

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 6:00 PM – City Hall
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. Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. McPike, Director, General Services; Mr. Skrabak, Deputy Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Ms. Dawson, Director, Libraries; Ms. Davis, Office of Historic Alexandria; Ms. Castenada, Director, T&ES; Mr. Labra, Deputy Director, Libraries; Ms. Jackson, Office of Historic Alexandria; Ms. Fleming, Director, Office of Communication and Community Engagement; Ms. Brown, Deputy City Attorney; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Dubin, Assistant City Attorney; Ms. Atwood, T&ES; Ms. Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Landes, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); 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 Council were present, with Vice Mayor Bagley arriving after roll call and Councilman McPike participating via Zoom webinar.

2. Approval of the Electronic Participation Resolution (Councilman McPike) [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 6-0, City Council adopted the electronic participation resolution. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Vice Mayor Bagley.

The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution No. 3269

Resolution Regarding Electronic Participation by a Member of City Council

WHEREAS, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3 provides that an individual member of a public body may fully participate in meetings electronically if any such member meets the criteria 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 R. Kirk McPike has notified the Mayor and the Clerk that he is unavailable to be physically present for the January 28, 2025 City Council Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically travel for work; 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 R. Kirk McPike will participate in the City Council Meeting by video conference call from California 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 2.2-3708.3 and the City Council's Electronic Meeting Policy Resolution 3011, City Council Member R. Kirk McPike will participate remotely in this meeting by video conference call.

2a. Closed Session.

Consideration of a closed executive session for consultation with legal counsel and staff 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 specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by legal counsel.
[ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:01 p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(7) - 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. 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 unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:06 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, 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 Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3270

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 28th day of January, 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.

3. **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

4. **Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing February as Black History Month.**

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, 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.

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

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

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board elected Rodney Lusk from Fairfax County as the new chair of the Board. Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board reviewed the audit report and

reviewed the financials for the body. Mayor Gaskins reported that there was a review of the Board's Legislative Package. Mayor Gaskins reported that COG is sponsoring an Economic Mobility Learning Cohort to review economic mobility for the region.

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

Mayor Gaskins reported that Visit Alexandria will be engaging in a strategic planning effort to develop a plan for tourism and visitor attraction to the City with an outside consultant. Mayor Gaskins reported that there was a presentation from City staff on the resident survey. Mayor Gaskins reported that there was an update on the effectiveness of holiday campaign.

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

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board received an update on the projects happening along the Eisenhower corridor, including the transportation projects approved by Council in the fall as it relates to Eisenhower and Van Dorn. Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board is planning for the City Manager's breakfast that will be held in March.

***Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Gaskins and Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the subcommittee discussed 61 bills that are before the General Assembly for consideration, including bills related to housing, pet safety, pension, and environmental priorities.

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

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was an update on the DSUP for the Robinson Terminal North project. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was presentation to the Commission for the Seaport Foundation. Vice Mayor Bagley noted that there was an update on flood mitigation and snow removal along the Waterfront.

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

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that she was elected chair of VRE at their recent meeting. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was discussion of the complications that come with weather conditions for the system. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was a discussion of the acquisition of the Manassas line.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (Vice Mayor Bagley and Councilman Aguirre)**

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that NVTC elected their new slate of officers, and she will serve a vice chair. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was a discussion of the WMATA budget and ridership. Vice Mayor Bagley discussed the move to payment through credit card tap. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that they passed the guiding funding principles.

***Council of Governments (COG) Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) (Vice Mayor Bagley)**

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that she is serving as the chair of the committee, and the meeting was about setting priorities for the upcoming year. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was discussion about data centers in the region. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was discussion about a mode shift for travel.

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

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that she and Councilman Elnoubi did not attend the meeting and would provide an update at the next meeting.

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

Councilwoman Greene reported that the Committee reviewed legislative priorities and discussed the bills that are currently in review in the General Assembly. Councilwoman Greene reported that Committee discussed potential grant opportunities.

IV. Oral Report from the City Manager

5. Discussion Regarding Options for the Regulation of Leaf Blowers.

City Council received a report from staff on regulation of leaf blowers in the City, with option for implementing possible ban. City Council requested additional information on outreach to residents and small businesses, timeline for implementation, education on alternative leaf removal methods, a phased approach to implementing a ban, support for small businesses, acceleration of City transition for replacing its equipment, and budgetary impact of implementation of a ban.

6. Progress Report on the City Hall Renovation and Market Square Project.

City Council received an update on the proposed renovation of City Hall and Market Square highlighting community engagement strategies and plans for the remodel of City Hall. City staff responded to questions from Council about the location of Council chamber, use of space in City Hall for workforce, environmental sustainability of the remodeled building and plaza, and cost of the renovations.

7. Waterfront Flood Mitigation Pump Station Briefing.

City Council received an update and report on the proposed Waterfront Flood Mitigation Pump Station and staff responded to questions from Council about communication with the community about the project, design of the proposed building, historic interpretation and art incorporation into the project and plans for community engagement as the project begins and progresses, sustainability design for the building.

8. General Assembly Update.

City Staff gave an update on the General Assembly and the legislation that the City was

watching and supporting for passage during this session.

