

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7:00 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting**

Present: Mayor Justin M. Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy B. Jackson, Members of Council Canek Aguirre, Sarah R. Bagley, John Taylor Chapman, Alyia Gaskins, and R. Kirk McPike.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Fleming, Director, Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE); Ms. McLean, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Ms. Wedeles, City Manager's Office; Police Chief Hayes; Assistant Police Chief McDonald; Assistant Police Chief Laguna, Assistant Police Chief Pedroso; Sheriff Casey; Deputy Sheriff Canas; Mr. Funderburke, Acting Interim Deputy City Manager; Ms. Teate, OCCE; Mr. Browand, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Ms. Pledger, Director/Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Durham, Deputy Director, RPCA; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Mr. Wise, General Services; Ms. Odell, Court Services; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS, Mr. Barre, ITS; and Police Lt. North.

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

I. OPENING MATTERS

1. Calling the Roll

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called roll. All members of City Council were present, with Vice Mayor Jackson participating via Zoom webinar.

2. Electronic Participation Resolution

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolution for electronic participation by members of Council. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3206

Resolution Regarding Electronic Participation by a Member of City Council

WHEREAS, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2 provides that an individual member of a public body may fully participate in meetings electronically if any such member meets the criterial of the code and the public body has adopted an Electronic Meeting Policy; and

WHEREAS, City Council adopted an Electronic Participation Policy on June 22, 2021 as Resolution No. 3011; and

WHEREAS, City Council Member Amy Jackson notified the Mayor and the Clerk that she is unavailable to be physically present for the December 16, 2023 City Council Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically illness, and

WHEREAS the Council Member has not participated in more than two or 25% of City Council Meetings by electronic means during this calendar year; and

WHEREAS the City Council Member will participate in the City Council Meeting by Zoom Video Conference Call from her home in Alexandria, Virginia, and arrangements have been made to ensure the member shall be heard by all participants at the City Council Meeting; and

WHEREAS a quorum of the City Council is physically assembled in person.

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

That pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 and the City Council’s Electronic Meeting Policy Resolution 3011, City Council Member Amy Jackson will participate remotely in this meeting by video conference call.

3. Closed Session (If needed)

Not needed.

4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Reading and Acting Upon the Minutes of the Following Meetings of City Council:

- The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023;
- The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2023;
- The Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023;
- The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023; and
- The Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2023.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council adopted the minutes of the following meetings: the regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2023, the public hearing meeting minutes of November 18, 2023, the regular meeting minutes of November 28, 2023, the regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2023, and the public hearing meeting minutes of December 16, 2023. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman

Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

6. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing January as Alexandria Mentoring Month.

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

7. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

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

8. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

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

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

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Commission discussion bills that would part of the City's legislative package.

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

Councilman Aguirre noted that the Board would be receiving a report on pedestrian safety and how to improve the safety for the region.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) (Councilman Aguirre and Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that Councilmember Bagley would be serving secretary/treasurer for the next term for NVTC. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Commission received an update on WMATA and their budget shortfall. Councilmember

Bagley reported that Commission reviewed the strategic plan for the regional jurisdictions. Councilmember Bagley reported that NVTC adopted the VRE u budget for FY25.

***Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Board adopted the annual budget for VRE at their meeting, noting that there was the acceptance of the five dollar fare for zones 1 and 3. Councilmember Bagley also reported that the Board approved free rides for children under 18 on VRE. Councilmember Bagley noted that there will be a 5% fare increase for riders. Councilmember Bagley reported that she would serve as the Vice Chair next session.

***Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) (Councilmember Bagley and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilmember Bagley noted that an update will be provided after the Commission meets tomorrow.

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

Councilman Chapman reported that he would be sharing with his colleagues a report that highlights all the work of the Commission over the past year. Councilman Chapman report that two long term commissioners from Falls Church and Fairfax County ended their service on NVRC. Councilman Chapman reported that NVRC would be asking the state for increased funding for planning districts in the region.

