

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 6:00 PM - City Hall, Council Chamber
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. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. Medina, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Maines, Division Chief, T&ES; Ms. Evans, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Garvey, DCHS; Ms. Kott, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); Ms. DeFreitas, DPI; Ms. Rohbran, DPI; Mr. Barbieri, Emergency Management; Ms. Paulus, Emergency Management Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (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.

2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Members of City Council (if needed).

Not needed.

3. Alexandria Transit Company Stockholders Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

City Council held the Annual Stockholders meeting with members of the Alexandria Transit Company at 6:00 p.m.

Closed Session.

4. Consideration of a closed executive session to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council convene in closed executive session at 6:26

p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(6) to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected. 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 Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:07 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. 3279

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 25th day of March, 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.

5. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

6. Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring Women's History Month.

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, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

7. Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing Virginia Flood Awareness Week.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilman McPike 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 recognized the first responders from the region who responded to the crash that occurred at Reagan National Airport and focused on the Mutual Aid Agreements between the jurisdictions in the regional.

***Sister Cities Committee (Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that he and Mayor Gaskins visited Caen, France as they celebrated their 1000 year anniversary and to talk about how the City works with their sister city partners. Mayor Gaskins reported that the international relations were important to highlight during this trip and how we can partner with Caen on various subjects.

***Alexandria Transportation Commission (Councilman Chapman and Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that there was discussion about the FY2026 Operating Budget, with notes from the commission about funding the DASH operations and new transit development goals. Councilman McPike reported that Commission discussed its work plan for the upcoming year.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Commission received a presentation on safety net programs that City offered for senior community. Councilman Aguirre reported that Jane King would be honored at the Senior Services Gala this weekend. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Commission would be forming a special work group to ensure the availability of fresh produce to older Alexandrians.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board approved the unified work plan, they approved the FY2026 commuter connections work program and begin the work on Visualize 2050. Councilman Aguirre reported that the 495 Express Lanes will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

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

Councilman Elnoubi reported the Task Force voted on a City-wide anonymous notification system to be forwarded to staff for implementation. Councilman Elnoubi reported that there was a report about probation interaction with gang members and there was report from the Sheriff's Office about their interaction with gang members.

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

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that ridership is up significantly per day and board authorized several contracts, including completion of the Manassas Park parking garage, completion of the Broad Run facility and preparation for the 2050 Plan.

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

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Board has been approved for the second year of the prep grant. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Youth Speak Up event will be held on April 10. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was an update from the peer advocates. Vice Mayor Bagley gave an update on the Wrap Up Alexandria program.

***Council of Governments (COG) Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee (Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that Committee held a retreat and discussed at length their policy and information outreach programs and 2025 Legislative priorities. Councilwoman Greene reported that a letter was sent to Congress requesting an increase in SNAP funding and access to health free school meals.

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

Councilwoman Greene reported that Partnership held a successful City Manager's Breakfast. Councilwoman Greene reported that the Partnership spoke about upcoming events and will hold its next meeting in May.

***City Naming Committee (Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilman Elnoubi reported that the Naming Committee discussed the process for the next three years regarding the street renaming project. Councilman Elnoubi reported that there will be interns reviewing the list to see which streets can be easily renamed.

***Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (CPBC)(Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that the Committee received a briefing on national infrastructure for the National Infrastructure Advisory Council and there was a conversation on federal legislative updates.

***City/Schools Subcommittee (Mayor Gaskins and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that there were presentation from DASH and ACPS regarding secondary school transportation to be provided by DASH, with a focus on safety from both organizations. Mayor Gaskins reported that there will be another presentation next month to examines the routes used by secondary school students. Mayor Gaskins also reported that there was an update on collective bargaining for schools.

IV. Oral Report from the City Manager

Mr. Parajon reported that the City will have a May 8th Economic Development Summit and there is a pre-survey available to the community prior to the Summit.

8. Presentation by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Executive Director Clark Mercer.
9. Presentation by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Jill Kaneff, Demographic Analysis.

