

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 27, 2024, 5:30 PM - City Hall, Council Chamber
City Council Legislative Meeting

Present: Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Vice Mayor Sarah R. Bagley, Members of Council Canek Aguirre, John Taylor Chapman, Abdel Elnoubi, Jacinta E. Greene, and R. Kirk McPike.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Lassiter, Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Greenlief, Director, Finance; Sheriff Casey; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer, City Manager's Office; Ms. Buttar, DCHS; Ms. Fleming, Director, Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE); Ms. Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Williamson, Chief Human Resources Officer; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Sgt. Jones.

Recorded by: Gloria Sitton, City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

I. Landmark Community Development Authority Board Meeting

Mayor Gaskins called the Landmark Community Development Authority meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All members of the board were present.

The board nominated and voted Mayor Gaskins as Chair of the Authority and nominated and voted Councilman Chapman as Vice Chair of the Authority.

The board nominated and appointed Julian Gonsalves and Kevin Greenlief as Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, respectively.

The board approved the meeting minutes of the prior meeting of the Authority.

The board adopted the resolution approving the amended Special Assessment Roll.

The May 27, 2025 Landmark Community Development Authority meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Gaskins called the meeting to order and City Clerk called the roll. All members of Council were presented.

2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed).

Not needed.

Closed Session

3. Closed Session - Consideration of a closed executive session pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(6), (A)(7) and (A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific transportation and federal contract-related legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council convene in closed executive session at 5:35 p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711 (A)(6), (A)(7) and (A)(8) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected; consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific transportation and federal contract-related legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 6-0-1, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:15 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Abstain, Councilman Elnoubi.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0-1, City Council adopted the resolution regarding the closed executive session that was previously circulated to the Council. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Abstain, Councilman Elnoubi.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3292

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 27th day of May, 2025 recessed into executive session pursuant to a motion made and adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the city council that such executive session was conducted in accordance with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters that were identified in the motion by which the executive session was convened, and that are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act from the Act's open meeting requirements, were heard, discussed or considered by council during the executive session.

Opening Matters.

4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council observed a moment of silence and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations and Recognitions

5. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the proclamation. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

6. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing May as Sex Education Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the proclamation. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

Oral Reports

City Council on Boards, Commissions and Committees

7. Oral Reports from Members of Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

***ARHA Redevelopment Work Group (Mayor Gaskins and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that the group discussed opportunity zones and how it was applied in Alexandria and understanding which areas qualify as zones. Mayor Gaskins reported that the group also discussed ideas and plans ARHA has for some of the properties located in the City and how they align with some of the small area plans and collaborations between the two bodies going forward.

***Visit Alexandria Board of Governors (Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board of Governors received an update on the next phase of the strategic planning process and releasing of a draft of the plan for public comment. Mayor Gaskins reported that the City needs to consider how to address large events as Visit Alexandria looks at transitioning away from large event planning.

***Alexandria Gang Prevention Task Force (Councilman Elnoubi and Vice Mayor Bagley)**

Councilman Elnoubi reported that the board received a presentation from an ACHS student about his experience with gangs in the neighborhoods in the City. Councilman Elnoubi the staff liaison proposal on gangs to the staff group. Councilman Elnoubi reported that APD gave a report on youth resources unit that address gang activity in schools.

*** Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board (TPB) (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported there were several presentations including the following: the Transportation Land Use Project recommendations, regional roadway safety project approvals, regional activity centers and bicycle and pedestrian planning activities. Councilman Aguirre reported that the City was awarded \$80,000 for the Beauregard Trail Feasibility Study and another \$80,000 for Braddock Road safety improvements.

***Transportation Commission (Councilman Chapman and Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Commission discussed the DOT Paratransit grant, transportation alternatives grants related to safe routes to school, safe streets and roads for all grant and were endorsed by the Commission. Councilman McPike reported that the Commission will send a draft letter to Council about the composition of the body.

***Stormwater Advisory Committee (Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that the Committee discussed the City's budget and how it will continue to support the work of the body. Councilman Chapman reported that the committee received updates from City staff on various projects.

***Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) (Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilman Chapman reported that he signed a letter to the Congressional delegation regarding ATLAS 15 funding to address NOAA's tracking of historical precipitation and how it impact climate change.

***Citizen Corps Council (Councilman McPike and Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Council received an update from the Office of Emergency Management related to recent storms activity. Councilman McPike reported that Friendship Firehouse Festival will be held in August. Councilman McPike reported that

volunteer Alexandria held six emergency preparedness sessions.

***Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors (Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that the Partnership hosted its first movie night and hosted a happy hour event in conjunction with WEBA. Councilwoman Greene reported that the Board has began work in the strategic plan and there was discussion on how to increase membership.

