



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

HON. MARY KATHERINE GREENLAW, MAYOR
HON. CHARLIE L. FRYE, JR., VICE -MAYOR, WARD FOUR
HON. KERRY P. DEVINE, AT-LARGE
HON. MATTHEW J. KELLY, AT-LARGE
HON. JASON N. GRAHAM, WARD ONE
HON. WILLIAM C. WITHERS, JR., WARD TWO
HON. DR. TIMOTHY P. DUFFY, WARD THREE

December 8, 2020

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, held a regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, beginning at 7:30 p.m. using electronic communication through GoToMeeting pursuant to and in compliance with the City Council Ordinance 20-05, an ordinance to address Continuity of City Government during the pendency of a pandemic disaster.

City Council Present. Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw. Vice-Mayor Charlie L. Frye, Jr., Council members Kerry P. Devine, Dr. Timothy P. Duffy, Jason N. Graham, Matthew J. Kelly and William C. Withers, Jr..

Also Present. City Manager Timothy P. Baroody, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Assistant City Attorney Dori Martin, Community Planning and Building Services Director Charles Johnston, Community Development Planner Susanna Finn, Zoning Administrator James Newman, Finance Director Robyn Shugart, Fire Chief Mike Jones, Budget Manager Brenna Erford and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Council was led in prayer by Councilor Matthew J. Kelly, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Assistant City Manager Whitley noted that this had been an extremely busy year for finance. Finance was a

key player in three major software conversions. The CARES Act was a project, trying to be sure all the money was pushed out. The finance team had three bond refunds this year and he thanked them for their hard work.

Finance Director Shugart thanked the City staff, because the data in the CAFR was the result of all staff's work. She also thanked the finance team for their dedication and she thanked Dave MacIndoe the Assistant Director who retired earlier this year after 30 years of service. He was the lead in the CAFR work. She noted that they hired Richard Lawrence as the Assistant Director.

Mr. Andrew Grossnickle with Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates reviewed the financial results of the audit with the Council. He said the 2020 audit had an unmodified independent auditors report. He said there were no material weaknesses and no compliance problems. He also reported that there were no material weaknesses or compliance problems in the major federal programs. Mr. Grossnickle also reviewed several of the revenue funds with the Council.

Councilor Withers said it was important to let the citizens know about the shortfalls in the revenue and how management did a good job of keeping spending down.

Mayor Greenlaw gave credit to staff, that the City was as financially sound as it was.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update. Chief Jones reported that the COVID-19 cases were surging nationally, including in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Hospitalizations increased, intensive care unit (ICU) beds were getting closed to being filled. He said the City was holding and had no new cases in the last week.

In the Rappahannock Area District there were 796 new cases, two deaths and the positivity rate was at 11.9%. Chief Jones reported that 435 were in ICU and over 200 were on ventilators. The State's positivity rate was 10.9%.

Chief Jones urged residents to stay home if they were sick, stay within their family unit and use good handwashing.

Consent Agenda Accepted for Transmittal as Recommended (D20-__ thru D20-__). Councilor Devine moved approval of the City Manager's consent agenda; motion was seconded by Councilor Kelly and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

- Resolution 20-88, Declaring the Official Intent to Reimburse for Capital Expenditures Related to the Acquisition of Public Works Equipment (D20-__).
- Resolution 20-89, First Read, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to Appropriate Carryover Project for FREDericksburg Regional Transit
- Resolution 20-90, Approving the Community Development Block Grant 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendments to Incorporate CDBG-CV Funds (D20-__).
- Transmittal of the 2020 General Assembly Fall Special Session Legislative Summary (D20-__).
- Transmittal of a Status Update from Police Executive Research Forum (D20-__).
- Transmittal of Board and Commissions Minutes
 - Architectural Review Board – July 13, 2020 (D20-__).
 - Architectural Review Board – August 10, 2020 (D20-__).
 - Board of Zoning Appeals – February 25, 2019 (D20-__).
 - Board of Zoning Appeals – May 20, 2019 (D20-__).
 - Board of Zoning Appeals – July 15, 2019 (D20-__).
 - Board of Zoning Appeals – August 19, 2019 (D20-__).

- Clean and Green Commission – May 4, 2020 (D20-__).
- Memorials Advisory Commission – February 20, 2020 (D20-__).
- Recreation Commission – October 15, 2020 (D20-__).

Public Hearing. The regular session was recessed in order to conduct scheduled public hearings and immediately reconvened upon their conclusion.

Citizen Comment. The following comments were submitted to be read during the citizen comment portion of this evening's meeting.

Shane Riordan (D20-__), St. George's Church, spoke about climate change and urged the Council to set its priorities for the next three years. He also applauded the City for its forward thinking and its resolve to power all municipal operation with 100% renewable energy by 2035 and to power the entire city with 100% renewable energy sources no later than 2050. See D20-__, for more information.

Jessica Kujala (D20-__), 1508 Winchester Street, spoke about the safety of the roads. She said Fredericksburg's roads were not bike friendly. She suggested all-way stop signs on the corners of Washington Avenue and Maury Street to prevent so much confusion at the crosswalk. See D20-__, for more information.

Seth Casana (D20-__), 1305 Princess Anne Street, spoke in support of Fall Hill Avenue becoming a two-way street between Washington Avenue and James Monroe High School. He said the current one-way traffic patten presents unnecessary hazards for bikers. See D20-__ for more information.