City Manager Parajon introduced Clark Mercer, Executive Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Jill Kaneff, Demographic Analyst for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Mr. Mercer and Ms. Kaneff presented information on how the changes being made by the federal government administration will impact the area, particularly Northern Virginia and the many different businesses and industries in the area.

V. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar (10-11)

10. Consideration of a Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for the Creative Community Partnership Grant for the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

(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; 03/25/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for a Community Impact Grant for the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

(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; 03/25/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar. The approvals were as follows:

10. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of a grant application in the amount of

\$4,500 to the Virginia Commission for the Art's Creative Community Partnership Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2025; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

11. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$5,000 to the Virginia Commission for the Arts Community Impact Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2025; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

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.

VI. ACTION MATTERS

Reports and Recommendations from the City Manager

12. Consideration of Receipt of Fiscal Year 2025 Second Quarter Capital Projects Status Report Related to City Council Approved Capital Projects.

(A copy of the City Manager's report is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 03/25/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council received as information the FY 2025 Second Quarter Capital Projects Status Report. 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.

13. Consideration of the 2025 City of Alexandria Emergency Operations Plan.

(A copy of the City Manager's report is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 03/25/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council approved and adopted the 2025 City of Alexandria Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). 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.

VII. OTHER

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

(a) Councilman Aguirre attended the opening of the remodel Lindsay Lexus.

(b) Councilman Aguirre reported that Mayor Gaskins spoke at the annual Women's

Leadership forum.

- (c) Councilman Aguirre reported that the Muslim group at ACHS hosted its annual Iftar event.
- (d) Councilman Aguirre reported that the Departmental Progressive Club hosted a jazz night event.
- (e) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the State Bus Rodeo held in Fairfax County and congratulated Lonell Glover who won the competition.
- (f) Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Vice Mayor Bagley attended the ceremony for the completion of the synthetic turf fields at Patrick Henry.
- (g) Councilman Aguirre attended the Essential Workers Appreciation Day at Douglas McArthur Elementary School.
- (h) Councilman Aguirre attended the completion ceremony for the Oakville Triangle at Founders Farmers located in the vicinity.
- (i) Councilman Aguirre reported that OCCE is hosting pop-up budget sessions around the City for the community.
- (j) Councilman Aguirre reported that he visited the Old Technology display at Minnie Howard Campus.
- (k) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the gala for the nonprofit working with students.
- (l) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the drone soccer match at Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.
- (m) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the opening of the new art exhibit on the Waterfront.
- (n) Councilman Aguirre reported that he participated with Meals on Wheels.
- (o) Councilman Aguirre reported that the City was offering free tax preparation services.
- (p) Councilman McPike reported that he attended the Reflections Arts competition awards with ACPS students and parents.
- (q) Councilman McPike reported that the City would host a town hall at the Del Pepper Resources Center on March 29 at 1 p.m.
- (r) Councilwoman Greene thanked the Tiny Titans at ACPS Early Childhood Center for hosting her to speak to the students.
- (s) Vice Mayor Bagley invited everyone to attend the opening ceremony for the

Alexandria Little League on March 29.

(t) Councilman Chapman invited Boards and Commissions to apply to the Annual Boards and Commissions of the Impact Award by May 1st.

(u) Mayor Gaskins will be hosting a Mayoral Youth Forum on Saturday, March 29 here at City Hall.

15. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's report is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 15; 03/25/25, 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: (1) approved the City Council Look Ahead Calendar to include:

* Countdown to the Summit: A Conversation about Economic Development, Commercial Uses & Investment scheduled for Thursday April 10 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe Street) in the Multipurpose Room; * Commission on Aging Awards Ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall (301 King Street) in the Vola Lawson Lobby; and (2) received the City Council Calendar from March 2025 - December 2025. 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.

VIII. ADJOURN.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Elnoubi and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of March 25, 2025 at 9:25 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: May 13, 2025