

ASHBURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING – THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2024.

- 1) Call to Order: Mayor Sandra Lumpkin
- 2) Moment of Silence requested by Mayor Sandra Lumpkin.
- 3) Invocation by Andrea Pierce.
- 4) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5) Attendance: Mayor Sandra Lumpkin – Please let the record show all members are in attendance:
Council Member – Jermaine Rockwell
Council Member – Sheldon Smith
Mayor – Sandra Lumpkin
Council Member – Andrea Pierce
Council Member – Corey Jordan
Council Member – John Burgess
- 6) Mayor Lumpkin requested a motion to approve the agenda; Motion made by Andrea Pierce; Seconded by Jermaine Rockwell; Ayes - All; Nays – None, Motion Carried.
- 7) Mayor Lumpkin requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting held 7/11/2024. Motion made by Andrea Pierce; Seconded by – Sheldon Smith; Ayes – All; Nays – None, Motion Carried
- 8) Mayor Lumpkin requested a motion to accept the resignation of City Attorney Gary Lamar. Motion made by Sheldon Smith; Seconded by – Andrea Pierce. Ayes – Jermaine Rockwell; Sheldon Smith; Andrea Pierce and Corey Jordan; Nays – John Burgess. 4-1 Motion Carries.
- 9) Mayor Lumpkin requested to have the City Manager, Daryl Hall to provide further details about the proposal provided by Denmark-Ashby prior to requesting a motion to hire. Mr. Daryl Hall pointed out that the Mayor and Council should note item #7 as it allots for \$180 fee per hour for legal consultation only. Council Member Andrea Pierce chose not to vote on this item because she was not present for the interview. A motion to hire and accept the application from Denmark-Ashby was made by John Burgess; seconded by Corey Jordan – All in favor; Nays – Andrea Pierce.
Mr. Hall requested a roll call vote on the motion: John Burgess – Yes; Sheldon Smith – Yes; Andrea Pierce – No; Corey Jordan – Yes; Jermaine Rockwell – Yes; 4-1 Motion Carries.
Mr. Hall requested that the motion be amended to reflect that the contract is for \$180 per hour for consultation only and not the \$5,000 per month quote that was provided as well; The Mayor requested the motion – Motion made by Jermaine Rockwell; Seconded by Corey Jordan; Opposed by – Andrea Pierce. 4-1 Motion Carried.
- 10) Mayor Lumpkin moved on to Agenda Item #9 – Guest Speaker – Ben Walker; Mayor Lumpkin turned the floor over to Mr. Walker to address the Council:

Mr. Walker began by asking why common residents of the City of Ashburn are only allowed five minutes to speak? It is a shame that we are only allowed a very limited timeframe to address the Council. Mr. Walker then moved on to ask about the “Sale” – What is What? I want to ask the City Manager, Mr. Daryl Hall, what happened with the sale? Everyone was quiet and the Mayor asked for clarification on what he was meaning by “the Sale”. Mr. Walker said the Auction – Vehicle Sales. The mayor said that according to the rules & regulations, no response was required by the Mayor or Council. Mr. Walker stated that he was addressing Mr. Hall directly and that he could respond. Mr. Hall stated that he would be willing to schedule a meeting with all concerned citizens to discuss the protocol and actions that were taken in relation to the sale of the surplus vehicles. Ben Walker then asked for Mr. Hall to be removed from office and a more qualified City Manager be hired. Mr. Walker requested further information on the process that was used for the sale; Daryl Hall and the Chief of Police made the decision about the sale; there were no phone calls; he wants to know the whole process.

Sheldon Smith stated that Mr. Hall had been placed in a compromised position; that there should be accountability on both sides. Mr. Smith asked Walker you are not concerned with one Councilman getting all the vehicles?

Mr. Walker said he wanted to know who called for the sale.

John Burgess spoke up saying I will speak for myself, I intervene and he said they were junk vehicles, everybody wanted to get rid of the junk vehicles so we told Mr. Hall to set the sale, and the sale was put together, everybody knew about it.

