

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MANASSAS PARK GOVERNING BODY MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2008 AT 7:00 PM AT CITY HALL, ONE PARK
CENTER COURT, MANASSAS PARK, VIRGINIA

1. Roll Call: Bryan Polk, Vice Mayor
Michael Bunner
Fran Kassinger
Keith Miller
William J. Treuting, Jr.

Absent: Frank Jones, Mayor
Cyndi Gardner

Staff Present: Mercury Payton, City Manager
Dean Crowhurst, City Attorney

2. Public Hearing: Published June 3, 2008:

2a. School Board Appointments:

The Governing Body of the City of Manassas Park, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 7pm at City Hall One Park Center Court to get citizens comments on persons being considered for appointment to School Board. Listed below are the Manassas Park applicants being considered? Appointment will be made for one term effective July 1, 2008 and expiring June 30, 2011:

Rachel Kirkland, 8638 Reinecke Court, Manassas Park VA
Stacey Seiberling 9212 Williams St. Manassas Park VA
Jason Sowalla, 9315 Paul Drive, Manassas Park VA

Vice Mayor Polk opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

Citizens wishing to address Public Hearing:

1. Noreen Slater, 9250 Matthew Drive:

This is one of the times that she wishes we had a seven member School Board and three openings tonight because all three of the applicants are well qualified. Jason has already served the city with distinction and she believes all three would continue to serve the city and the schools admirably.

There is only one opening and because of that she encourages you to appoint Rachel Kirkland to the School Board. She has known Ms. Kirkland for the past several years. She and her husband were no sooner unpacked in Manassas Park than they began agitating in the interest of the community. Ms. Kirkland has spoken at this podium and the General Assembly on many issues impacting Manassas Park. Her overriding passion is children especially special needs children. She is well qualified and by personality she has demonstrated her leadership skills and abilities to be a vital force on the School Board. In conclusion she is proud to endorse the candidacy. Her holistic approach to the issues facing the city and families will serve the city exceedingly well as the Governing Body and School Board work together to continue to insure excellence in our schools.

2. Jason Sowalla, 9315 Paul Drive, Manassas Park VA:

It has been a privilege to serve on the School Board. He has experienced many high points few low points and has learned a lot from all of them. About four years ago, he was the junior member of the School Board. Less than two years ago, he found himself the senior member and last year he became Chairman. When he first applied for the School Board position he did not know a lot about what a school board member did. He did know he wanted his kids to have a better education than what he received. He wanted them to go to safe schools and a nurturing environment. Since then he had quite a few lessons about budgeting, listening to the public, curriculum standards and handling conflicts to name a few. He still has a lot to learn.

The schools have accomplished a lot in the last five years. Among those rising SOL scores, the new 5th grade band program which is very rare for a school to have such a program of excellence. They have achieved annual accreditation, finished the high school extension and the middle school and started Cougar Elementary. The next three years are going to be huge. With the excitement of having a complete set of modern and well equipped schools and the extra time that won't be spent on construction issues, the School Board and staff will be able to devote even more of their attention to academic needs and solutions. He is not saying that education has been neglected. They continue to meet accreditation requirements and we do very well on our Sol's and AYP. The big story for the future is their six year plan which came out in July 2007 and is available on the website. This document has been generated in conjunction with school wide accreditation review and identifies goals they want to achieve related to academic achievement, community relationships, fiscal integrity, student health and many other topics too numerous to list. They encourage public feedback. He has suggested several additions and clarifications to the plan that reflect his priority over the next three years such as developing strategies for increasing graduation rates, increasing rates in SAT scores, providing more extensive counseling for students and parent to help them choose the right school and figure out how to pay for it in these challenging financial times. He wants to seek out new cost saving ideas and develop more ideas to reduce failure. By putting them in the plan we will get additional attention that will help generate new ideas and more effectively measure our success.

3. Michael Wine, 8526 Sandstone Way, Manassas Park, VA:

He is a current School Boardmember. He is here to speak on behalf of Jason Sowalla. He can't say anything bad about the other candidates. He knows Rachel very well and she is a very dedicated individual. He does not know the other candidate. He has known Jason for about three years while serving on the School Board. They face some very tough times in front of them. They have very tough budget issues as you know. In the next three or four years he doesn't think it is going to get easier. He hopes things improve for the City, the schools and the population. We need experience. We need different viewpoints. He can't say that he and Jason have always met eye to eye on all subjects but he thinks that is a great thing. They are able to work out their differences and getting Jason's viewpoint and perspective is absolutely essential. Different viewpoints make the Board stronger and more flexible and forward thinking. Jason has the experience and grew up in a family of educators. He knows what being an educator is all about. He urges Governing Body support for Jason Sowalla.

