



City of Manassas, Virginia City Council Meeting

ACTION AGENDA

July 22, 2019

ROLL CALL: 5:30 P.M.

ABSENT: MAYOR PARRISH AND COUNCIL MEMBER ELLIS

Call to Order

Roll Call

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Community and Staff Presentations

Dr. Kevin Newman, Superintendent of Manassas City Schools, provided an update on the events/awards that have taken place in Manassas City Schools.

Dr. Kevin Newman introduced Michael Pflugrath, the new principal of Osbourn High School.

Fire and Rescue Chief Robert Clemons, Jr., introduced the Manassas City Fire and Rescue Camp Participants.

Council Time

Council Member Wolfe had no comments.

Council Member Lovejoy had no comments other than to express his appreciation of Vice Mayor Elston's service to the City.

Council Member Sebesky expressed her thanks and appreciation to Vice Mayor Elston for his five years of service on city council as well as his many years of service to the City of Manassas community. She stated that the Vice Mayor's service has not always been easy but it has been very much appreciated adding that Vice Mayor Elston has brought great perspective and effective solutions to the city. She complimented Vice Mayor Elston on his leadership with integrity and transparency in a difficult environment. She thanked him for his mentorship and friendship. She wished Mayor Elston and his family all the best in Highpoint.

Council Member Davis-Younger stated that she wrote her comments for Vice Mayor Elston. She read the following statement: "I don't know where to begin, my supporter, my friend, my confident, my big brother, and most importantly and most titled – my friend. It has just been over a year since our paths crossed. And I always say, that there are no accidental meetings, that brings people into your life to either be lessons, or blessings. You have been a true blessing into my life and into my family's. You have been there in the wee hours of the night to talk and answer my many questions and explain all

things council when this stuff just doesn't make sense. Days when I didn't understand the why's and how's of politics and the inner-workings of this great city. You were right there showing me, guiding me with patience and teaching me on how to walk this walk the right way with good governance and transparency. You have been a good friend and leader and I am so appreciative of you. I'm really going to miss you and your entire family, Molly, Emma, and Sam. You are all part of our family now, whether you like it or not. If there is one positive that I can take away from this, now I have a place to stay in North Carolina. My prayers are with you for successful transition. I wish nothing but the best. Highpoint's gain is definitely a huge loss for this city. Thank you just isn't enough for all you've done. Just know that Little G appreciates you and loves you (inside joke). Everything that you have done on this council, our city is definitely in a much better place because of the things that you have done. Most importantly, the transparency, the honesty, and the accountability that is almost lost these days. For that, I am grateful and I will try to continue those efforts. You've paved the way as the first democrat elected to this council, in many obstacles you had to overcome for those efforts. You had to prove many naysayers wrong and you did just that. I believe that I sit here today, also as a history maker and you can take some of the credit for that victory because you were the first to open that door. All the best, my dear friend, and I will see you soon for your swearing-in for whatever office you take in North Carolina - you'd better take something. God bless you and your family."

Vice Mayor Elston stated that earlier, Mr. Brown had sent him some interesting reading regarding legal recourse that states municipalities were exploring with regard to the opioid crisis. He stated that we now know that two Virginia cities top the list for the per capita influx of opioids in the nation and for the first time in years, the number of deaths related to opioids has gone down. He stated his desire to continue working towards driving those numbers down and removing this scourge from the community. He reported that July 21 is the Anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas, which was the launch of the Civil War, the conflict over the economic engine of the South - the right to hold human beings as property. He noted that it is also an important day in Manassas City's history as in 1911, veterans on both sides of the Civil War met once again on the Manassas Battlefield to shake hands in the First National Jubilee of Peace where they renewed their pledge to a united country and the United States and then President William Howard Taft drove to this community to celebrate the continuing of peace and health of the nation. He stated in 2011, he had the honor of writing and producing the theatrical community event as a unique expression of the sesquicentennial event jubilee. He stated that it was 117 degrees that day and still nearly 4,000 people came out to that event. He thanked Mr. Snyder for the aerial shots that corroborated the attendance and it is memorialized in the Manassas Museum. He stated that because of some of what is in our news has highlighted some serious divisions in the country, he has been mindful of the coming together of this nation and of this community over the years repeatedly, over and over again. He stated he is also thoughtful of the messages that governments send to their citizens and expressed his agreement with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that unarmed truth and unconditional love will always have the final word. He stated that while there are two Americas and there may be two Manassas Cities, our disagreements must remain about issues; must remain about ideas and not about patriotism or identity politics. He stated we should talk about the great things that have happened in this city because what is happening in the City of Manassas illuminates where the city stands as a community and shows that at every level, we as a municipality value our citizens, our visitors,

our diversity and we show it in many ways. He noted that our schools are some of the most diverse in the Commonwealth and are a model for momentum, meeting students and staff with what they are and valuing the diverse gifts. He noted that the police department is one of the very best in the nation with a conscious effort of the chief and his staff to diversify that body. He stated that every unit of this small city puts a conscious emphasis on having neighborhoods, businesses, and all the places of our community free from hate speech, and oppressive behaviors and is proud of providing safe places for conversations, working, playing, learning, and living because in Manassas City, hate has no hope here. He stated his belief that this region, so central to the Civil War and its aftermath, codified the value of civil rights and racial diversity within the Constitution and has a specific responsibility when it comes to modeling the values of inclusion and community dialogue. He quoted Rosa Parks, "Racism is still with us but it is up to us to prepare our children for what they have to meet and hopefully, we should overcome." He stated that the Council will continue to be a model of that kind of education and preparation that he thinks this nation so desperately needs.

