

City of Alexandria
City Council Chambers at Del Pepper Community Resource Center
Monday, March 9, 2026 5:30 PM
Special Budget Public Hearing Meeting – Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Vice Mayor Sarah R. Bagley, Members of Canek Aguirre, John Taylor Chapman, Abdel Elnoubi, and Jacinta E. Greene.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Sgt. Jones.

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 and Councilwoman Greene arriving after roll-call.

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

Not needed.

3. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2027 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2027 to FY 2036 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

The following persons participated in the public hearing:

1. Michael Schuster, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke about funding for senior and projects impacting senior residents.

2. Catherine Clinger, Alexandria, spoke about budget funding that would have an impact on children, youth, and families in the community.

3. Nathaly Zelaya, Alexandria, spoke about the need for additional funding for

deeply affordable housing.

4. Marta Ventura, Alexandria, spoke about the need for additional funding for deeply affordable housing.

5. Mariela Raudales, Alexandria, spoke about the need for additional funding for deeply affordable housing.

6. Berenice Perez, Alexandria, spoke about the need for additional funding for deeply affordable housing.

7. Christopher Cruz, Alexandria, spoke about the need for additional funding for deeply affordable housing.

8. Oliver Merino, Alexandria, spoke about defunding the Sheriff's Department.

9. Brandi Yee, Alexandria, spoke about funding for ACT for Alexandria to address services and additional needs in the community.

10. Isabel Shultz, Alexandria, spoke about funding for middle school sports.

11. Kathleen Sindell, Ph.D., Alexandria, requested additional funds for the Workforce Development Center.

12. Tiffany Dixon, Alexandria, spoke about funding for ACPS.

13. Jonathan Krall, Alexandria, spoke about increased funding for affordable housing and less funding for incarceration.

14. Sammie Moshenberg, Alexandria, spoke about reduced funding for the Sheriff's Department.

15. Alison Walter, Alexandria, spoke about funding for ACPS.

16. Daniel Daponte, Alexandria, spoke in support of funding to implement initiatives the support children, youth and families in the community.

17. Dane Lauritzen, Alexandria, spoke in support of funding for housing and transit and defunding for ICE enforcement and the Sheriff's Department.

18. David Ballenger, Alexandria, spoke about the not funding enforcement for ICE in the community.

19. Larisa Zehr, Falls Church, Virginia, representing Legal Aid Justice Center, spoke about the need to decrease funding to support ICE enforcement in the community.

20. Rev. Jasina Wise, Alexandria, spoke in support of increasing affordable housing investment.

21. Melissa B Kuennen, Alexandria, spoke about funding for CIP in the proposed budget.
22. Max Carpenter, Alexandria, spoke about defunding enforcement for ICE in the community.
23. David Paladin-Fernandez, Alexandria, spoke about helping ACPS balance their budget with additional funding.
24. Howard Vandersluis, Alexandria, spoke about additional funding for ACPS and teachers.
25. Tanawah Downing, no address, spoke about the public safety budget.
26. Melissa Elbirt, Alexandria, spoke about ethical investment and no funding for ICE enforcement.
27. Katharine Schulman, Alexandria,
28. Hanna Metuda, Herndon, Virginia, spoke about increased funding for housing.
29. Karen L. Daly, Alexandria, spoke about increased funding to maintain language programs at ACPS.
30. Julie Collier, Alexandria, spoke about concerns with business licenses tax.
31. Deborah Porras, Alexandria, representing VOICE, spoke about increased funding for affordable housing.
32. Carlecia Cobbins, Alexandria, spoke in support of increased funding for ACPS.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; 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 9, 2026. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, and Councilwoman Greene; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

ALYIA GASKINS MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

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