

Alexandria Borough Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2025

Time: 7:01 pm

Location: The Old Bank Building, Hartslog Heritage Museum, Main Street, Alexandria

Roll Call

President Judy Scott, Vice President Mike Peters, Jane Pilch

Sewer Authority Report

- The Sewer Authority is applying for a grant to cover its share of the pipe expenses (not the borough share).
- **Motion:** Motion to accept the minutes with the necessary change regarding the grant.
 - **Motioned by:** Jane
 - **Seconded by:** VP Peters
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Financial Report

- **Motion:** Motion to accept the financial report and payment.
 - **Motioned by:** VP Peters
 - **Seconded by:** Jane
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

- **Council Membership Change:** Discussion on changing the number of members on council deferred for future review.

Representative Reports

- **Sewer Authority:** Nothing new. (VP Peters)
- **Maintenance Report (Ken Patterson):**
 - Ongoing tasks include shoveling snow, filling potholes, and picking up brush.
 - Maintenance worker reported an incident where a truck hit the Bridge St. and Canal St. sign near the shed at the playground. The sign was damaged, but two new signs were found in the garage. Repairs will be made once the weather is warmer.

Building Permit and Ordinance Violations

- **Parking Violations:**
 - P. Scott is inquiring at the Sheriff's Office to enforce parking violations on Main Street, as the State Troopers are not responsible to enforce local parking rules.
 - Stover confirmed that the Sheriff's Department is authorized to issue tickets for parking violations. If they're willing that would be a benefit to the borough.
 - **Discussion Points:**
 - Jane asked if this is a winter issue or a year-round issue. P. Scott confirmed it is year-round.
 - Further updates on enforcement to be reported in February.

Public Comment

- **Mr. Diverly's Variance:**
 - Mr. Diverly inquired about the status of his variance.
 - Stover confirmed the variance was issued, and Mr. Diverly is free to proceed with his plans. However, he is still within the appeal period.
 - President Scott reiterated Mr. Diverly can proceed with the permit application.
 - **Question Raised:** If Mr. Diverly needs to reapply due to the variance, Stover clarified that as long as there's no appeal, the variance stands, and he can proceed with the standard application process.
 - The Zoning Hearing Board approved the variance for Mr. Dively, not the Borough of Alexandria.

EADS Master Plan – Lane Fisher/River Access

- **Payment to EADS Group:** The Borough needs to pay \$6,000 to Lucas for the development of the Master Plan, which is part of the allocated ARP funds.
- **Project Update:**
 - EADS has started aerial mapping and will prepare a report including cost estimates for the proposed trail, parking, and river access point.
 - The Master Plan will also include construction cost estimates, which will be used to apply for DCNR and other funding sources.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Jane inquired about the cost breakdown. Lucas explained that the \$6,000 is based on similar projects and includes mapping, meetings, cost estimates, etc.
 - VP Peters confirmed that the grant has been awarded.
 - Jane asked about DCNR's involvement, and Lucas clarified that they will cover part of the Master Plan costs.

Council Reduction

- **Council Size Reduction:**

- President Scott proposed reducing council from 7 members to 5 to better align with the Borough's size.
- Stover explained the process to file a petition to reduce the number of council members, which requires 5% of the electors to sign a petition.
- The court will hold a hearing, and if approved, the reduction would occur gradually (one seat per election).
- VP Peters and Jane expressed support for the reduction.
- **Motion:** Motion to draft a petition to reduce council size from 7 to 5.
 - **Motioned by:** Jane
 - **Seconded by:** VP Peters
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.
- **Election Petitions:**
 - President Scott reminded VP Peters and Jane that they must decide if they will run for re-election by February 7th.
 - Stover clarified that both need petitions with electors' signatures to be placed on the ballot.
 - They confirmed they will obtain the necessary petition.

Mayor Vacancy

- **Mayor Position:** Stover advised that since no mayor was elected, the court may appoint one, or a candidate could be found to run in the upcoming election.
- The Secretary inquired about publicizing the vacancy, and Stover reminded the council that it's important to find someone willing to serve.
- VP Peters agreed that publicizing the need for a mayor and additional council members can't hurt
- Publicity to follow

Ordinance Discussion – Zoning Costs

- **Zoning Ordinance:**
 - Discussion on creating a new ordinance where the cost of zoning proceedings, such as filing for variances, would be borne by the applicant rather than the Borough.
 - Stover confirmed this is a reasonable request and the ordinance can be adjusted.
 - Ordinance needs sent to Stover to review - perhaps they can do this by resolution instead of a new ordinance. More details.
 - **Motion:** Motion to draft the zoning ordinance to require applicants to cover the cost of zoning proceedings.
 - **Motioned by:** VP Peters
 - **Seconded by:** Jane
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Fire Service Agreement

- **Agreement Review:**
 - President Scott presented the Fire Service Agreement with Alexandria Fire Company - all agree. The borough contribution remains at \$2,500 and 3 mils, with potential future discussions on increasing the amount.
 - **Motion:** Motion to approve the 2025 Fire Service Agreement with Alexandria Fire Company.
 - **Motioned by:** VP Peters
 - **Seconded by:** Jane
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Maintenance Worker Update

- **Assistant Maintenance Worker:**
 - President Scott proposed that Michael Scott assist Ken, the maintenance worker, when needed. Ken has requested an assistant and is good with this arrangement.
 - **Motion:** Motion to approve Michael Scott as an assistant to Ken under his direction.
 - **Motioned by:** Jane
 - **Seconded by:** VP Peters
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Executive Session

- **Entered Executive Session:** 7:47 pm
- **Exited Executive Session:** 7:52 pm

Adjournment

- **Motion:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.
 - **Motioned by:** Jane
 - **Seconded by:** VP Peters
 - **All in favor.** Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:53 pm