



CITY COUNCIL MEETING (Via Video Conference) Meeting Minutes of March 4, 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
Lucas Cooper, Police Chief
Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt.

Mike Duncan, City Attorney
JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer
Officers Nathan Nogueras & Jared Brewer

VISITORS & GUESTS

Chief Cooper read a letter from Chris Conners, Director of the Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Task Force, recognizing the exceptional police work of Officers Nathan Nogueras and Jared Brewer. They were dispatched to check on a suspicious vehicle, and found an unconscious subject who was transported to the hospital. They then did a vehicle search and recovered multiple drugs, a large amount of cash, cell phones, weapons, and other items. Thanks to this work, drugs and other things were taken off the street, the case was turned over to the Drug Strike Force, and more individuals will be federally indicted for drug charges. The Mayor and council also congratulated these officers for their diligence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2021

MOTION: Tom Baldrige made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting, seconded by Dave Hart. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS - None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Department: See February reports attached. The numbers were down a bit this month, due to several people taking sick days after their 2nd vaccine. The bad weather also helped keep activity down.

Chief Cooper also provided 2020 stats for the police social workers (see attached report). They are staying busy with things from behavioral issues, to domestic violence, elder issues, mental health, substance abuse, and more. Both social workers are a credit to our agency and are making a difference in the community. Chief Cooper thanked council for continuing to support this program.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Safety – Joe Anderson: The next meeting will be March 18, 6:00 p.m.

Business Retention & Development – Kyle Sparks: He met with Stephanie and Jan to talk about all the businesses in Alexandria, categorizing the types of businesses in order to give businesses more exposure through our website. This will hopefully be done fairly quickly.

Public Works – Tom Baldrige: The next meeting will be April 1, 6:00 p.m. to discuss the street program

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Planning & Zoning: They met on Tuesday, and Wendy Moeller of Compass Point was in attendance. A survey was sent out the following day to all council and P&Z Commissioners who were asked to complete it by March 12. She will present the results of the survey at the first P&Z meeting in April. The Comprehensive Plan Update survey generated 461 replies and she was very pleased with that. The survey will stay open until the end of the week, and then results will be sent out to everyone.

Park & Rec: They met last night to discuss their budget and plans to put a larger shelter at the playground, with the initial cost around \$65,000. Kim will be applying for a matching grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sparks had someone approach him asking about having a large block party for the Kentucky Derby, and what would be required. Mayor Schabell told him to contact Carol Hofstetter, and the Police Department should probably be notified.

OLD BUSINESS

Unsolicited CC Recorder Update: After several weeks, Jan finally got a phone number for people to call and leave a message to remove their address from the delivery route - 513-768-8619. Mr. Sparks has heard from more residents who do not want the paper and is seeing these papers collecting around the drains in his neighborhood. One person let him know that the delivery person flies up and down the streets and throws the paper out his window, which is another issue. He has left two messages, called six other times, and has sent an email, and no one has replied yet. This is where most of the frustration lies.

Small Business Grants Update: Mr. Graus reported the Ad Hoc Committee (Joann Hackworth, Scott Fleckinger, Mayor Schabell, Stacey Graus) carefully reviewed the 25 applications received for the second round of grants to determine whether they met the criteria. A couple only "quasi" met the criteria, so the committee determined to give out a total of \$120,000 (23 applicants would receive \$5,000, and two would receive \$2,500). They wanted to bring this to council to make sure everyone is on board with the additional money, and to answer any questions. This is money that was allocated through the CARES Act the city received, and we are not sure if there will be any more funds coming our way. These grants will keep the businesses operating and, in turn, will help the city out with their payroll and insurance taxes.

Mr. Anderson suggested awarding the businesses \$3,000 to help pay their city taxes. Mr. Graus explained the businesses are being allowed to use this money any way they want, whether it is expanding outside seating, etc. The city wants them to have money in their hands to make use of it now as opposed to later. There was more discussion on when/how the money is being used, and whether there are any conditions attached. It is the city's intent to get this money into the businesses' hands now when they are at the lowest point to help them with lost revenue due to reduced operating capacity.

