

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MANASSAS PARK GOVERNING BODY HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011 AT 7:00 PM AT MANASSAS PARK CITY HALL, ONE PARK CENTER COURT, MANASSAS PARK, VIRGINIA

1. Roll Call: Frank Jones, Mayor
 Bryan E. Polk, Vice Mayor
 Keith Miller
 William J. Treuting, Jr.
 Suhas Naddoni
 Preston Banks
 Brian Leeper

Absent: Keith Miller

Staff Present: Lana A Conner, City Clerk
 James Zumwalt, City Manager
 Dean Crowhurst, City Attorney

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember Naddoni moved to approve Agenda with following changes:

Item 11 closed meeting will be removed from agenda. Carry Items 6 & 7 Recognitions to the February 1 meeting. Add item 11 at end of agenda: Governing Body comments.

SECOND: Councilmember Treuting

VOTE: Unanimously passed

2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Naddoni

3. Citizen Time:

3a. Rick Shubert: 9307 Jessica Drive:

He is asking the Governing Body to look into three items:

a. Mailbox on this side of the city: You have to go all the way to Euclid Avenue Post Office. There is no regular mailbox on this side of the city. He would like the city to see if we can have a mailbox on this side of city. City has one mailbox on Manassas Drive at public works entrance. There is one on Euclid Avenue down from Osborne Park High School in front of the post office annex. The Mayor stated the city could look into having one here so people could pull through the parking lot and do a drop off. Mr. Shubert stated maybe at City Center or somewhere in this area.

b. Many people cut through the city to get to the Prince William Parkway to avoid Liberia. He would like the light off Manassas Drive onto Signal View a No Turn on Red. Many people do not stop at that light.

c. He is asking that when the playground is built at the Glory Hill development that there be a restriction on allowing dogs in that area. Make it a pet free park. This would make it a kid friendly park. Some people do not watch their dogs in a park.

4. Monthly Update: Schools: Dr. Bruce McDade:

1. Dr. McDade is the new Superintendent of Schools. He has been with the school system for ten years and started as the principal at the high school. He thanked the city for inviting him to be a part of the staff meetings and for the invitation to the city Christmas Party.

2. Sea Perch Competition: He thanked the City for the use of the community center in December 2010. On the 2nd and 3rd of December the city schools were privileged to be part of the first underwater robotics competition known as Sea Perch. Over 500 students representing 12 high schools in the area took part in this competition.

They heard nothing but positive comments. He thanked Catherine Morretta and her staff for going above and beyond and the national staff of National Robotics League spoke in glowing terms of this facility and the staff that hosted it. Because of the success of this competition the National Competition may hold the robotics competition in this area next year. We are not big enough to host the competition but possibly could serve as a satellite. It will probably be held at Freedom Center.

3. Virginia STAR (Student Training and Refurbishment Program): Prince William County asked the city if they would like to begin a program at the high school. They hosted the first ceremony on December 15, 2010. Chris Konig, instructional technology resource teacher, agreed to take on this club that operates out of the high school. Because of his efforts and the efforts of the students, they were able to refurbish computers that were donated to them from agencies such as FBI, Homeland Security, etc. They were refurbished and distributed them to twenty two deserving families here in Manassas Park prior to Christmas. Students interacted with the families and showed them how to use the computers. This program was started in Forrest Park High School but has expanded to a statewide program and is a national model at this time. They accept computers from many different organizations. Many computers are approximately five years old and the students are learning how refurbish them have them available for use. They are planning more give a ways in the future. There are ten students in this program.

Anyone wishing to donate can be done through the Manassas Park Education Foundation. They will take anything that Pentium Four or above which is normally four or five years old. The Mayor stated if they give the city information on the process for donating, they can put it on their website. Website: vastar.schoolfusion.us

4. Dr. Bruce McDade informed the Governing Body and the citizens that he is now a citizen of the United States.

5. **Monthly Departmental Updates: Written**
6. **Recognition: Kiwanis Club Heroes: Fire Department:** Camille Culbertson
7. **Recognition: Kiwanis Club Heroes: Police Department:** Heather Frye

Items 6 and 7 were carried over until the February 1, 2011 meeting.

8. Consent Agenda:

- 8a. **Approval of Minutes: November 8, 9, 16, 17, 2010**
- 8b. **BD of Zoning Appeals: Recommendation to Circuit Court: David Murphy: Five Years: Appointment**

MOTION: Councilmember Polk moved to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

SECOND: Councilmember Treuting

VOTE: Unanimously passed

9. Unfinished Business:

- 9a. **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Director: December 31, 2011:**

MOTION: Councilmember Treuting moved to appoint Suhas Naddoni to the COG Board of Directors and Frank Jones as Alternate.

SECOND: Councilmember Polk

VOTE: Unanimously passed

- 9b. **National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board Appointment: December 31, 2011:**

MOTION: Councilmember Treuting moved to appoint Suhas Naddoni to the TPB Board of Directors and Frank Jones as Alternate.

SECOND: Councilmember Polk

VOTE: Unanimously passed

10. New Business:

- 10a. **VRE Operations Board: December 31, 2011: Appointment:**

MOTION: Councilmember Polk moved to appoint Suhas Naddoni to the VRE Operations Board of Directors.

SECOND: Councilmember Treuting

VOTE: Unanimously passed

- 10b. **Appointment of Vice Mayor:**

Councilmember Polk is Vice Mayor at this time and would like to continue to serve.

MOTION: Councilmember Treuting moved to appoint Brian Polk as Vice Mayor.

