

# Meeting Minutes

## ALEXANDRIA BOROUGH COUNCIL

### July 26, 2022 – 7:00 pm

### Location: Alexandria Fire Hall

## Minutes

President Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and lead council in the Pledge of the Allegiance and prayer. Roll Call – VP Joel Pheasant, Mike Peters, Tori Wilt, Brandon Foster, Pres. Judy Scott, Solicitor Greg Jackson – Kim Diggins, Ron and Karen Kuntz

## Old Business

- **Multimodal Transportation Funding Grant**

- President Scott went over the **details** of the application process and reason for applying.
- The application up to this point was laid out in hard copy form for all to review
- A motion for resolution to officially submit the grant application in the amount of **\$1,398,872.32** is needed – that is the amount for the grant request in regards to the storm water drainage system
- MTFG ask for estimated timelines, they would be the next phase if we're awarded the grant. Start of construction and completion would be the end of 2024 if this were awarded to the community, President Scott shared
- Alexandria Borough has a zero match out for this grant, many grants you need a certain matching funds, but this one we do not, Pres. Scott said – she shared all the elected officials who are very much in support of this project – John Joyce, Rich Irvin, Senator Ward, - there's a letter example of what was sent to each representative to get their support
- A really neat surprise was that Southern Alleghenies planning and development also are offering support to this revitalization project and grant application – very exciting for the community, Pres. Scott
- Council reached out to Solicitor Jackson in regards to the resolution –
- Any questions or motion to accept and move forward
  - VP Joel Pheasant asked about the amount changing from 2 million some to 1 million some – Jane Pilch sent questions along ahead of time, she had questions about the grant and overall revitalization plan and one of those being *are they the same thing* – Pres. Scott and VP Joel answered the MTFG is a means of getting funds towards that revitalization.
  - Tori Wilt asked about another Jane Pilch question that it gives a monetary figure, but nothing about lighting – that's because lighting is not included, this is strictly storm water drainage and erosions
  - Based on the Army Corps Study of Engineers the figure is lower to address what they deemed problem areas
  - Joel addressed Jane's questions via Tori about the lighting, parking, etc – council doesn't want to address too much on the service prior to getting what's a mess underneath taken care of – he also said for anyone who wasn't here the last time we discussed this, do any of you have any questions – Joel reiterated that this is an amount that we cannot under take without help via grants from somewhere
  - Tori said about number 6 she talked about environmental stipulations – Judy pulled out an exhibit in the application that addresses that specific topic, Pres Scott said this is very much environmentally friendly and making efforts to protect the environment
  - Joel asked Greg what specific wording we need to include

