cooper explained the Code Enforcement Reports are in the council packet. The PD is still accepting applications for a lateral police officer position. The information can be found on the city's website and their Facebook page.

Also, the intersection of Poplar Ridge Road and the AA Highway will be closed from January 26 to 29 as SD1 installs some utility lines across the road. There will be signs set up to direct people around the construction.

Fire Department: Chief Pohlman stated next week is the last week to drop off coats. He is very pleased with the overwhelming response and thanked all those who contributed.

Public Works: See report attached.

Zoning Administrator: See reports for zoning administrator/code enforcement activity for November and December attached.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance – Stacey Graus: The committee met tonight to discuss several items. First was the Duke Energy Franchise Agreement. A lot of cities have a percentage for a fee with regard to the payments made to Duke, which is remitted to the city. Alexandria has an ordinance allowing us to collect the tax, but the amount had been set at 0%. There are very few cities that do not collect a fee; however, in light of the status of the city finances and particularly with Covid, they do not want to impose any fee on the citizens at this time. The committee decided to keep the fee at 0%.

They also discussed the finances of the city. So far, we have come through the pandemic very well; however, the future is uncertain. We will need to be flexible to meet those challenges.

Additional small business grants from the CARES Act funds were also discussed and will be addressed in New Business.

Public Works – Tom Baldridge: The next meeting will be on February 4th at 6:00 p.m. to review past paving jobs and review the five-year plan.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Planning & Zoning Commission: The individual assisting the City with the Comprehensive Plan will be at their next meeting to discuss the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor hopes to have her attend a future council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Small Business Grants: Mr. Graus explained the city has approximately \$218,000 available from the second round of CARES Act funding. Last year, the city had awarded some small business grants, and they would like to do this again with about \$100,000 of those funds. Eligible businesses would be those that are affected by the Governor's restrictions on capacity, such as restaurants (excluding chains), bowling alley, Alexandria Brewing, yoga studios, gyms, hair salons. The amount awarded depends on the number of applicants, which could number 20-25.

An application is being created to fit the current restrictions. The committee is made up of Mayor Schabell, Stacey Graus, JoAnn Hackworth, and Scott Fleckinger. They hope to get this completed within the next 30-45 days.

Governor Beshear has stated that the restrictions on capacity on these types of businesses will not be lifted until after we are out of the pandemic. This is a long-term issue these businesses are facing and this is a good way for the city to help them. The city really wants them to be successful.

Mr. Duncan pointed out the CARES money is not Alexandria taxpayer money, but rather money allocated to Kentucky and then to the cities. We would lose this money if we do not use the funds in this, or another appropriate manner.

Mr. Graus thinks it is prudent to get these funds into the hands of the small businesses because we want to help them out so they survive and stay in the city. We don't know when this will all be over. There is also some uncertainty with the future of the CARES Act with the new administration. Even if the State gets some money, they may have to use that money instead of allocating it to counties or cities.

Profit/Loss Report: See attached report. The Mayor asked if there were any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 Update: Mayor Schabell said the city is open for business and everyone is following the appropriate guidelines. Governor Beshear is meeting with Mayors via Zoom every other week through March. There is also a weekly Campbell County Mayor conference call. Today, Dr. Lynne Sadler, No. Ky. Health Department, provided a wealth of information, including vaccinations and the latest numbers in Campbell County. The best treatment for Covid is prevention by wearing masks and social distancing. The new strain of the virus is concerning to them, as it is more contagious. The CDC thinks this might become the dominant strain by March, causing another spike in April or May. She gave a tentative schedule of when vaccines will be available and to whom. It will be Summer into Winter before the vaccine will be available to everyone. They are asking for patience as there are more people wanting vaccines than are available. St. Elizabeth has said they were "holding their own", but they are nearing capacity in the hospital and watching things very closely.

Chief Pohlman said they were hit hard at the firehouse, but everyone is back to work now. It is hard to spread out when you are in a squad, fire truck, or at the firehouse. They are taking as many precautions as they can, and have completed their first round of vaccinations. The second vaccinations will be given in about a week.

Chief Cooper said they are doing the same things they have been doing. There is always one clerk in the office, but the doors are locked to the general public.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dave Hart: There is a Beautification Committee meeting on February 4th.

Tom Baldridge: He appreciates the "robust" report on code enforcement. The Actions Taken column allows us to see what the outcome is, but it appears most people take care of their problems right away.

Mayor Schabell: Nick @ 9 is doing a fundraiser this week to benefit the ARC - Alexandria Resource Connection. Chief Cooper explained this program started by Kelly Pompilio, Police Social Worker, was modeled after a similar program in Erlanger. Many times, officers and the social workers will come across someone in need of some financial assistance (tank of gas, hotel room, food, new ID, etc.). Taxpayer money cannot be used and the social workers have to scramble to find assistance for these people. Monetary donations will be set aside to be used for this purpose. Nick is hoping to raise a few thousand dollars. Any questions can be directed to Chief Cooper or Kelly Pompilio.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Planning & Zoning Public Hearing – February 2, 7:00 p.m.
- Park & Rec – February 3, 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

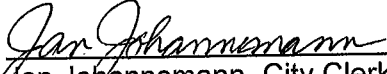
- Road Closure at AA and Poplar Ridge Road – Jan. 27-29. Chief Cooper asked everyone to not use Enzweiler Road as an alternate because it cannot accommodate a large amount of traffic and large vehicles. Use East Alexandria Pike or Riley Road as alternates. Signs are going up either Friday or Monday.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS: Mayor Schabell asked for future comments or questions to be submitted prior to the meeting.

Because the numbers of virus cases are high right now, Mayor Schabell doesn't think we should be meeting in person. All agreed the next meeting should be virtual.


ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dave Hart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steven Shinkle. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



 Jan Johannemann, City Clerk

Date: 2/4/2021



 Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 2/4/2021