Mr. Anderson then asked if there were any recipients from the last round of grants that are now out of business. Mr. Graus said there is one business that is currently closed, but will hopefully reopen. This is one of the two that will receive \$2,500 this time. Everyone else is still operating. Mr. Sparks pointed out this is CARES Act money that is given by the federal government for programs such as this; it is not a normal revenue source, but monies that were meant to defray costs and/or assist the city and/or its citizenry with regard to the negative backlash from COVID-19 restrictions. The city is doing the best that we can with this money to put it in the right hands.

Mr. Anderson then asked how the ad hoc committee was formed. It was formed last year, appointed by Mayor Schabell, who picked the members based on their knowledge.

Other council members believe this program is very good for the city. It was very well received the first time the money was given out, and it is what this money is for. Mr. Sparks appreciates everything the ad hoc committee has done.

MOTION: Steven Shinkle made a motion to approve the extra \$20,000 for the Small Business Grants allocation, seconded by Tom Baldrige.

Mr. Anderson then asked if there is a time limit to distribute the money. Mr. Graus didn't think there was, but there may or may not be another round of CARES Act funding. It is uncertain whether there will be any more money and the city is not planning on it.

The motion was then brought up for a vote. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

Mayor Schabell thanked council for approving. He has spoken with many owners, and this money means a lot and they are very appreciative. He hopes they will all be in the city for a long time. Their success is our success.

COVID 19 Update: Go to vaccinemap.ky.gov to sign up for an appointment to be vaccinated, or call 855-598-2246, (hearing impaired: 855-326-4654).

Also, Lt. Governor Coleman is pushing broadband initiative to help people with slow or no internet access. Moving forward, this will help improve internet access for all of Kentucky. Go to www.spedtest.ky.gov to record internet speeds in Kentucky. If someone does not have internet access at their house, they can go to a friend's house or to the library, log in and submit their address.

The Mayor is working with Southgate and Fort Thomas in order to coordinate re-openings of community centers, basketball courts, etc. The city office is open. The numbers are significantly down from December/January but still higher than last Summer. We are now back in yellow. He is comfortable holding in-person meetings in council chambers moving forward. There will also be a public hearing at the next council meeting. He added that anyone who is not comfortable can join remotely. Please let the City Clerk know whether you will be here in person or remotely.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kyle Sparks: This past Saturday, he visited some of the Alexandria businesses, and stressed how much it helps small businesses when we spend our money at these places. We have a lot of great businesses in the city that can provide the services we need. He found it eye opening to talk with the business owners. They have been hurting and he hopes the grants will help them out.

Tom Baldrige: He thinks these grants show that the city supports its businesses, which is just as important as the money itself. Also, there is only one of three No Parking signs left standing at the business across from Poplar Ridge. Mayor Schabell said this is a state issue and they are working with the business owner. Chief Cooper added there were also several citations issued.

Mayor Schabell: He thanked council again for backing the small business grants. We will continue doing what we can to support them.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 18, 7:00 p.m. Planning & Zoning
- March 11, 7:00 p.m. Code Enforcement

COMMUNICATIONS:


- Trout delivery (1,500) each were delivered on February 25 and on March 3; 1,400 Catfish will be delivered on March 9. Regarding a comment on Facebook as to why there were never any bass delivered, Mayor Schabell said Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife will assess the lake to determine what is needed.
- Campbell County Spring Cleanup – April 23 & 24, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Food distribution will be March 17 and 31 at The Bridge Church, 3:00 -7:00 p.m.
- Drug Take-Back Initiative – April 24. More information soon.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Positive comments regarding the small business grants and that the money is needed now.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dave Hart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stacey Graus. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.


Jan Johannemann, City Clerk

Date: 3/18/2021


Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 3/18/2021