4. Rachel Kirkland, 8638 Reinecke Court, Manassas Park VA:

She thanked Governing Body for the opportunity to apply for this position. She cares deeply not just for the social needs of children but the general population of the children in Manassas Park and the services they get. She wants to make sure they get the highest quality of instructions and the best people and best education possible. She hopes to have the opportunity now or in the future to contribute to that via the School Board and regardless of what happens with this vote she will continue to do that on special education advisory committee and other opportunities as they come up. She is grateful for the opportunity that exists in this community to come out and participate and really be part of shaping what this community is and what it can become. She encourages others to do the same.

5. Via e-mail: Michelle Stubenbordt 9417 Rosebud Court: She voices her support for Rachel Kirkland. Rachel is a passionate person that stands up for what she believes in and is dedicated to the schools system. The student board believes she has the best interest of the children in mind and will be honored to have her serve on the School Board and make the decisions that have to be made by the School Board.

Close Public Hearing: 7:20 pm:

MOTION: Councilmember Kassinger

SECOND: Councilmember Bunner

VOTE: Unanimously passed

3. Resolution 08-1000-1056: Discussion for Requisition of Conner Drive Properties: Exercise Power of Eminent Domain six properties (Public Hearing December 11, 2007): Carried over from May 20, 2008 Amendment to Resolution 07-1000-1044

Due to the appraisals coming back and due to declining real estate values and current economic conditions of the city, it is apparent city cannot fund the acquisition of these properties. The City could consider the acquisitions in the future but at this time the issue is closed. The City Attorney pointed out it is through calendar year 2008 and is because of the immediate fiscal situation of the city. It closes the door through end of 2008. A new Public Hearing would have to be held if the city was interested in the future.

MOTION: Councilmember Miller moved to approve Resolution:
RESOLUTION TERMINATING EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE A PROPERTY INTEREST IN PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 8223, 8225, 8227, 8227-A, 8228 AND 8229 CONNER DRIVE

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1903, the Governing Body held a public hearing (the "Public Hearing") on December 11, 2008 to consider the acquisition by exercise of the power of eminent domain, if necessary, of all or a portion of the following properties located in Manassas Park (together, the "Properties") for the public use of constructing a new city hall, new parking facilities and/or an extension of Conner Drive to Manassas Drive (the "Facilities"):

- Lot 1, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-1), located at 8228 Conner Drive and owned by Kevin S. O'Grince and Erin B. O'Grince
- Lot 2, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-2), located at 8223 Conner Drive and owned by Asif M. Attai and Hamayoon M. Attai
- Lot 3, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-3), located at 8225 Conner Drive and owned by Francis G. Fortin, Jr.
- Lot 4, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-4), located at 8227 Conner Drive and owned by Anibal Alves and Adilia Alves
- Lot 5, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-5), located at 8227-A Conner Drive and owned by Anibal Alves and Adilia Alves
- Lot 6, Property of City of Manassas Park, Virginia (tax map # 29-1-6), located at 8229 Conner Drive and owned by Anibal Alves and Adilia Alves

WHEREAS, at its regularly scheduled public meeting held on December 18, 2007, the Governing Body adopted Resolution #07-1000-1044, which (i) stated the Governing Body's determination that the Facilities are all public uses, (ii) authorized and directed City staff and the City's legal counsel to acquire any interest in the Properties necessary for the proposed construction the Facilities by any means or procedure permissible under Virginia Law, including exercise of the power of eminent domain, if necessary, and (iii) further authorized and directed City staff and the City's legal counsel to take such other and further action as necessary to effect the acquisition of the Properties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority and direction given by the Governing Body, City staff contracted to have appraisals of the Properties performed in accordance with Virginia Code § 25.1-417; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the declining value of residential real estate in the City, the magnitude of which became apparent following the adoption of Resolution #07-1000-1044, the Governing Body has determined that the City is unable to fund the acquisition of the Properties in calendar year 2008; and

WHEREAS, because the Governing Body is unable to fund the acquisition of the Properties in calendar year 2008, the City would be unable to comply with Virginia Code § 24.1-204E.1, which requires the City to "make a prompt offer to acquire" the Properties following a determination of the amount that it believes to be just compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body now desires to terminate further efforts to acquire the Properties in calendar year 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body hereby declares that it is unable to make a prompt offer to acquire the Properties for the public use of constructing the Facilities as required by Virginia Code § 24.1-204E.1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body hereby directs City staff and the City's legal counsel to terminate further efforts to acquire the Properties in calendar year 2008.

