



CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

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

Council Work Session
January 12, 2016

Riverfront Park Update
Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
Closed Session – Probable Litigation

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia held a work session on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room.

Council Present. Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Presiding. Councilors William C. Withers, Jr., Kerry P. Devine, Timothy P. Duffy, Bradford C. Ellis, Charlie L. Frye, Jr. and Matthew J. Kelly.

Also Present. City Manager Beverly R. Cameron, Assistant City Manager Mark Whitley, City Attorney Kathleen Dooley, Fiscal Affairs Director Clarence Robinson, Assistant Director of Fiscal Affairs David MacIndoe and Clerk of Council Tonya B. Lacey.

Others Present. Chairman of the Riverfront Taskforce George Solley, EDA Chairman and Member of the Taskforce Chris Hornung and Andrew Grossnickle, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Accountants.

Riverfront Park Update. Mr. Solley reported that in general the Taskforce was in agreement with the proposed park design. (See attachment) Mr. Solley reviewed the attached report and noted that the taskforce listed the following reasons for not recommending parking: the parking would take away from the use of the park, there is a garage across the street, parking is a downtown problem not a park problem, and they recommended a staging area be carved out on the southern end of the park.

Councilor Frye said he would like to be sure the alcohol area is moved away from the church.

Councilor Duffy asked about lighting, hours and location of the staging area and Mr. Solley explained that most parks have no locks and lighting could encourage or discourage use at night but park and recreation would set the rules. He also explained that the staging area

was located at the southern end because it was convenient for maintenance. Councilor Duffy asked if the Taskforce had discussed the need for parking in the park and Mr. Solley said the Taskforce position was that they do not think parking should be provided within the park just as there is no parking for many places downtown like City Hall.

Councilor Kelly asked if council was changing its position with burying the power lines and providing parking. Councilor Withers said he had not changed his position. He would like to retain parking at the end of the park until parking was available downtown. He stated the perfect place for a garage would be in the municipal lot.

Councilor Devine said she would like to see the park move forward knowing additional parking was needed. She strongly recommended moving forward with the park and the grounding of the power lines could be done along with the park.

Mayor Greenlaw said she did not agree with holding up the park and she would like to see it move forward knowing there was a need to be more aggressive with parking.

Councilor Ellis said he did not want to hold the park up but he was in favor of moving forward with the park and a garage.

Councilor Frye said he had requested slanted parking along Sophia Street and Mr. Solley said by doing the slanted parking would prevent the food trucks from sitting along Sophia Street. Councilor Frye also asked about handicapped parking Mr. Solley said the charter of the Taskforce was the park and the taskforce was not designed to deal with parking. Mayor Greenlaw said in the Desmond study it mentioned the pros and cons of the angled parking and it would cause the loss of the parking on the other side of the street.

Councilor Kelly noted that parking was a big issue with the citizens and Rhodeside and Harwell was supposed to present more than one option. He said majority of Council wanted to keep the parking and bury the power lines which were to be a part of the budget. He said he wanted to see more options.

Councilor Ellis said there were three priorities on his list: the schools, parking garage and the park. He said parking must be included as part of the overall project and he was willing to concede the power lines.

Councilor Duffy agreed that Council needed to aggressively look at the parking. He also said he would prefer the main design of the park to emphasis the natural rather than built features. He said this would be a way to reduce the cost of some of the features on the park. He also expressed his concern that they may be trying to put too much in the one park.

Councilor Solley noted that this was an interim drawing that was based on what Council requested and Rhodeside and Harwell was still working on the plan.

Councilor Withers said the parking needed to be taken care of before anything was voted on for the park.

Councilor Devine said the Taskforce mission was to design a park and a downtown park doesn't typically include parking.

Mr. Solley clarified that the plan he presented was not the final design. Rhodeside and Harwell have other options to present. He said the design that he brought forward included the Taskforce recommendations.

Councilor Devine said this park will allow the Council to look at creative parking.

Mr. Hornung, EDA Chair and member of the Taskforce said parking was a priority for the EDA and they wanted to make sure there was a plan for parking. He said the Taskforce was looking at the priorities to make sure the park had the traction it needed to bring people to the City. He said when looking at the budget he hoped the cuts would be made now so that the City would not lose out on those important elements in the park. He added that he did not think losing 39 spaces would make or break anything.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Fiscal Affairs Director Clarence Robinson introduced Andrew Grossnickle, of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Accountants. Mr. Robinson turned the presentation over to Mr. Grossnickle. Mr. Grossnickle reviewed the comprehensive report with Council see attachment for more information.

Closed Meeting Approved. Upon the motion of Councilor Devine, seconded by Councilor Kelly and passed by the following recorded votes, Council approved a closed session for with the City Attorney regarding actual litigation (City Council v. ARB and NBB, and NBB v. City Council, pending in the Fredericksburg Circuit Court), under Code of Virginia 2.2-3711(A)(1) discussion of the performance of a City Council Appointee specifically a member of the Architectural Review Board. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Return to Open Meeting Approved. Upon the motion of Councilor Kelly, seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes, Council approved a return to an open meeting. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Resolution 16-01, Approved, Certifying Closed Meeting. Upon the motion Councilor Kelly approved Resolution 16-01 certifying the closed meeting; seconded by Councilor Devine and passed by the following recorded votes. Ayes (7) Councilors Greenlaw, Withers, Devine, Ellis, Frye, and Kelly. Nays (0).

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Council at this time. Mayor Greenlaw declared the work session officially adjourned at 7:16.

Tonya B Lacey

**Tonya B. Lacey
Clerk of Council
City of Fredericksburg**

APPROVED

02-09-16