Sheldon Smith said that is not true not everyone knew about the sale.

Burgess said the Council was given first dibs to buy anything, then the employees and then the public. I bought 2 cars the first day and went back the next day and said I wanted all the cars – That was the rules.

Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Hall bought 2 vehicles, Council had first choice, how did the council get first choice, I want to know who came up with the rules? An audience member then asked who did the rules?

John Burgess – They just did it, City Manager made the decision – 2015 was the last sale I purchased vehicles then and now; the vehicle posted on social media was the vehicle purchased then, the Council was given first dibs, I bought some the first day and then decided to purchase the rest the next day, I even went to Mr. Hall the following day requesting to buy the cars he purchased since the Council had first dibs.

Mr. Walker felt that the cars belong to the citizens of Ashburn and the sale should have been made public. Mr. Walker wants to know who made the decisions, who is “they”? Was the decision made without the City Council?

An audience member asked again who made the law he was referencing?

Burgess replied – Read the paper; it’s in the paper and it is legal.

Mr. Walker asked again who set the sale date?

Burgess replied, Mr. Hall.

At this point Mayor Lumpkin stated that the meeting was going off protocol and we need to move forward since the meeting was going off protocol.

Mr. Walker protested being cut off by the mayor, Mayor Lumpkin proceeded to move forward to the next agenda item #10 – LMIG 2025 to be presented by City Manager – Daryl Hall.

City Manager Daryl Hall, started out by saying there is \$68,412 that has been dedicated through the GDOT, the City needs to designate the road they wish to use this money for with a 10% match; Reagan & Harrison are listed in the T-SPLOST (2027) to pave the whole road.

Jermaine Rockwell questioned is that road already covered to be paved? Mr. Hall stated that we have another \$90,000.00 for use on Hannerville; so, there is roughly \$156,000 to spend, and this is why I came to the Council to pinpoint where they would like the funds used. Jermaine Rockwell, we need to finish Walnut & Hannerville.

Mayor Lumpkin asked if the state has been notified, Mr. Hall said for the T-SPLOST funds – Yes.

Mr. Hall – we have 27 roads with 1.4 million dollars for paving in 2027; Andrea Pierce stated she would like to add it together to do more – Cul-de-sac on Lee – Bank the \$68,000. Hall – Bank the \$68,000 and use the \$89,000 LMIG; Sheldon Smith agrees.

Andrea Pierce made a Motion to add the funds together; Sheldon Smith seconded the motion all agreed; motion carried.

Mayor asked for a motion to move into Executive Session; Andrea Pierce made the motion, and it was seconded by Corey Jordan; all in favor and the meeting moved into Executive Session.

The meeting moved out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session so that the concerned citizens could continue to speak to the Council and address their concerns.

Mayor Lumpkin opened the floor to the public and offered Mr. Lindsey the opportunity to speak, Mr. Lindsey chose not to speak.

Mayor Lumpkin then asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Mr. Howard Jordan with the Concerned Citizens of Ashburn took the floor to address the Mayor & Council.

Mr. Jordan invited the Mayor and Council to the Top-Floor to the meetings held on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays. They talk about what concerns the citizens and are given 5-10 minutes to speak. They try to get past the rumors and work to not push anyone out of the way concerning the city. They are an active group and growing. They would love it if the Council would attend the meetings that usually last an hour to an hour and a half.

They have a formal agenda and meet to get concerns, advise citizens and not embarrass the Council. They would like the Council to come and speak for themselves. Mr. Jordan extended a formal invitation to the Council and would be willing to amend the agenda if the Council would be in attendance. Mr. Jordan offered for the Council to reach out to him for assistance, so that he isn't just focusing on the left side; people will put you on the spot and he won't allow that to happen. Mr. Jordan formally invited the mayor and then thanked the Council for all they do, and appreciated the time he was allotted to speak.

Mayor Lumpkin asked if anyone would like to speak and no one raised their hand or asked to speak, so she then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Corey Jordan made a motion to adjourn.

Jermaine Rockwell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.