SECOND: Councilmember Treuting

VOTE ROLL CALL: Yes: Miller, Treuting, Bunner, Kassinger, Polk

4. Reports:

4a School Report: copy of report made part of the record.

4b HDR Report Parks & Recreation:

Mark Pleskow stated they are committed to seeing this building built and building a great facility. Roger Solomen is the point of contact on this project. They are reviewing the schedule of values provided by Shockey and reviewing the schedule itself. They will meet with architect on an on going basis when needed. They are waiting for submittals from Shockey to review. They are looking at October 20th to break ground.

5. Presentations:

5a Farmers Market: Theresa Polk, Parks and Recreation and Laura Coughanour, Public Works:

It is conceptual in nature. They have taken some of the best practices and models from Prince William County where they run a very successful market. They are working on all the issues to work out some of the kinks. They wanted to give a product that is 100% vs. 50%.

They are trying to secure a minimum of five vendors so that the city can break even. They would have liked ten vendors so the city could have turned a profit. At this point they have only four so they would like to take the time to concentrate on coming out next year with a market that is ready to go. The vendors commit in November to the following season. They would like to continue to draw more vendors next year.

Councilmember Treuting asked if the city had commitments for four vendors if they could start the program with that many. They have four verbal commitments rather than monetary. They are still working on starting the program this year but they don't want to start a program that the city cannot be proud of.

Councilmember Miller stated it takes a lot of planning to start up any program. He thinks it is a terrific program and would like to see it for next year.

Ms. Coughanour stated it would be a benefit to the community as well as the growers that are looking for a market place.

5b Purchase of Police Cruisers:

Per direction of Governing Body at their last meeting, the Manassas Park Police Department has ordered (3) three fully equipped police vehicles from Crossroad Ford. Delivery would be by end of July. This is an FY09 purchase but the process was started in FY08 to take advantage of the need for three vehicles for Code Enforcement.

5c American Red Cross: Good Neighbor Award Recipients: Fire Department:

The American Red Cross has recognized the City for its contribution of \$1,000+ toward the Red Cross. Councilmember Kassinger stated Chief O'Neal continuously supports the City and is very humble. During Christmas time he supported Santa's Sleigh efforts and individual efforts all along the way. She wanted to publicly thank Chief O'Neal for all he does.

5d Summer Meeting Schedule:

Governing Body will meet on third Tuesday of the month for July and August and return to normal schedule in September.

MOTION: Councilmember Kassinger moved to approve the summer schedule.

SECOND: Councilmember Miller

VOTE: Unanimously passed

6. Recognition:

6a Student Recognition: Park & Recreation: Catherine Morretta, Parks & Recreation Director asked that this be deferred to September. This is the recognition program that the city asked the Committee to look at and come back with recommendations. She is not aware of who else got rings besides the Wrestling team.

6b Recognition: Public Works:

Matt Fallon, Police Department, thanked the public works department for their quick response during the wind storm last Wednesday with downed wires and trees. He thanked public works for cutting grass on some of the property that is not being maintained properly because of foreclosure.

He thanked public works for repairing and repainting the stop bars at stop signs. It makes it easier for the police department to identify offenders with the California roll.

7. Worksession on Water & Sewer Rates: Karen Spence:

Copy of Presentation made part of the record. The Governing Body will hold a Public Hearing on proposed rates as soon as staff is prepared to move forward.

8. Closed Meeting State Code of Virginia Freedom of Information Act: Section 2.2- 3711a of the Code of Virginia Item #3: Consultation with Legal Counsel

9. Return to Open Session

10. Certification & Action out of Closed Meeting if Necessary

Items 8, 9, and 10 were removed from agenda because a closed meeting was not required.

11. Adjournment at 10:06 pm:

With consensus of Governing Body, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Approved July 15, 2008

Francis C. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Lana A. Conner, City Clerk