- A formal motion to submit the application and to designate who would be the authorized signers on behalf of the borough and typically that is the borough secretary, but it doesn't have to be
  - Vice President Joel Pheasant motioned to submit the Multimodal Transportation Funding Grant application in the amount of \$1,398,872.32 and designate the borough secretary, Siera Leighton Kyle and the borough president, Judy Scott as the authorized signers of grant. Mike Peters seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
  - Solicitor Jackson shared that Leighton can go into the office to get the document signed – he has the resolution and notary ready at the office by tomorrow morning.
- **Park and Bridge Security**
  - Pres Scott discussed there is a budget as of July meeting to do security at the bridge. What happened. Brandon Foster said the camera is approximately \$68 – all of council said they trust Mike and Brandon to get it taken care of so the bridge is secure
  - Pres Scott asked do we need to notify people and Solicitor Jackson said no one has an expectation of privacy in a public space, but adding a sign may be an additional layer of security. You don't have to put a sign up, but if you do it could be an additional deterrent. VP Joel said he would recommend a sign up as a means to help deter. Pres Scott said would you like to make a motion for additional funds for signage. Brandon said they'd be good.
- **Comcast Update**
  - Franchise fee is 0 – 5%, the back pay would be from May 9<sup>th</sup> of 2021 when previous council Sam had signed an agreement for May – they didn't go through with it due to some questions. We could have, if this is passed, 5% of cable (not phone or internet) would be paid out to the borough – VP Joel asked if it's already being added onto people's bills – Tori said it's not as of now – 9 out of 16 people have agreed to it already and the previous Solicitors letter (council of government)
  - Tori handed out papers, one is obtained for file
  - It's be 5.2% increase to the bill if you did the back pay or you could start over from a date if you want a new agreement
  - VP Joel Pheasant pointed out how Comcast said they'd give the borough 5% of the revenue, but that's not true, they are increasing the bill and then giving a portion
  - 56% of townships are agreeing to this, but some of them may not have Comcast lines
  - **If it is passed she would have to see the May of 2021 minutes**
  - Mike Peters is not in favor of it, Tori said that Jane Pilch has this paper, but do we want to wait on it or vote tonight
  - VP Joel confirmed this is only on the cable portion of a bill – Tori verified, yes. So it is 5% ...
  - Kim Diggins shared what she pays for just cable, Mike said everyone's would be different
  - Pres Scott said it'd be a considerable amount of revenue for the borough, it could be beneficial
  - Tori said she feels if we are representing the residents, which we are, doing the best for the borough, I don't feel like the majority of the residents would be in favor of us adding this on – would it be good for the borough, yes, but she feels what would the residents want
  - Pres. Scott said – should we ask the residents and get feedback, VP Joel said I'm wondering how we ask that. With everything else going up he said – the taxes, water bill. If it was actually coming out of Comcast revenue Joel said he'd be in favor, but since they are up'ing their bill he's not. VP Joel said; Tori doesn't want residents to feel council is sneaky
  - Kim Diggins said she reached out to 10 different people complaining about the speeding through town and asking them to come to the meeting, you all post the meetings, council isn't being sneaky – people are missing their opportunity to be at the meeting
  - Pres. Judy said this would help meet the needs of the town – council needs to think long term

- Gentleman has two thoughts: you're not recouping any cost and so from that standpoint, I don't like it, but on the other part I get all sorts of fees from a cell phone bill, etc. so there's no difference paying a fee to the borough – he sees both sides
- Brandon Foster said he can't see it raising
- Kim Diggins is on the fence – for people that live paycheck to paycheck, also only some are picking up the tab, but also sees the point of it helping to increase the revenue and then maybe it's a wash...Kim voiced her concern about the elderly.
- VP Joel – said we can vote on it or
- Brandon said he wants to get more feedback, Mike Peters said he is not interested in going door to door, Tori said she will put it out on Facebook
- VP Joel said to mention that we have the potential to earn an additional \$6k a year by agreeing to allow Comcast to add a franchise fee to their Comcast Cable Bill ...
- Tori asked if council was in favor of the backdate feature and council would not be in favor of that

- **Speed Bumps**

- Tori has had a few people send her messages and asking about speedbumps up and down main street
- Pres. Scott that the guys who brought the speed signs from Penn Dot were asked about speed bumps – they said when it comes to maintenance they aren't fans,
  - She asked if folks have been between Lakemont, etc. – if you hit it more than 10 mph it's horrendous for your car, Pres. Scott encouraged everyone to check it out
  - Gentleman said there are ways to solve the problem
  - There are also rumble areas for traffic calming, but no one is in favor
  - People discussed those who fly through town – someone was caught going through 88 mph, there are people who are jerks that don't care
  - Ron Kuntz observation is generally happy – he noticed many of the people are slowing down, but do you feel those are the same that were going 35 mph before – he is excited to see there is a way to help this – they are called speed humps, not bumps and they are able to plow over them, but not ideal, but that's what we want
  - Pres. Scott said it needs to be a culmination of things – street bump outs (greenway in the street), signs, humps, bumps, etc.
  - Karen Kuntz said the signs for her personally it is a self-awareness tool, when the signs are gone you lose that self-awareness so we need something else
  - Pres. Scott shared what the bump outs are... and they all discussed them
  - Gentleman asked how certainly speed is an issue, truck traffic, motorcycle traffic (they cut through town as a joy ride) and it's quality of life thing for us so a speed hump may deter them or have them think twice before coming through town. The noisy equipment may be deter. VP Joel said being a gateway is bad and good in this instance
  - VP Joel said one thing mentioned was what it takes to become an area that is “No trucks, except local delivery” – does that get tacked on when truck drivers are using maps, etc. and would it bring them out 22 to come in on the opposite end – does something like that update just like it wouldn't take them in a bridge they can't fit through. Pres. Scott said getting the greenway in here may help get us there with bike trails and walking trails
  - VP Joel asked what is the next step in being considered for speed humps
  - Pres Scott said because they did the traffic calming, we have to do the stop signs, hopefully Patrick comes next month and he can answer those questions... August meeting the objective is for Hartslog Day and the Traffic Calming and Penn Dot (engineering and plans)
  - Tori asked if the speedbumps can be different variations - Pres. Scott said it's best to ask the traffic calming guy

