



City of Manassas, Virginia City Council Meeting

ACTION AGENDA
January 28, 2019

ROLL CALL: 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance led by American Heritage Girls Troop

Council Time

Vice Mayor Elston stated it was wonderful to have the American Heritage Girls Troop at the City Council meeting. Vice Mayor Elston informed the community that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission website has a listing of resources for those affected by the government shutdown.

Council Member Wolfe commented on the City Council's decision to purchase Annaburg Manor. Council Member Wolfe shared that the retreat was a collegial gathering and overall enjoyable experience.

Council Member Lovejoy reported that Aurora Flight Sciences debuted a prototype for an autonomous air taxi. Council Member Lovejoy congratulated OmniRide on the groundbreaking at the Western Bus Maintenance Facility.

Council Member Sebesky commended OmniRide on the groundbreaking at the Western Bus Maintenance Facility. Council Member Sebesky reported that she attended Virginia Municipal League's Legislative Day on January 24 with Council Members Davis-Younger and Ellis and shared that Senator McPike recognized the City of Manassas from the Senate floor. Council Member Sebesky thanked the Council and staff for a successful retreat. Council Member Sebesky congratulated all those recognized for Black History Month.

Council Member Davis-Younger reported that she attended the Old Town Business Association winter breakfast on January 23. Council Member Davis-Younger stated that the retreat was constructive and the Council has a great deal of work.

Council Member Ellis thanked the Baldwin Intermediate School for hosting career day. Council Member Ellis reported that the All City Chorus Concert is on Thursday, January 31 at

the Hylton Performing Arts Center. Council Member Ellis informed the community that there will be a ribbon cutting at Three Monkeys Pub & Chophouse on Thursday, February 14 at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Time

Mayor Parrish shared with Council thank you letters from the Harrover family and former Vice Mayor Sheryl Bass.

Mayor Parrish thanked the Council and City staff for a productive and successful retreat.

Mayor Parrish stated there was action taken in regards to funding of the Manassas City Public Schools and the City Manager has been directed to include a 3% increase in funding for the Manassas City Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2020 effective for one year. Mayor Parrish stated that the Manassas City Public Schools will be presenting its budget on Tuesday, February 12.

Staff Reports

Mr. Pate reported that himself, Council Members Sebesky, Davis-Younger, and Ellis, and Deputy City Manager Bryan Foster attended Virginia Municipal League's Legislative Day in Richmond on January 24. Mr. Pate commented the Council Members spoke to Senator McPike and Delegate Carter in regards to issues on food trucks in communities, parking fines, towing changes, transportation, and proffer legislation.

Mr. Pate reported that OmniRide held a groundbreaking ceremony at its new Western Bus Maintenance and Storage Facility, which will expand service for residents and commuters in Prince William County, the City of Manassas, the City of Manassas Park, and Fairfax County.

Mr. Pate shared that Boeing successfully completed the first flight of an autonomous personal air vehicle prototype at Aurora Flight Sciences at the Manassas Regional Airport. Mr. Pate explained that the prototype completed a controlled takeoff, hover and landing, which tested the vehicle's autonomous functions and ground control systems

Mr. Pate informed the community that the 5th Annual Souper Bowl is scheduled for Friday, February 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Historic Downtown.

Mr. Pate commented that the retreat provided staff with valuable feedback on the City Council's priorities for the budget.

Mr. Pate stated a winter storm scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 with colder temperatures moving into the region.

1. **Consent Agenda**

- 1.1 **City Council Minutes: January 14, 2019**
- 1.2 **Manassas Regional Airport Commission – Prince William County Representative: Request for Appointment of Ross Snare**
- 1.3 **Proclamation: Black History Month**
- 1.4 **Performance Bond and Erosion Control Bond Release: Manassas Station Site Plan - SP#15-16**
- 1.5 **Resolution 2019-07-R: Amending the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget by Budget and Appropriating \$40,000 of Stormwater Fund Fund Balance for a Stormwater Program Evaluation**
- 1.6 **Resolution #R-2019-38: A Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Pre-Qualification Process on an as Needed Basis for the Purchase of Goods and Services and Adopting a Pre-Qualification Process for Construction Project**
- 1.7 **Ordinance #O-2019-12: An Ordinance to Approve: REZ #2019-01, Ovidio Baten Proffer Amendment, 10564 Redoubt Road and REZ #2019-02, Gillian Penn Proffer Amendment, 10562 Redoubt Road (Second Reading)**

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Consent Agenda Items 1.1 – 1.7 with revised City Council Minutes for January 14, 2019. (6/0)

2. **Ordinances and Resolutions**

- 2.1 **Resolution #R-2019-41: A Resolution to Approve SUP #2019-04: Navdeep Sandhu Sedation Dentistry**

Kelly Davis, Senior Planner, stated that City Council is considering a special use permit request from Navdeep Sandhu Sedation Dentistry, located at 9420 Forestwood Lane, Unit #201, for a limited medical care facility. Ms. Davis stated that a public hearing was held on January 14, 2019 and Planning Commission and staff are recommending approval of SUP #2019-04 as conditioned.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Resolution #R-2019-41. (6/0)

- 2.2 **Ordinance #O-2019-11: An Ordinance to Approve Rezoning #2018-01: Jefferson Square (Second Reading)**

Vice Mayor Elston commented that the project is an excellent investment to the City and storm water management, but has concerns that no traffic study was conducted.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Ordinance #O-2019-11 on second reading. (5/1)

AYES – Davis-Younger, Ellis, Lovejoy, Sebesky and Wolfe
NAYS – Elston

2.3 Ordinance #O-2019-13: An Ordinance Amending Sections 30-31, 30-135 and 30-136 and Adding a New Section 30-136.1 in Chapter 30, and Amending Section 82-1 in Chapter 82 of the City Code Relating to Business Licenses for Peddlers and Itinerant Merchants (First Reading)

Craig Brown, City Attorney, stated the proposed amendments updated the definitions of “Peddler” and “Itinerant Merchant” and allow certain nonprofit charitable organizations the option to obtain an umbrella business license that covers all peddlers at a permitted event the organization is holding on City property.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Ordinance #O-2019-13 on first reading. (6/0)

3. New Business

3.1 Update: Department of Social Services

Ronald King, Social Services Director, provided the City Council with a departmental update and shared some specific services provided by the Department of Social Services.

