

City of Alexandria
City Council Chamber at Del Pepper Community Resource Center
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 5:30 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Ms. Kamara, Independent Police Auditor; Dr. Medina, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Pledger, Acting Deputy City Manager; Mr. Wicks, OMB; Ms. Dawson, Director, Libraries, Mr. McLean, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Greenlief, Director, Finance; Ms. Milnes, Real Estate Assessments; Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Smith, ITS; Mr. Mansoor, ITS, and Police Sgt Alvarez.

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

I. OPENING

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Gaskins called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of Council were present with Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman Greene arriving during closed session.

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

Not needed.

3. Closed Session

Executive Session - Consideration of a closed executive session to discuss a personnel matter. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried 4-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 5:30 p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss the performance of the City Manager, the City Attorney, the City Clerk, and the Independent Police Auditor. The vote was as follows: In favor,

Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, and Councilman Elnoubi; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman Greene.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:11 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

II. Opening Matters

4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Proclamations and Recognitions

5. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing Virginia Flood Awareness Week 2026.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Greene 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, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

6. Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring the Month of March as Irish-American Heritage Month and Honoring St. Patrick's Day.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Chapman 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, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

IV. Oral Reports

City Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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

***Council of Governments(COG) Board of Governors (Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that there was a meeting to debriefing from all of the regional jurisdictions on the response to the January snowstorm event, with an emphasis on communications and staffing for such events. Mayor Gaskins reported that there was a briefing on the Potomac River, focusing on the inceptor collapse, noting that the Virginia recreational water advisory was still in place and would remain in place until the waterways were safe for use.

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

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Work Group received updates on Samuel Madden relocations for residents. Mayor Gaskins reported that the all residents of the Ladrey have been

relocated and the building is vacant. Mayor Gaskins reported that the Group discussed funding for the Ladrey and what that will look like going forward. Mayor Gaskins reported that the Alate were focused on lease up and there programming initiatives happening for the residents of the building. Mayor Gaskins reported that ARHA would be engaging with the City's Planning and Zoning staff so that they are up-to-date on the Duke Street Small Area Plan. Mayor Gaskins also reported that there was a conversation about evictions and ARHA's bookkeeping as well as how to assist residents who owe past due rent.

***Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported Councilman Chapman was appointed to the Legislative Subcommittee to replace former Councilman McPike.

***City Council/School Board Subcommittee (Mayor Gaskins and Councilman Chapman)**

This meeting was cancelled due to weather.

***Waterfront Commission (Vice Mayor Bagley)**

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Commission received an update from the Police Department about crime around the Waterfront. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was not a lot to report on private development activity in the area. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was presentation on how to access the Waterfront from non-motorized watercrafts. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Commission discussed ways to reaffirm their mission.

***Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Vice Mayor Bagley)**

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Board received the Annual Report for the body. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the new CEO was introduced at the meeting. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Board discussed the challenges that the recent snowstorm presented to the railway system.

***Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors (Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that the Board received a presentation from Volunteer Alexandria about the need for volunteers. Councilwoman Greene noted that there were letters of support for upcoming projects in the area presented to the Board. Councilwoman Greene noted that the City Manager's Breakfast will be held on March 19 at AlexRenew. Councilwoman Greene reported that the movie nights will begin on May 16.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that there were four presentations beginning with the Transportation Alternative Set Aside Program, noting that Alexandria won about \$2 million dollars to make improvements around George Washington Middle School and Barrett Library. Councilman Aguirre reported that there as a presentation on Unified Planning Work Program and update on Commuter Connections, and a presentation on regional transportation trends.

***Commission on Aging (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that there was a presentation to the Commission from the Patrick Henry Community Center staff highlighting the different activities and opportunities available at the center for the senior group. Councilman Aguirre reported that there also a presentation on SNAP and implementation issues.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that NVTa introduced their new travel trends dashboard on the website, highlighting travel times around the region. Councilman Aguirre reported that there was approval for some projects from Prince William County and an update from the Governance Committee.

***Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board discussed the possibility of the Libraries becoming a City department instead of being governed by a separate board. Councilman Aguirre requested support from his colleagues to allow more than eight hours of staff time to conduct a study of the integration of libraries into the City organization as a department.

8. City Council General Updates

(a) Councilwoman Greene reported that she along with Alexandria Celebrates Women and the Ivy Foundation will be hosting a Women's Health Forum at the Charles Houston Recreation Center on Sunday, March 8 starting at 11 a.m.

(b) Councilman Aguirre reported that he and some of his colleagues attended the Senior Services of Alexandria's Valentine's Day Luncheon.