III. Oral Report from the City Manager

City Manager Parajon gave an update on the planned community engagement plan for the proposed entertainment district in Potomac Yard, reviewing the resources that will be available for the public to engage in a discussion about the proposed project.

IV. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar (9-13)

9. Receipt of the following resignations from Members of Boards, Commissions, and Committees:
 - (a) Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
Karen Graf
Kathy Stenzel
 - (b) Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission
Sara Waskowicz
 - (c) Commission on Information Technology
Karen Graf
 - (d) Community Service Board

Henry Johnson

(A copy of the above resignations is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item 9 (a-d); 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Uncontested Appointments for Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- (a) Building Code of Appeals - 5-year term
1 citizen member
- (b) Commission for the Arts - 3-year term
1 professional in fields relevant to arts and cultural development, including cultural planning, marketing, finance, funding, tourism, promotion, non-profit organizational development, and real estate development.
- (c) Commission for Women - 3-year term
2 citizen members
- (d) Commission on Aging - 2-year term
1 citizen 60 years or older
- (e) Commission on Information Technology - 3-year term
1 citizen member
- (f) Historic Alexandria Resources Commission - 2-year term
1 Lee-Fendall House representative
1 community representative
- (g) Historical Restoration & Preservation Commission - 4-year term
1 citizen member
- (h) Human Rights Commission - 3-year term
1 citizen member
- (i) Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee - 2-year term
1 member representing the Potomac East area
1 representative of Civic Association in Potomac Yard
- (j) Sister Cities Committee - 2-year term
1 citizen member

(A copy of the materials for the above appointments is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Consideration of the Release of \$75,000 from FY 2024 Contingent Reserves to Pilot Mental Health Services at Recreation Centers.

(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; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

12. Consideration of the Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2023.

(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. 12; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

13. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 2-4-100 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION) of Article L (ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

(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; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar, with the exception of items 9 and 11, which were considered under separate motions. The City Manager's approval was as follows:

10. City Council appointed the following persons to Boards, Commissions, and Committees: (a) appointed Melissa Hodge as the citizen member to the Building Code Board of Appeals; (b) appointed William Kurowski as the professional in fields relevant to arts and cultural development, including cultural planning, marketing, finance, funding, tourism, promotion, non-profit organizational development, and real estate development to the Commission for the Arts; (c) appointed Kendra Green and reappointed Anuja Miner as the two citizen members to the Commission for Women; (d) appointed Victoria Rutson as the citizen 60 years or older to the Commission on Aging; (e) appointed Heather Barrows as the citizen member to the Commission on Information Technology; (f) reappointed Laura Lieberman as the Lee-Fendall House representative and appointed Tim Rose as the community representative to the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission; (g) appointed Richard Klingemaier as the citizen member to the Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission; (h) appointed April Breslaw as the citizen member to the Human Rights

Commission; (i) appointed Matthew Razzano as the member representing the Potomac East area and appointed Daniel Roth as the representative of a civic association in Potomac Yard to the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee; and (j) appointed Jennifer Eidemiller as the citizen member to the Sister Cities Committee.

12. City Council received the Monthly Financial Report.

13. City Council approved the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

9. Receipt of the following resignations from Members of Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

(a) Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
Karen Graf
Kathy Stenzel

(b) Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission
Sara Waskowicz

(c) Commission on Information Technology
Karen Graf

(d) Community Service Board
Henry Johnson

(A copy of the above resignations is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item 9 (a-d); 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council received with regret the following resignations from Boards, Commissions and Committees: (a) Karen Graf and Kathy Stenzel, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee; (b) Sara Waskowicz, Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission; (c) Karen Graf, Commission on Information Technology; and (d) Henry Johnson, Community Services Board. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

11. Consideration of the Release of \$75,000 from FY 2024 Contingent Reserves to Pilot Mental Health Services at Recreation Centers.

(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; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried unanimously, City Council allocated \$75,000 held in FY 2024 General Fund contingent reserves to enable the distribution of funding to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) budget to pilot varied mental health supports for youth and their families at City recreation centers. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike.

