

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 10, 2025, 5:30 p.m. – City Hall
City Council Special Budget Public Hearing 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. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, OMB; Ms. Pledger, CIO, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Mclean, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS, and Police Lt. May.

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 City Council were present, with Councilman Chapman arriving at 5:39 p.m.

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

Not needed.

3. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2026 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2026 to FY 2035 (including Schools CIP), and Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

The following persons participated in the budget public hearing:

1. Marta Schantz, Alexandria, representing the Environmental Policy Commission, support City climate action in transportation, improving climate resilience and focuses on environmental justice. Ms. Schantz requested that the Council take an eco-city approach to planning and budgeting, explore the feasibility of a carbon budget, eco-city internal revolving fund, and the Eco-City coordinating group participation.

2. Scot A. Bryant, Alexandria, spoke in support of additional funding for the George

Washington Birthday Celebration Parade.

3. Sue Johnson, Alexandria, spoke in support of the additional funding for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade.

4. Tyler Vance, Alexandria, spoke in support of increased funding for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee Parade, as well as other parades that fuel economic development.

5. Sandra Welch, Alexandria, spoke in support of the additional funding for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade.

6. Jessica Lefevre, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of employment opportunities for older Alexandrians by funding a business accelerator program targeted for older Alexandrians; funding for affordable assisted living; and more support for tax relief programs.

7. Shelley Murphy McCabe, Alexandria, representing AHAAC, spoke in support of affordable housing and maintaining the Office of Housing budget to support the programs.

8. Melissa Elbirt, Alexandria, requested that the City divest from conducting business with Amazon because of violations as workers, the environment and human rights.

9. Janice Grenadier, Alexandria, spoke about reducing the funding for fighting corruption in the judicial system and law enforcement.

10. Amanda Eisenhour, Alexandria, requested that the City divest from companies supporting Israel and genocide.

11. Carol Myers, Alexandria, spoke in support of the additional funding for the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade.

12. Hanna Metuda, Herndon, Virginia, representing the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, spoke in support funding for affordable housing in the City and thanked the City for its current investment in affordable housing.

13. Danielle Romanetti, Alexandria, spoke about the concerns from the City's business owners and requested funding for support of the small business community.

14. John B. Hill, Alexandria, representing the Stormwater Advisory Committee, spoke in support of the investments for flood prevention in the proposed budget.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing on the City Manager's proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2026 (including Schools) and the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2026 to FY 2035 (including Schools CIP), and Proposed Tax Rate recommendations. 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.

II. Adjourn.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the Special Budget Public Hearing Meeting of Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:21 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; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: April 8, 2025