Council Member Ellis was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Time

Mayor Parrish was absent from the meeting.

Staff Reports

City Manager, Pat Pate, stated that it was brought to his attention that the new Deputy City Clerk, Cheryl Santos, was not introduced to the public. Brian Foster introduced the new Public Works Director, Scott Horan. Mr. Pate stated that a couple donated some historic documents confirming the existence of a school on Liberia Plantation. He asked that if anyone has any old documents, that the city would be glad to assess them. He asked Liz Via-Gossman, Director of Community Services, to update council on the fire that took place at the Harris Pavilion the previous evening. Mr. Pate congratulated Vice Mayor Elston on his new position.

Fire and Rescue Station 521 Project (CP 5120) Update by Downey & Scott: Fire and Rescue Chief, Rob Clemmons, Jr., introduced Bill Downey, who provided an update on the new Fire Station 521. Mr. Downey stated his company is overseeing the planning and construction of the new Station 521.

1. Consent Agenda

1.1 Minutes – July 8, 2019

1.2 Erosion Control Bond Release: 9527 McKinley Ave., Lot Grading Plan, SP#17-22

1.3 Erosion Control Bond Release: CMI Decorating, Site Plan SP#17-17

1.4 Resolution #R-2020-02 – Honoring Vice-Mayor Ken Elston for his Service to the City of Manassas

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved the Consent Agenda as presented. (5/0/1)

2. Ordinances and Resolutions

2.1 First Reading of Ordinance #O-2020-02: Awarding the Franchise Agreement for Parcel 4 Located at 10620 Wakeman Drive to Manassas FBO LLC

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved the First Reading of Ordinance #O-2020-02. (5/0/1)

2.2 Resolution #R-2020-04: A Resolution Directing the City Manager in Consultation with the City Attorney to Complete Negotiations to Extend the Lease for Parking Lot at 9106 Prince William Street Consistent with the Terms of the Current Lease for a Three-Year Period with Options for Renewals

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Resolution #R-2020-04. (5/0/1)

2.3 Resolution #R-2020-03: A Resolution Directing the City Manager and the City Fire and Rescue System Leadership to Prepare Proposed Amendments to Article 1 of Chapter 60 of the Manassas City Code, Related to the Organization of Fire and Rescue Services

COUNCIL ACTION: Approved Resolution #R-2020-03. (4/1/1)

3. New Business

3.1 Discussion of Interim Council Candidate Appointment

COUNCIL ACTION: No action taken.

4. Authorize a Closed Meeting

4.1 Authorization of a Closed Meeting

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A (1):

1. Consideration of Candidates for Employment or Appointment(s) to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

COUNCIL ACTION: Authorized a Closed Meeting. (6:54 p.m.) (5/0/1)

5. Certify the Closed Meeting

5.1 Certified the Closed Meeting

COUNCIL ACTION: Certified the Closed Meeting. (7:22 p.m.) (5/0/1)

6. Appointments to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Council Member Sebesky moved, seconded by Council Member Lovejoy, that the following appointments be approved:

Sherry Levensky to the **Parks and Recreation Commission** as an alternate member to fill a four-year term ending June 30, 2023.

That the City Attorney be authorized to recommend to the Circuit Court of Prince William County the following:

Harry J. Clark to the **Board of Equalization** as a regular member to a three year term expiring June 30, 2022; and

Larry Cain to the **Board of Equalization** as a regular member to a three year term expiring June 30, 2022; and

Gloria R. Hollis to the **Board of Equalization** as a regular member to a three year term expiring June 30, 2022; and

Sandy Day to the **Board of Equalization** as an alternate member to a two year term expiring June 30, 2021.

7. Awards, Acknowledgments and Presentations – 7:15 p.m.

7.1 Honoring Vice Mayor Elston

COUNCIL ACTION: No Action Taken

8. Citizen's Time

Sheryl L. Bass, Manassas City resident, addressed Council regarding the furniture store on Centerville Road. She stated she appreciates the city for looking at this property as the trailer park has worked very hard to clean it up. She stated she has spoken to the furniture store and asked them to clean it up; however, they told her “there is no law in the land” that can make them clean it up. She stated she would appreciate any help the City can provide.

Adjourned: 7:41 p.m.