



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of November 19, 2015**

Mayor Rachford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m, with Sandy Decker reading the invocation and led the pledge to the flag, with the following members answering roll call:

Bob Simon	Present	Sue Neltner	Present
Stacey Graus	Present	Sandy Decker	Present
Scott Fleckinger	Absent	Andy Schabell	Present

Also: Karen Barto	City Clerk/Treasurer	Mike Ward	Police Chief
Mike Duncan	City Attorney	Sam Trapp	Pub. Works Supt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 5, 2015

MOTION: Sue Neltner made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting, seconded by Sandy Decker. All in favor, the motion passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Graus abstaining.

VISITORS & GUESTS:

Mayor Rachford had read an article in the Campbell County Recorder about the Campbell County School District scores. He proceeded to write a letter to various personnel which included school superintendents, school boards, Mayors, etc.. It was not a city position and he did not submit it to council to ask for their approval, nor did he have a hidden agenda, only a concerned citizen looking for a way to collectively provide a better education for our school children.

1) Jim Palm, Superintendent of Southgate Schools: Mr. Palm passed out some documents that are also available on the Southgate School District website. He has served in education for the past 40 years. He has highlighted some of the things in the Mayor's letter that were disturbing to him. He explained that the ranking of raw test scores is not how, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, schools are evaluated. It is more complicated than that and more research is necessary before making any decisions on how our schools are doing. .

2) Kelly Middleton, Superintendent of Newport Schools: He sees eye to eye on most of the same things Mr. Palm spoke about and shares the same concerns. He takes exception with the reference that the Newport School District is a "dismal failure". Four years ago, Newport Schools were taken over by the State. They were and still are struggling, but are now out of State control. He was here to brag about his district and how far they have come. Test scores have gone up even though the students have lots of barriers to overcome. He thought the language in the letter was pretty strong and he doesn't believe it.

3) Julie Webb Fischer, Resident of Bellevue: She is an educator for over 30 years and a member of the Bellevue Independent School Board. She explained how Bellevue puts time and effort into how they educate their children.

Mayor Rachford appreciates everyone sharing their comments. His letter wasn't meant to imply that teachers/schools/administrators are not doing a good job, he just wants to have a dialogue to improve education for all children.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Community Center: Basketball hoops were serviced and work properly. The large platform (stage) has been removed.

Public Works: If the weather holds out, Shaw and Sheridan should be completed soon.

Zoning Administrator: See attached report.

Beautification Committee: Sue Neltner – Received the \$900 Color in the Community Grant.

Safety Committee: Sandy Decker – They met tonight and she will elaborate later.

NEW BUSINESS:

Typically the second meeting in December is canceled unless there is any business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Recreation Director: The position has been offered to someone who has accepted and will start on January 4th. The name is being withheld at this time because they have not yet given notice to their current employer.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter for Schools in Campbell County: Mayor Rachford has now heard from someone in every school district. Mr. Schabell stated council did not know about this letter until after it was sent out. Because council members' names were on the letterhead, it makes it tough on them. Mayor Rachford apologized. Ms. Neltner understands where the school administrators are coming from as she is a retired teacher.
- Solicitation of Water Line Service: Mayor Rachford received a letter from Home Service informing him they were going to do a direct mail campaign to Alexandria residents to offer insurance on water line service. This is NOT the program that the city has endorsed, and was not sponsored through the National League of Cities. Mrs. Neltner said someone had asked her why a city letterhead was used to support a public business. The Mayor explained he contacted the Kentucky League of Cities who vetted that program, and they wanted a letter signed by him to offer it.
- The Alexandria Fire Department is conducting their annual Coat Drive, and they are accepting gently worn coats until the first part of December. The barrel is just inside the door.

Mr. Schabell asked if the Executive Order adding "In God We Trust" to the city vehicles had been signed. Mayor Rachford is still gathering info and responses before signing it.


ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Schabell. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



 Karen M. Barto
 City Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 12/8/15



 William T. Rachford, Jr.
 Mayor

Date: 12/4/2015

Approved: **December 3, 2015**