

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 - 6:00 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; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. S. Taylor, Legislative Director; Ms. K. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Page, Assistant Director of Finance; Ms. Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation and Environmental Services; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Jovovich, Office of Housing; Ms. Beach, Planning and Zoning; Mr. Farner, Planning and Zoning, Ms. Landrum, Economic Development Partnership; Ms. Buttar, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Jones, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Mr. Lloyd.

Recorded by: Keia Waters, Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

6:00 p.m. - Landmark Community Development Authority Board Meeting

City Council held the Landmark CDA Board Meeting.

I. OPENING MATTERS

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the city council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and the Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All members of City Council were present.

2. Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed)

3. Closed Session

Executive Session - Consideration of a Closed Executive Session for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation in the matter of *Lisa Lapp, et al. v. United States of America, et al.*, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the city. [ROLL CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried 7-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:04 p.m., for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation in the matter of *Lisa Lapp, et al. v. United States of America, et al.*, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would

adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the city, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8) of the Code of Virginia. 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:01 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolution regarding the closed executive session previously circulated to 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. 3207

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 24 day of January 2024 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.

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 February as Black History Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson 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

City Council on Boards, Commissions and Committees

***Alexandria Gang Prevention Task Force (Councilman Aguirre and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilwoman Gaskins reported that the task force received an update from the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center and noted a discussion on the challenges of prior substance abuse amongst the youth coming in.

Councilwoman Gaskins highlighted new program called the GREAT Program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) for youth on probation and parole. Councilwoman Gaskins also noted a conversation about data for APD hot spot and known going activity maps.

Councilman Aguirre noted a recommendation to start preparing budget letters regarding concerns and funding metrics that we should began looking into.

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

Councilman Aguirre highlighted a discussion with the UPWP (Unified Plan Work Program) and what its purpose entails. Councilman Aguirre noted National Capital Trail updates and the new trail website.

***Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) (Councilman Aguirre and Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported on the downward trend from the results of the Alexandria Youth Risk Behavior survey but noted there were some areas for improvement. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Wrap It Up program has dispensed 26,112 condoms in two months.

***COG Board of Directors (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson reported on the receipt of the Chief Administrative Officers Workgroup on Metro WMATA cost structure interim report.

***ARHA Redevelopment Committee (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the board received an update on Ladrey and the timing of the selection for development partners who will be in the pool for ARHA properties. Mayor Wilson also noted the financial update and ongoing HUD approvals.

City Schools Subcommittee

Mayor Wilson reported on a presentation from the new lobbyist, Advantist Strategies, hired by the School Board. Mayor Wilson noted that the state only funds about 19% of the schools' budget.

Mayor Wilson highlighted an update on collective bargaining and the linkage between the city and the school boards process.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported there was no quorum but discussed an update that the Kings

and Commonwealth bridges are now included in the phase one improvement update. Councilmember Bagley also noted a discussion regarding the 2050 Plan and the population growth in cities south of Alexandria.

***School + Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) (Councilmember Bagley and Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Councilmember Bagley reported the current MOU for SRO's has been in place for two more years and the group discussed plans to focus on desired outcomes and actions that will lead to those outcomes. Councilmember Bagley commended staff for productive meetings.

Vice Mayor Jackson noted they have great meetings but need more than one hour for these meetings.

Alexandria Transportation Commission

Councilman McPike reported on an update on the Holmes Run trail repairs and sites 2 and 3 should be completed by fall, however, site 1 is not slated to be completed until early 2026.

Councilman McPike noted three grant programs for the city to take advantage of and the 2024 work plan regarding transportation issues at Potomac Yard Entertainment District.

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

Councilwoman Gaskins reported on an update on the Community Health Assessment to better understanding on how to connect with young people in our community. Councilwoman Gaskins noted five align strategies for how the work of youth serving groups can work together: job readiness, increase support and services; out of school time learning, digital divide, and increasing resources for social and emotional learning.