SECOND: Councilmember Naddoni

VOTE: Unanimously passed with Councilmember Polk abstaining

Mayor Jones stated he is Director on PRTC Board wanted the new two new members to understand there is VRE and Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. VRE is a unit that is owned (the rolling stock in the operation) between PRTC and NVTA. Councilmember Polk is representative on NVTA PRTC is mostly focused on the busses. He invited the two new members to attend one of their meetings so he can introduce them to the Board.

- 11. Closed Meeting:**
- 12. Return to Open Session**
- 13. Certification & action out of Closed Meeting if Necessary**

This item was removed from the agenda.

New Agenda Item 11: Comments from Governing Body Members:

Councilmember Banks stated the city prides itself on being a world class city and if we are going to continue on being a world class city he thinks we need to be open and transparent in our procedures especially dealing with zoning. Good statesmanship over all. Following the Planning Commission recommendation last night and no longer allowing for dual meetings where you have the Planning Commission and Governing Body making a decision in the same meeting on a zoning matter instead giving the proper time which is stated in the code of Virginia for the Planning Commission to have separate meeting on the zoning issue and the Governing Body making a decision upon that. Only in cases of emergencies should we do the dual meetings but for normal procedure we should have it separate which allows for following of the law and procedures and he thanks it is good statesmanship overall. The Mayor stated this is his understanding that unless there is a pressing emergency, the Planning Commission and Governing Body will not hold a joint meeting. They will be held separately with the time in between. This would allow the public to come in and provide input as well.

The Governing Body has a Resolution approved that stated unless there was an emergency that no action will be taken the same night as the public hearings.

The City Attorney stated that would be all land use that includes Comprehensive Plan amendments, conditional use permits, rezoning, proffer condition amendments, etc. He stated that the Planning Commission recommended that the Governing Body would have to authorize a Joint meeting prior to so that it would not be the Planning Director sitting it up. The Mayor stated before there is a joint meeting because we can't always get the members together if something comes in under emergency circumstances that it would come to the Chairman and then to the Mayor or Vice Mayor for consideration. It would be the two bodies that would make that determination.

Councilmember Treuting stated he disagrees partially. Historically one of the things they have seen is we have had complaints before we did it the way we are going it now when we had separate meetings. Citizens wanted to make comments on an issue that had to go to the Planning Commission meeting and then back to Governing Body meeting. By laws the things the Planning Commission considers their answer is a recommendation or not. They do not have the ability to respond to citizen complaints and change something. They have to accept as presented or kick it back as disapproval. When we can sit down and everybody hears the issues and finds out from Planning Commission what their concerns are and deal with them Councilmember Treuting stated is the action deemed more responsible to citizens. Councilmember Treuting stated unless there is an emergency it makes more sense to have the meeting and not take action until next meeting. He thinks there is more flexibility with having a joint meeting to better understand the situations and the issues than we do by having separate meetings. It moves the process along.

The City Attorney stated there are pros and cons for both. One of the comments from the Planning Commission was that sometimes a zoning matter will come before the Planning Commission and they will ask applicant for more information and they must come back the following month with additional information. They lose that ability because the Governing Body is waiting. They would like separate meetings.

Councilmember Naddoni stated the meetings should be more interactive. One public hearing was the well lots. There was a lot of discussion. It was well advertised and attended. There were a lot of questions. He thinks the Governing Body should follow that kind of format for all Public Hearings. Staff should always have the chance to answer or attempt to answer all of the questions.

Councilmember Banks stated under State Code 15.2 any amendment or modification to the comprehensive plan has to be considered by Planning Commission. This is what happened in the last meeting. It is efficient and fast and yes we have them here. It can trump what they need to do which is the law. To be open and transparent in any modification to Comprehensive Plan or zoning we should have the separate steps which allow the Governing Body to hear from the residents who can attend two meetings. We made a permanent decision in less than an hour.

Councilmember Leeper stated land use decisions should be made in great haste but carefully considered. The Governing Body should consider what is an emergency. Under what circumstance would you not follow those procedures? The Mayor stated the only thing that would qualify is a time sensitive issues where there would be serious economic impact or a lost opportunity to the city because of an investor or something like that where there is a short window. It doesn't mean the Governing Body has to take action when a Public Hearing is scheduled and held. Sometimes more information is needed.

The Mayor stated Public Hearings are part of the FOIA process in terms of open disclosure. It is for Governing Body to receive feedback from the public. It is not a point and time for the public to come in and ask a series of questions. If we have a challenging issue, the Governing Body might want to hold Town Hall meetings which are very informal but staff can give the public a lot of information. Councilmember Treuting stated he would be very supportive of these types of meetings.

The meetings could be held at community center, police department, town hall or the schools. The only issue is those held at city hall can be televised and played back at a different time. Councilmember Leeper asked if we could hold the meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Mayor will work with the City Manager on issues they identify and he will send e-mail asking if they wish to hold a town hall meeting and if they do schedule the meeting. This is not a meeting where any business is transacted. It will be announced as a public meeting in case two or more Governing Body members show up but all members are not required to be there.

The high school has a production studio but it is not working at this time. The Mayor stated as part of the franchise agreement, they will start negotiations to require Comcast to provide funding each year for upgrades and updated equipment. We should ask Comcast to give the city the ability to have portable video capability here and move it around when needed. Councilmember Treuting stated the state of the art technology has changed so much from the last time the Governing Body sat down with Comcast about getting the upgrades and equipment and what it takes to buy high definition camera. The camera is tiny and you plug it into the laptop and feed the data through the internet.

The City Attorney stated in larger jurisdictions they have a land use citizen advisory committee and issues such as land use could be presented there first. This would provide citizen input. That is something the Governing Body could consider. The Mayor would rather hold Town Hall meetings so that staff can interact with the public on specific issues.

14. Adjournment at 7:43 pm.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Approved January 18, 2011

Frank Jones, Mayor

Lana A Conner, City Clerk