(c) Councilman Aguirre and Councilwoman Greene attended the Grand Reopening of the Wells Fargo Bank branch on Washington Street and Oronoco Street.

(d) Councilman Aguirre thanked the organizers and participants of the George Washington Holiday parade.

(e) Councilman Aguirre thanked the Historic Friendship Firehouse for hosting their yearly breakfast in honor of George Washington's birthday.

(f) Councilman Aguirre thanked the GOAlex staff for hosting a Transit/Transportation Trivia Night at Port City Brewery.

(g) Councilman Aguirre congratulated the World Crafted on King on the reopening of their retail space.

(h) Councilman Aguirre CCNA and the Rotary and Lions Clubs for hosting the annual James Bland music competition.

(i) Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Center for Alexandria's Children hosted an event and honored retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, John Porter, and Debra Evans for their work

in the community.

(j) Councilman Chapman reported that Visit Alexandria held their What's New in 2026 event, where Mayor Gaskins was a speaker.

(l) Councilman Chapman reported that he attended a kickoff event for the National Innovation Corridor, located in National Landing, to accelerate technology initiatives.

(m) Mayor Gaskins reported that he attended an event with the George Washington Memorial Society held at the Masonic Temple and they were launching a new exhibit in honor of America's 250.

(n) Mayor Gaskins thanked Ms. Gross, Librarian at ACHS Minnie Howard Campus, for an invitation to speak to the students for Black History Month.

9. City Manager's Oral Report

City Manager Parajon reported that the Office of Historic Alexandria participated with the American Alliance of Museums on Social Impact and Practice Survey, noting how the work of the department enhances the quality of life in Alexandria.

V. Action Docket Roll-Call Consent Items (10)

10. Authorization to Accept a Grant Award from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to Enhance and Expand the Department of Community and Human Services' Economic Mobility Work.

(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; 02/24/26, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the action docket. The approval was as follows:

10. City Council: (1) authorized the acceptance of a Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund grant award to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) in the amount of \$170,000, which will extend through April 30, 2028; (2) pursuant to the grant, approved the establishment of an Office of Financial Empowerment within DCHS' Center for Economic Support. The office will enable a strategic, coordinated and sustainable approach to ensuring economic stability and upward mobility for all Alexandrians; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents required.

The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

VI. Individual Items (Roll-Call Items)

11. Consideration of the Calendar Year 2026 Real Property Assessments

(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; 02/24/26, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the report, including 2026 Notices of Assessment, which include the previous two calendar years and percentage change in the tax levy when applicable, will be mailed to property owners on February 25.

12. Presentation of the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2027 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2027 to FY 2036 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

City Manager Parajon presented the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2027 (including Schools), the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2027 to FY 2036 (including Schools CIP), and the proposed tax rate recommendations and announced the schedule for budget work sessions for the season.

VII. Contested Appointment

13. Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority - 4-year term
3 citizen members

(The following persons volunteered for appointment to the above Commission)

NAME:

Dan Brendel
Felicia L. Brewster-Bradshaw
Kanesha Brown
Britton T. Burdick
Michael T. Butler
Joshua Byrnes
William E. Campbell
Jacquelyn Carter
Abdessamad El Gourd
Norman M. Ellis, III
Anna Gray
Kenis Harris
Cecelia Hunter
Darly Duchange Joseph
Cassandra Lewis
Jared Loiben
Asia K. Nichols-Ford
Charity Ogbeide
David Parker
Ronesha C. Parker
Alexander M. Pressman
Albert D. Sam, II

Annette Santiago
Charles A. Sumpter
Kia L. Terry
Rawley Vaughan
Pavlo Villhauer
Chandler I. Wilkins
George Ziworitin

(Material pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 02/24/26, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, ballots were distributed, tellers were appointed, and ballots were tallied with the following results: City Council appointed Michael T. Butler, Cassandra Lewis and Anna Gray as the three citizen members to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The vote was as follows:

Gaskins	-	Butler, Gray, Lewis
Bagley	-	Butler, Gray, Lewis
Aguirre	-	Butler, Lewis, Sam
Chapman	-	Butler, Campbell, Sam
Elnoubi	-	Butler, Gray, Parker
Greene	-	Butler, Gray, Lewis

VIII. Other Business

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(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; 02/24/26, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

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

15. Closed Session (if needed)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in closed session at 9:38 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session 10:45 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolution previously

circulated to Council regarding the closed executive session. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3366

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 24th day of February, 2026 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.

16. Adjournment.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of February 24, 2026 at 10:47 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: April 14, 2026