**Ashburn City Council**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Present: Councilmember John Burgess, Councilmember Corey Jordan, Attorney Gary Lamar, City Manager Daryl Hall, City Clerk Amanda Hill, Councilmember Jermaine Rockwell, Mayor Sandra Lumpkin, Councilmember Andrea Pierce, Councilmember Sheldon Smith**

**Guests: Howard Jordan, Chief Richard Purvis, Ben Baker, Christy Casimiro, Layton Fillion, Skip Hill, Chuck Bobo, Param Ankurkumar Desai, Charles Jordan Jr., Soloman Daniels, Doug Hughes, Angela Office, Michael Lindsey, Shylynski Smith, Albert Shephard, Willie Boone, Jacqueline Daniels, Ben Walker, Officer Doug Brooks**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lumpkin. The invocation was done by City Manager Daryl Hall followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for those who had died since our last meeting. Roll call was done by City Clerk Amanda Hill.**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the March 7, 2024, council meeting. Councilmember Pierce made the motion to approve the agenda for the March 7, 2024, council meeting. Councilmember Jordan made the Second.**

**Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Burgess, Smith, Rockwell**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2024, regular council meeting. Councilmember Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of the of the February 1, 2024, regular council meeting. Councilmember Jordan made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Smith, Rockwell, Burgess**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, called council meeting. Councilmember Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, called council meeting. Councilmember Rockwell made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Jordan, Burgess, Smith**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the alcohol beverage license for Top Shelf Liquor Ashburn/Param Ankurkumar Desai located at 314 MLK Jr. Drive- Liquor Store retail only- Beer & Wine retail only. Councilmember Pierce made the motion to approve the alcohol license for Top Shelf Liquor Ashburn and Councilmember Jordan made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Smith, Rockwell, Burgess**

**The health insurance was discussed next. Skip Hill with Partners Benefit Group discussed how the insurance had gone up tremendously. He said that they were always able to negotiate in the past, but not this time. He mentioned that cost sharing with the employees has been discussed. Councilmember Jordan asked if it was normal for cities to pay the one hundred percent? Mr. Hill said that some cities still do, but most have the employees to share in some of the cost. He also said that he knew that a twenty-five percent cost share had been discussed, but the Affordable Care Act would not let us charge a 25% cost share because 25 people could say it was too high for them to pay. If this happened, the city would be charged a penalty for not having the insurance affordable, if Option 2 was chosen. We need to try and keep as many people on the insurance as we can. Councilmember Burgess asked the question that if more people drop the insurance, the more it will hurt us, right? Mr. Hill said that was exactly right. Councilmember Pierce made a motion to rescind the 25% that was originally voted on for employees to pay for the health insurance. Councilmembers Jordan and Rockwell made the Second.**

**Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Rockwell, Burgess, Smith**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Pierce to table the health insurance renewal issue until a called meeting was held next week after the council has spoken with the employees. Councilmember Jordan made the Second.**

**Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Rockwell, Burgess**

**Nays: Smith**

**City Manager Hall discussed the technology fee for Municipal Court that is to be added to the fines and forfeitures. We originally thought that this had to be approved by legislation, but it does not. This fee will be implemented through Home Rule. Attorney Lamar says that this must be run in the paper.**

**Councilmember Pierce offered a motion to rescind technology fees from the state because Clay Pirkle said that this could be done by Home Rule. Councilmember Rockwell made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Smith, Burgess, Jordan**

**Councilmember Pierce made a motion to implement the twenty-five-dollar Technology fee by Home Rule for Municipal Court. Councilmember Burgess made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Burgess, Jordan, Smith, Rockwell**

**Councilmember Andrea Pierce was up for discussion to be appointed to the Victoria Evans Memorial Library board as a representative for the City of Ashburn. Christy Casimiro, the Library Director, advised that they have twelve positions on the board with three-year terms.**

**Councilmember Burgess made the motion to appoint Councilmember Pierce as a representative for the City to the Victoria Evans Memorial Library board. Councilmember Smith made the Second.**

**Ayes: Burgess, Smith, Rockwell, Jordan, Pierce**

**Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 P.M. Councilmember Jordan made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Pierce made the Second. Ayes: Jordan, Pierce, Burgess, Rockwell, Smith**

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 **City Clerk**

**Approved this 4th day of April 2024**

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**Mayor**