3.2 Update: Economic Development Department

Patrick Small, Economic Development Director, provided the City Council with a departmental update and shared some specific successes to include Micron Technology, The Landing at Cannon Branch, Aurora Flight Sciences, and the Façade and Landscape Improvement Grant Program, which successfully contributed to the City Council’s Strategic Plan.

3.3 Report: Historic Manassas, Incorporated (HMI)

Debbie Haight, Executive Director for HMI, presented a brief update to the City Council on recent activities, the new Visitor’s Guide and website, and upcoming events in Historic Downtown.

4.

Other Business

4.1 Resolution #R-2019-42: Resolution of the Manassas City Council in Support of Ratification by the Commonwealth of Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution

Vice Mayor Elston read the following statement into the record:

“The progress of women’s equality has not exactly been swift in American history.

- *The National Women’s Party cowrote the first draft of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923.*
- *The Republican National Platform supported the Equal Rights Amendment as early as 1940.*
- *In 1971 the House approved the ERA by a vote of 354–24. The Senate followed the next year, 1972, by a vote of 84–8.*

*The proposed amendment’s language is straightforward: “**Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.**” The necessary ratification by three quarters of the states—the magic number of thirty-eight—looked eminently achievable with such a high level of bipartisan legislative support in 1972. BUT, the ERA still has still not been ratified by the required number of states. To date, 37 states have ratified the ERA — just one more is needed for it to become part of the U. S. Constitution. The E.R.A. simply enshrines in the Constitution the guarantee that a woman’s rights are equal to a man’s and “**Shall not be denied or abridged.**”*

In my readings and experience, opponents seem dug in with richly fantasized warnings of the legal, social and cultural chaos that would ensue from a broad mandate of gender equality, which is ultimately an argument about the place of women not only in the workforce but in the home, the family, and society. Opponents raise fears that the amendment would subject women to the military draft and lead inexorably to unisex bathrooms... In nine countries women are conscripted into military service. Countries allowing women to serve on an entirely equal basis include Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Women have served in the military in various roles and in various jurisdictions since 1914. On paper, since 2013, the United States military opens all positions to women. And, federal restroom access laws go back many years and we know that, since George W Bush’s presidency and 2005, versions of Ally’s Law has been both endorsed and held up by Statehouses and the courts across the nation. We have unisex bathrooms in restaurants here in our city.

In a period in US history when various forms of anger and bias against fellow citizens seems so common and so easy, when sexism and vulgarity are modeled at the highest levels of society and we see so many examples of harassment in the workplace and social oppression, we see that- even given advancements in equality

since the 1970s in so many spheres, we still need the amendment for protection. We still need the ERA as an expression of equality and to address the gap in earnings between women and men- a gap that will not close until the year 2058, according to the INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH. And, we should note that the percentage of impoverished women has increased significantly in recent years.

We have an opportunity, as a community, to make a statement regarding the glacial pace of progress in women's rights. The American women's rights pioneer Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who died 18 years before women were allowed to vote in 1902, advised that it is time: [to] "wipe the dew off [y]our spectacles, and see that the world is moving."

We know that laws on the books don't always translate into actual fair treatment, so it is actually an important step for our local government to issue guidance about what the law means to our community."

Mayor Parrish stated that the action of the Council on this item was to urge ratification by the State Legislation.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Resolution #R-2019-42. (4/2)

AYES – Davis-Younger, Elston, Sebesky and Wolfe

NAYS – Ellis and Lovejoy

5. **Awards, Acknowledgments and Presentations - 7:15 p.m.**

5.1 **Presentation of Black History Month Proclamation**

Mayor Parrish, Council Member Davis-Younger and Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Parks, Culture and Recreation Manager, recognized the many outstanding contributions of Dr. Alice Howard accepting on behalf of Dr. Shelia Coleman, Reverend Etoria V. Goggins, First Lady Bonita Savage, and Brenda Lewis with a Proclamation designating the month of February 2019 as Black History Month in the City of Manassas.

Tyler Faria, Assistant Principal of Dean Elementary School, announced the Jennie Dean essay contest.

Mayor Parrish, Council Member Davis-Younger, Elizabeth S. Via-Gossman, Community Development Director, Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Parks, Culture and Recreation Manager, Dr. Alice Howard, Reverend Etoria V. Goggins, First Lady Bonita Savage, Brenda Lewis, and Chris Hill, Artist unveiled the scale model of the Jennie Dean Memorial statue.

6. **Citizens' Time – 7:30 p.m.**

Lianne Best, resident of the City of Manassas, spoke in support of Council's decision to approve the Resolution supporting the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Lisa Stevens, resident of the City of Manassas, shared that she enjoyed attending the City Council meeting for the presentation on Jennie Dean and to witness Council's decision to approve the Resolution supporting the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Adjourned: 8:11 p.m.