Anne Little (D20-__), 726 William Street, urged the City to finish the conversion of Fall Hill, Washington Avenue and Maury Streets to two way traffic. She said this would slow traffic and make the area safer for residents and enable bicycles to use the streets safely. See D20-__ for more information.

Winston Michael Ray (D20-__), Invited the Council to Hurkamp Park on Saturday December 2, 2020 to an event that would replace America's Civil Rights Era with the Worldwide Silver Rights Era. He said this Silver Rights Era would generate sales to take care of America's poor and the struggling middle class families financial needs during the pandemic. See **D20-__** for more information.

Council Agenda Presented. The following items were presented to Council for discussion.

- 7A. Washington and Fall Hill Avenues – Councilor Withers
- 7B. Fredericksburg Christmas Parade – Councilor Devine
- 7C. Gun Giveback – Councilor Frye

Washington and Fall Hill Avenues – Councilor Withers said there was no question that two way traffic was a traffic calming measure and he wanted to know where staff was with the project and what would it take to do the conversion.

Mr. Baroody said staff supports the transition and it was important work but he asked for a little more time.

Councilor Kelly noted that the Council slowed this project down, but added that it was important in the residential sections.

Councilor Duffy expressed his eagerness of working with the City Council, Dr. Catlett and Dr. Eberhardt from the schools.

Fredericksburg Christmas Parade – Councilor Devine gave the staff a shout out for keeping the Christmas parade tradition going. She gave a lot of credit to the developing, creating and implementing a new idea. She thanked everyone who worked hard in these difficult circumstances to try to bring the Christmas spirit to many. She said it was

well received by those who were able to attend and she acknowledged there was disappointment that not everyone could attend.

Councilor Frye said he noticed a number of senior citizen that were able to attend the parade because they could stay in the car and keep warm.

Councilor Graham thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for all their hard work and he gave thanks to the Police Department and all the first responders for keeping the traffic orderly.

Gun Giveback – Councilor Frye announced that on January 23 from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. the 7th Annual Gun Giveback would be taking place at the Fredericksburg Police Department.

Councilor Duffy shared his appreciation for the efforts of Vice-Mayor Frye in collecting the unwanted guns. He spoke of how gun violence destructs people and he encouraged people to get involved in supporting and mentoring children in the community.

Adoption of Minutes. Councilor Graham moved approval of the November 24, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Session minutes; motion was seconded by Councilor Frye and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Parking Advisory Committee – Suzy Stone. Councilor Duffy moved approval of appointing Suzy Stone as the Economic Development Authority representative on the Parking Advisory Committee; motion was seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Architectural Review Board – Jon Gerlach, Helen Ross. Councilor Devine moved approval of appointing Jon Gerlach and Helen Ross to the Architectural Review Board; motion was seconded by Councilor Graham and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-91, First Read Approved, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to Appropriate Additional CDBG-CV Funds (D20-__). After a brief presentation from staff, Councilor Withers made a motion to approve Resolution 20-91, on first read, amending the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriate additional CDBG-CV Funds; motion was seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-91, Second Read Approved, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to Appropriate Additional CDBG-CV Funds (D20-__). Councilor Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 20-91, on second read, amending the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriate additional CDBG-CV Funds; motion was seconded by Councilor Withers and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-92, Approved, Supporting a Virginia Scenic Designation of the Lower Rappahannock River (D20-__). Councilor Devine gave a brief presentation and she made a motion to approve Resolution 20-92, supporting a Virginia Scenic Designation of the lower Rappahannock River; motion was seconded by

Councilor Graham passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-93, First Read Approved, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to Appropriate Funds for Additional Public Safety Compensation (D20-__ thru D20-__). Assistant City Manager Whitley presented this item and the Council showed a strong support in appropriating the additional funds for public safety. The Council spoke of the difficult and extraordinary times they have had to endure this year and how deserving they were of receiving this compensation.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to approve Resolution 20-93, on first read, amending the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriate funds for additional public safety compensation; motion was seconded by Councilor Graham and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-93, Second Read Approved, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to Appropriate Funds for Additional Public Safety Compensation. Councilor Kelly made a motion to approve Resolution 20-93, on second read, amending the Fiscal Year 2021 budget to appropriate funds for additional public safety compensation; motion was seconded by Councilor Withers and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

Resolution 20-94, Approved, Approving the Legislative Agenda for the 2021 General Assembly Session (D20-__). After staff presentation Councilor Devine moved to approved Resolution 20-94, approving the Legislative Agenda for the 2021 General Assembly Session; motion was seconded by Councilor Graham and passed by the

following recorded votes. Ayes (7). Councilors Greenlaw, Frye, Devine, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Withers. Nays (0).

City Manager's Report and Council Calendar (D20-__ thru D20-__). City Manager Baroody directed the Council's attention to the Manager's Update: Christmas Parade 2020, Holiday Video, Love Sign, Drive-In Bingo Night, Drive-In Holiday Movie Series, First Day Hike, Riverfront Park to be Fredericksburg's First "Smart Park", Fall Leaf Collection, COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Chatham Bridge Closure, Upcoming Council Meetings, Winter Programs and Fred Focus.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Greenlaw declared the meeting officially adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Mayor

Tonya B. Lacey, Clerk of Council, MMC