- Pres. Judy said she'd like to see council utilize funds to match grants so they can accomplish larger projects
    - Tori said, can we put more speed signs in – Pres. Scott said yes – regular ones, yes.
    - Speed limit signs need to go on August agenda
    - Ron Kuntz said that they have a mark at the edge of the driveway and his camper won't fit if the sign goes right there, so it needs some space
  - **PUBLIC COMMENT**
    - Karen Kuntz – she is curious about the new stop signs, are you seeing people stop. Tori said that a few habitual people refuse to follow the rules, they don't care, but most people do. A lot of rolling stops, but better than nothing. Unfortunately, my dad was coming up to turn at my house and the person flew right through and had my dad not stopped
    - Ron Kuntz asked if we can get peoples tag numbers
      - Tori had done that once and called the police, but they say they will talk to them
    - Mike Peters asked if we can publically shame someone on Facebook and share what vehicles or people are doing that is unsafe for the community
- **Code Enforcement Officer**
  - Pres Scott asked if everyone is aware of the resignation? Mike Peters sent an email back to George if he would hold off and see what we can figure out. VP Joel said George came and talked to him and he felt that it was best for him to step away, he doesn't need to do it. It was causing him stress and Joel is a proponent of leaving things that cause you stress. Joel asked him to stick with it, but he got frustrated and defensive and he doesn't feel it is good for him to be at the meetings and interacting in that way. VP Joel said that he could possibly submit his reports and not have to be at the meetings if that was the issue, VP Joel said council was not upset with him or anything, but we had some points of clarification. He said he has his other job and he doesn't need to deal with stress there and he. Mike recalled when he did it last time, but was surprised when he volunteered to do it this time, but thought he must like it. None of council was upset with him, but he felt this was the best
  - Tori asked how we go about replacing this position?
  - Pres. Scott said first of all we have to accept his resignation – he also had things pending with Greg, Greg said nothing has been filed because he wasn't presented anything – George and he were to meet, but hadn't. If you were to replace George then George's replacement would need to sign the complaint – someone else could pick up George's work, but if they didn't observe the violation they'd need George present to witness the violation
  - Pres. Scott said council needs to either accept George's decision or do you want to go back and talk to him
  - VP Joel asked if Mike would be comfortable talking to him and Mike said he would.
  - Mike asked about advertising the position prior to accepting his resignation just to be prepared? Pres. Scott didn't think council could... VP Joel said that he tried to emphasize to him that council was not looking for him to resign and they could work through his concerns.
  - Tori asked if we could wait until August 9<sup>th</sup> and if they are comfortable waiting
  - Brandon said he felt if they feel confident enough talking to him
  - VP Joel said that we need to let him know we value him and maybe he is willing to fulfill one of the positions and not the other – we've been without a mayor to fulfill ordinances and then we created this to enforce ordinances
  - Mike said he wouldn't mind tabling acting on his resignation until next meeting
  - VP Joel said if he is concerned about his response in meetings, etc. are we willing to work with him, then that's not a huge deal – he can submit reports, etc. if we feel we need him here we ask him to come to the meeting
- Moved to adjourn 8:44 pm, VP Joel Pheasant, seconded by Tori Wilt – all in favor, motion carries.