Roll-Call Consent Calendar

None.

V. ACTION MATTERS

Contested Appointments of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

- 14. Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee - 2-year term
1 citizen member

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

NAME:

Candace Harman
Angelique Moss

(Material pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, ballots were distributed, tellers were appointed, and ballots tallied with the following results: City Council reappointed Angelique Moss as the citizen member to the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. The vote was as follows:

Wilson	-	Moss
Jackson	-	Moss
Aguirre	-	Moss
Bagley	-	Moss
Chapman	-	Moss
Gaskins	-	Moss
McPike	-	Moss

- 15. Alexandria Renew Enterprises - 4-year term
1 citizen member

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

NAME:

Adrianna Caldarelli
Chris Psihoules

(Materials pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 15; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, ballots were distributed, tellers were appointed, and ballots tallied with the following results: City Council reappointed Adrianna Caldarelli as the citizen member to Alexandria Renew Enterprises. The vote was as follows:

Wilson	-	Caldarelli
Jackson	-	Cardarelli
Aguirre	-	Cardarelli
Bagley	-	Cardarelli
Chapman	-	Cardarelli
Gaskins	-	Cardarelli
McPike	-	Cardarelli

16. Commission on Employment - 2-year term
1 citizen member

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

NAME:

Timothy Gants
Kevin Jackson, Jr.
Channing Pinkos
Fnu Shokula

(Materials pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 16; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, ballots were distributed, tellers were appointed, and ballots tallied with the following results: City Council appointed Fnu Shokula as the citizen member to the Commission on Employment. The vote was as follows:

Wilson	-	Shokula
Jackson	-	Shokula
Aguirre	-	Shokula
Bagley	-	Shokula
Chapman	-	Shokula
Gaskins	-	Shokula
McPike	-	Shokula

17. Commission on Persons with Disabilities - 2-year term
1 business representative

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

NAME:

Robbi Woodson

(Materials pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 17; 01/09/24, 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 waived the residency requirement and appointed Robbi Woodson as the business representative to the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. The vote was follows:

Wilson	-	Woodson
Jackson	-	Woodson
Aguirre	-	Woodson
Bagley	-	Woodson
Chapman	-	Woodson
Gaskins	-	Woodson
McPike	-	Woodson

18. Environmental Policy Commission - 2-year term
1 citizen member

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

NAME:

Kishla Atkins
Kelsey Muka
Michael Olex

(Materials pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 18; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, ballots were distributed, tellers were appointed, and ballots tallied with the following results: City Council appointed Kishla Atkins as the citizen member to the Environmental Policy Commission. The vote was as follows:

Wilson	-	Olex
Jackson	-	Olex
Aguirre	-	Olex
Bagley	-	Atkins
Chapman	-	Atkins
Gaskins	-	Atkins

McPike - Atkins

19. Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee - 2-year term
1 member representing the Potomac East area

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

NAME:

James Horsman

(Materials pertaining to the above appointment is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 19; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council moved to readvertise the vacancy for this Committee. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

Recommendations from the City Manager

None.

Resolutions

None.

Ordinances

20. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to amend Section 5-2-62 (CHANGES OF NAMES) of Article C (STREET NAMES), Chapter 2 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, by adding thereto a new subsection (18) to Re-Name Streets Currently Named for Confederate Leaders.

(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. 20; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 20; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the

City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 20; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council approved the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, January 20, 2024 and incorporate the new names into the proposed ordinance for passage. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

21. Oral Reports and Oral Presentations from Members of City Council

1. Councilman McPike that the Board of Elections and the Voter Registrar's Office for working on the Special Elections for the School Board and preparing for early voting.

2. Councilman Aguirre congratulated First Night Alexandria for a successful event and thanked them for the addition of the early fireworks display this year.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

22. Consideration of City Council Calendar.

(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. 22; 01/09/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

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

Closed Session (If needed)

Not needed.

VII. ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of January 9, 2024 at 9:35 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON **MAYOR**

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: February 13, 2024