***COG Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that committee received a presentation from a geologist on research about salt influx into the land and sea and preventative measures that can be used to protect the resources.

City Council General Member Updates

1. Councilman Aguirre attended Bike to Work events that was held throughout the City recently.
2. Councilman Aguirre attended the City's Employee Health Fair hosted by the Human Resources Department.
3. Councilman Aguirre attended an event hosted by the Alexandria's Initiative on Mentoring at Men's Warehouse in Potomac Yard.
4. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Child and Family Network Center Spring Benefit event.
5. Councilman Aguirre attended Library Staff Day at Beatley Library focusing on professional development for employees.
6. Councilman Aguirre and Mayor Gaskins attended the award ceremony at the International Academy.
7. Councilman Aguirre attended the annual dinner hosted by Nova Labor.
8. Councilman Aguirre attended the Old Town Festival for Speed and Style held here on Market Square.
9. Councilman Aguirre recognized FPCA for hosting their annual block party.
10. Councilman Aguirre attended the APTA Legislative Conference and participated in lobbying activities on Capitol Hill.
11. Councilman Aguirre attended the Duke Street Pop-Up held at Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

12. Councilman Aguirre and Mayor Gaskins hosted the Council of Mexico at City Hall and had a discussion with the visiting delegation about local and national politics.
13. Councilman Aguirre attended the DASH ribbon cutting for their new electric vehicles.
14. Councilman Aguirre attended the Seaport Foundation's event and heard a presentation from Oscar Fitzgerald on historical furniture.
15. Councilman Aguirre attended an event at the Alexandria Memorial Cemetery honoring Memorial Day.
16. Councilman Aguirre thanked the colleagues for bringing the MOU between APD and ACPS forward for consideration.
17. Councilman Aguirre participated in a webinar about AI and its use in local government.
18. Councilman McPike reported that the Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award was presented to Dr. Khan from Neighborhood Health and to Debbie Diamond.
19. Councilwoman Greene congratulated the Alexandria City High School seniors on their graduation.
20. Councilman Chapman reported that he would be hosting on June 1, a community spelling bee with Pathways for Progressive Scholars and the Women's Initiative Network.
21. Mayor Gaskins reported that earlier today she and her colleagues hosted students from the City's Boys and Girls Club who were learning about local governments.

City Manager Oral Reports

8. 2025-2027 City Council Priorities Initiatives Updates

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council; marked Item No. 8; 05/27/25 and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council: (1) discussed and considered the proposed 2025-2027 City Council Priorities, as developed during the winter City Council Retreat; (2) received select initiatives for each priority and scheduled for quarterly updates.

ACTION DOCKET

Roll-Call Consent Items (9-11)

9. Consideration of One-Year Lease Extensions to Artists and Arts Organizations ranging from September 30, 2026 through September 30, 2028, at the Torpedo Factory Art Center Located at 105 N. Union Street.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of Authorizing a Grant Application Seeking Funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to fund the City's Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Consideration of a Resolution Affirming City of Alexandria Priorities for Federal Funding Opportunities and Requesting Congressional Delegation Support. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council considered each of the item on the roll-call consent calendar under separate motions.

9. Consideration of One-Year Lease Extensions to Artists and Arts Organizations ranging from September 30, 2026 through September 30, 2028, at the Torpedo Factory Art Center Located at 105 N. Union Street.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council scheduled a public hearing on June 14, 2025, regarding the form and content of the proposed lease extension for leases at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

10. Consideration of Authorizing a Grant Application Seeking Funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to fund the City's Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) authorized Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to apply for and receive a new cycle of funding in the amount of \$500,000 for a thirty-six (36) month grant with no match required. This grant would provide domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking prevention programming in the City of

Alexandria. This is the only source of prevention funding for the Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program, a OVW grant held since 2022; (2) approved the continuation of one full-time Human Service Specialist II position (1 FTE), one part-time (0.5 FTE) Project Manager Consultant to oversee the prevention program, and a group of 6-7 young adult peer advocates who work 4-6 hours per week; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Recusal, Councilman McPike.

11. Consideration of a Resolution Affirming City of Alexandria Priorities for Federal Funding Opportunities and Requesting Congressional Delegation Support. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council endorsed the Resolution Identifying City of Alexandria Priorities for Federal Funding Opportunities and Requesting Congressional Delegation Support for these local priorities and funding proposals. The vote was as follows: Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Recusal, Councilman McPike.