Please Note: Councilman McPike left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

V. Regular Consent Calendar (9)

9. Consideration of Appointment of a Police Officer Alternate Representative to the City of Alexandria Firefighters and Police Officers Pension Board.

(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; 01/28/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried 6-0, City Council approved the regular consent calendar. The approval was as follows:

9. City Council appointed Joseph Cavanaugh as Police Officer Alternate Representative to the City of Alexandria Firefighters and Police Officers Pension Board for the period of February 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman McPike.

VI. ACTION MATTERS

Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager

Councilman Elnoubi made the following disclosure statement: Due to my employment with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, I have a potential personal interest in this transaction, but after discussing the matter with the City Attorney I have determined that I am able to participate in this item under the law and affirm that I am able to participate in the transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

10. Consideration of Grant Applications to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the FY 2026 State Aid Grant Programs for Capital and Operating Assistance, MERIT, CAP Workforce Development, TRIP, Demonstration Projects, and Technical Assistance. [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. 10; 01/28/ 25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) adopted a resolution to support an application and submission to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) by February 1, 2025, for the following programs:

- *up to \$40,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance;
- *up to \$21,000,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance;
- *up to \$200,000 for the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP);

*up to \$100,000 for Technical Assistance;
*up to \$110,000 for Public Transportation Workforce Development Program;
*up to \$100,000 for the Demonstration Project Assistance Program;
*up to \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP); and
*up to \$150,000 for free Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) student fares (TRIP); and (2) authorized the City Manager to commit local funds of up to \$9,500,000, of which: (a) up to \$6,382,600 is currently programmed in the CIP under DASH Bus Fleet Replacement for FY 2026 in local funds; (b) \$2,745,000 has already been programmed in the CIP in a previous year under DASH Upper Deck Repairs; (c) approximately \$300,000 can be funded through the Go Alex Fund from developer contributions on from NVTA 30% funds; and \$22,000 can be funded through DASH Operating funds; and (3) authorized the City Manager to apply for State Aid Grants through the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and enter into any necessary agreements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or NVTC to accept and implement the grants. The vote was 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. 3271

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STATE AID GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2026

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 \$40,000,000 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 \$21,200,000 to acquire spare parts for DASH hybrid buses extend the useful lives of these buses, bus replacements and roof deck repairs and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Commuter Assistance Program for up to \$200,000 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 Technical Assistance Grant for up to \$100,000 for a CAP Strategic Plan and Baseline Data Collection for the Transportation Management Program (TMP); 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 or apprentice 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 \$100,000 to fund pilot project to the implementation of a mirrorless camera system that would help align with the requirements of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) by enhancing safety and visibility to reduce pedestrian and vehicle incidents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit an application to the Transit Rider Incentive Program for up to \$650,000 to fund bus stop amenities city wide to increase safety and improve the rider experience and free rides on WMATA Metrobus and Metrorail for middle school and high school students;

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 up to \$62,360,000 and eligible expenses through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for the State Aid Grant Programs, and
2. The City Council hereby commits to include funds for its local match up to \$7 million for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for the State Aid Grant Programs, if awarded, in its Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget; 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.

Please note this item was heard out of order, following docket item #7.

11. Consideration of the Appointment of an Acting Independent Policing Auditor.

(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; 01/28/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried 6-0, City Council appointed Ameratu Kamara as the Acting Independent Policing Auditor effective January 28, 2025. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman McPike.

- 11a. Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a City Council Subcommittee to Study and Propose Revisions to the Independent Community Police Review Board Ordinances

and the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator Ordinances. [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. 11a; 01/28/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the creation of a City Council subcommittee comprised of Vice Mayor Bagley and Councilman Aguirre to study and proposed revisions to the ordinances for the Independent Community Policy Review Board and the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman McPike,

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3272

WHEREAS, the City Council directed City staff at the January 25, 2024, City Council Public Hearing meeting to create a temporary City Council subcommittee pursuant to City Code section 2-4-8(b) to study and propose revisions to the Independent Community Police Review Board Ordinances and the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to appoint Vice-Mayor Sarah Bagley and Councilman Canek Aguirre to such subcommittee to work with City staff as designated by the City Manager, Acting Independent Police Auditor, and the City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, this subcommittee is directed to provide an update to the City Council on its progress no later than April 30, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia, that the City Council subcommittee to study and propose revisions to the Independent Community Police Review Board Ordinance and the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator Ordinances is hereby authorized and created.

VII. OTHER

12. Oral Reports and Oral Presentations by Members of Council.

1. Councilman Chapman recognized the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Archaeology division for the launch of the only map highlighting historical markers throughout the City.

13. 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. 13; 01/28/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried 6-0, City Council: (1) approved the City Council Look Ahead Schedule that includes: the 2025 George Washington Birthday Parade scheduled for Saturday, February 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m., in Old Town; and (2) received the City Council calendar from January 2025 - December 2025. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman McPike.

VIII. ADJOURN.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 6-0, City Council adjourned the January 28, 2025, Legislative Meeting at 10:25 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; Absent, Councilman McPike.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, City Clerk City Clerk

Adopted: February 11, 2025