Councilwoman Gaskins also noted a conversation on the budget process and conversations with City Council and ACPS.

Councilmember Bagley added a conversation on how to reach and recruit youth better and asked youth in attendance to provide input.

III. Oral Report from the City Manager

5a. Potomac Yard Entertainment District Update.

Kendal Taylor, Director of Finance, Stephanie Landrum, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Jimmy Sanderson and Ty Wellford, Davenport & Company, provided an update on the legislation from the General Assembly and financial and economic impacts.

6. Update on the 2024 General Assembly Session.

Sarah Taylor, Legislative Director, provide City Council with an update on the General Assembly. She highlighted legislation to expand the deadline for CSO project, expand the electronic meeting participation policy, and the administrative fee to supplement localities Alcohol Safety Action Programs. Ms. Taylor also highlighted legislation to support school construction, campaign finance reforms, minimum wage increase, and gun safety.

Ms. Taylor reported on budget amendment for funding formula for shared state and local employees, funding for Douglas Cemetery restoration project, and a pilot program for residents facing evictions. She noted there are over 400 bills that the city is tracking that fall under the city's priorities.

7. Alexandria West Planning Update.

Jeff Farner and Carrie Beach of Planning and Zoning updated council on the community comments and planning process regarding the proposed plan framework elements (Land Uses, Design, Building Scale, Housing Strategy, Mobility, and Open Space), concepts that will serve as the foundation of the future plan.

IV. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar

None.

Roll-Call Consent Calendar (8-9)

8. Consideration of Grant Applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the FY 2025 State Aid Grant Programs for Capital and Operating Assistance, Commuter Assistance Program grants, and Transit Ridership Incentive Program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated January 16, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 1/23/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of a Resolution Designating the Sites of the Ladrey Senior High Rise and 600 N. Fairfax Street (the former Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority Headquarters) a Revitalization Area. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated January 16, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 1/23/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

8. The City Council (1) Approve a resolution (Attachment 1) to support application and submission to DRPT by February 1, 2024 for the following: (a) Up to \$37,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance (b) Up to \$400,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance for Hybrid Bus Parts (c) Up to \$350,000 for Commuter Assistance Program (CAP) (d) Up to \$110,000 Public Transportation Workforce Development Program (e) Up to \$300,000 for the Demonstration Assistance Program (f) Up to \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program and (2) Authorize the City Manager and DASH General Manager to apply for State Aid Grants to apply for State Aid Grants through the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and enter into any necessary agreements with the commonwealth and /or NVTC to accept and implement the grants.

RESOLUTION NO. 3208
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATIONS
FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STATE
AID GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2025

WHEREAS, in 2018, the General Assembly passed HB 1539, which required the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to update the State Aid Grant Programs for operating and capital assistance based on performance metrics beginning in FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, HB 1539 establishes separate prioritization processes for the Board's Six Year-Improvement Program, state of good repair projects, and major expansion projects and makes numerous changes to the administration of revenues for mass transit in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application for Operating Assistance State Aid for the City of Alexandria to include up to \$3 7,000,000 in eligible expenses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application for Capital Assistance State Aid of up to \$400,000 to acquire batteries, and spare parts for DASH hybrid buses in an effort to extend the useful lives of these buses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Commuter Assistance Program for up to \$350,000 to increase the percentage of commuters using alternative transportation options; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Public Transportation Workforce Development Program for up to \$110,000 to continue funding two planning intern positions to gain valuable experience in the public transportation industry; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Demonstration Project Assistance Program for up to \$300,000 to fund a pilot project to support and enhance the customer experience through a passenger information screen pilot and to improve safety by increasing visibility in blind spots; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Transit Rider Incentive Program for up to \$500,000 to fund bus stop amenities city wide to increase safety and improve the rider experience;

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

1. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports the applications for State Aid funding for up to \$1,660,000 in State Aid Grant Programs, and \$3 7,000,000 in State Aid Transit Operating Assistance for eligible expenses through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) State Aid Grant Programs; and
2. The City Council hereby commits to include funds for its local match up to \$312,000 for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation

Commission for the State Aid Grant Programs, if awarded, in the FY 2025 budget or supplemental appropriation process; and

3. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby grants authority for the City Manager and the DASH General Manager to enter into any necessary agreements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or NVTC and to execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program to accept and implement the grants.

9. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents as may be necessary to support ARHA's applications for Low Income Housing Tax Credits related to Ladrey Redevelopment Project and Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 3209

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 36-55.30:2.A of the Code of the Virginia of 1950, as amended, the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, desires to designate the sites which will include the proposed Ladrey Redevelopment Project Site as the area (the "Area") described on Exhibit A attached hereto, as a revitalization area;

WHEREAS, the proposed Area will support a mixed-use development, mixed income development, including 270 rental units affordable to households at a range of incomes, from at-or- below 30% to 80% of the Area Median Income;

WHEREAS, the revitalization area is blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating or, if not rehabilitated, likely to deteriorate by reason that the buildings, improvements or other facilities in such area are subject to one or more of the following conditions- dilapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, light or sanitation, excessive land coverage, deleterious land use, or faulty or otherwise inadequate design, quality or condition;

WHEREAS, private enterprise and investment are not reasonably expected, without assistance, to produce decent, safe and sanitary housing and supporting facilities that will meet the needs of low- and moderate-income persons and families in such area and thereby create a desirable economic mix of residents in such area;

WHEREAS, the range and amount of housing affordability proposed in this Area would not be economically feasible without the provision of federal low-income housing tax credits along with City investment at advantageous rates and terms; and

WHEREAS, the proposed redevelopment will provide a critical source of affordable housing for current and future low-and-moderate income residents at a range of incomes whose tenancy and local employment is essential to the Alexandria's future economic development and sustainability, as well as to the City's strategic goal of maintaining neighborhoods that are diverse, inclusive and true mixed-income communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY DETERMINED BY CITY COUNCIL that:

(1) The revitalization area is blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating or, if not rehabilitated, likely to deteriorate by reason that the buildings, improvements or other facilities in such area are subject to one or more of the following conditions- dilapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, light or sanitation, excessive land coverage, deleterious land use, or faulty or otherwise inadequate design, quality or condition; and

(2) Private enterprise and investment are not reasonably expected, without assistance, to produce the construction or rehabilitation of decent, safe and sanitary housing and supporting facilities that will meet the needs of low-and- moderate income persons and families in the Area and induce other persons and families to live within such area thereby creating a desirable economic mix of residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 36-55.30:2.A of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Area is hereby designated as a revitalization area.

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.

V. ACTION MATTERS

Action Recommendations from the City Manager

10. Consideration of Youth Safety and Resilience Recommendations.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council accept the Youth Safety and Resilience recommendations. 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.

Resolutions

None.

Ordinances

None.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

11. Oral Reports and Oral Presentations by Members of City Council

1. Councilman Aguirre reported on Commission in Aging meeting and highlighted a presentation from the Prevention of Violence Society and the concerns regarding the LaDrey project.

2. Councilman Aguirre congratulated the newly elected officers of the Progressive Club.

3. Councilman Aguirre gave a shout out to the Webelo Pack 129, where he spoke to scouts about how local government works.

4. Councilman Aguirre attended Virginia Transit Lobby Day in Richmond and spoke with delegates and senators.

5. Councilman Chapman informed council of a forthcoming memo regarding the creation of an Annual Commission of the Year Award.

12. Consideration of City Council Calendar.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated January 16, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 1/23/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council to approve City Council Schedule with updates. 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.

13. Closed Session (if needed)

VII. ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried 7-0, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of January 23, 2024 at 11:22 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:

Keia Waters, CMC, Deputy City Clerk