The resolution read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3293

Identifying City of Alexandria Priorities for Community Project Funding and Requesting Congressional Delegation Support

WHEREAS the City of Alexandria is committed to addressing inequalities and needs that impact residents, businesses, workers, and visitors throughout our community, and;

WHEREAS the City of Alexandria invests significant City resources in addressing these inequalities and needs, including in the specific areas of housing security, protection and expansion of our affordable housing stock, business stability and recovery, workforce development, public health and safety, flood mitigation, and;

WHEREAS the United States Congress and the Executive Branch have identified numerous avenues for additional, significant, direct investment in communities as opportunities to create jobs, invest in both people and infrastructure, and work to address the ongoing needs of families, businesses, neighborhoods and communities across our country, and;

WHEREAS currently these funding opportunities include Community Project Funding in appropriations bills in Fiscal Year 2026 and;

WHEREAS this potential funding source presents a significant opportunity for the City to propose and request support from our Congressional delegation for critical projects in specific funding areas to benefit our residents, businesses, workers, and visitors, and;

WHEREAS the City of Alexandria has identified eight projects appropriate for funding through the Community Project Funding process, including:

- Re-employment and upskilling programs and services;
- Affordable housing preservation in Arlandria neighborhood;
- Flash flooding “spot improvement” project;
- Resiliency of City emergency shelter;
- Emergency communications interoperability;
- Technology to support violence intervention and crime prevention;
- Cloud-Based Dispatch System

WHEREAS these projects are clear priorities for the City and address significant inequalities and recognized needs in the City of Alexandria in the areas of human services, community development, public health and safety, and infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Alexandria supports these local priorities and endorses them for consideration for federal funding opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Alexandria calls upon our Congressional delegation to support these local priorities in the areas of human services, community development, public health and safety, and infrastructure and work to secure federal funding for these projects and programs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the Alexandria Congressional delegation – the Honorable Mark R. Warner, the Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, and the Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

Individual Action Items

12. Consideration of a Request to Release Fiscal Year 2025 Contingent Reserve Funds of \$490,575 Allocated for Inova Alexandria Hospital.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum is on file in the Office of City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of the record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0-1 by roll-call vote, City Council approved the release of contingent reserve funds allocated in FY 2025 budget process for Inova Alexandria Hospital in the amount of \$490,575. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Abstain, Councilman Aguirre.

13. Consideration of a Resolution for Submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Regional Transportation Funding FY 2030 program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded Councilman Chapman, and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) adopted the resolution to approve an application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for 70% regional transportation funding for up \$46 million; and, (2) authorized the City Manager to submit the proposal to the NVTA and enter into any necessary agreements with NVTA to accept the funds. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3294

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 70% REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS FOR THE FY 2026-2031 SIX YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS.

WHEREAS, in April, 2013 the General Assembly and Governor approved a new transportation funding bill (HB2313) with all taxes and fees imposed by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, 70% of HB2313 revenues will be allocated by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for capital projects that increase capacity, and are included in the regional long range transportation plan (TransAction), and

WHEREAS, City Council has approved the Eisenhower Avenue Corridor Improvements concept plan, which will enhance mobility, access, and safety for all roadway users in accordance with the Alexandria Mobility Plan, Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, and Vision Zero Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council has approved the Alexandria Mobility Plan, wherein the sidewalk gap along Duke Street and North Van Dorn Street is labeled a priority sidewalk gap, and eliminating this sidewalk gap is important to the pedestrian access and safety to the new West End development on the former Landmark Mall site, including the relocated Inova Hospital.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports an application to the FY 2030-2031 Six-Year Program update for an allocation of up to \$24 million for the implementation of the Eisenhower Avenue Corridor Improvements project (Primary Transaction ID #197 – West End Roadway Improvements, Secondary Transaction ID #90 - Alexandria Bike and Pedestrian Trails Construction and Reconstruction)

2. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports an application to the FY 2030-2031 Six-Year Program update for an allocation of up to \$22 million for the implementation of the Van Dorn/Duke Street Roadway Improvements (Primary Transaction ID #197 – West End Roadway Improvements, Secondary Transaction ID #41 – Alexandria Duke Street Transitway).;
3. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby grants authority for the City Manager to apply for these grant funds and enter into any necessary agreements with the NVTa to accept this grant for all projects described above and execute any documents required to administer these funds and implement the project.

Other Business

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 05/27/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) approved the City Council Look Ahead Calendar to include; Alexandria Fire Department Recruit Graduation Ceremony, June 27, 2025, 10 a.m., Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street: and (2) received the City Council Calendar from May 2025 through December 2025. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

15. Closed Session (if needed).

Not needed.

16. ADJOURNMENT.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of May 27, 2025 at 8:34 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Oppose, none.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: June 10, 2025