

# City of Alexandria

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:30 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; Ms. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; K. Cadena, Office of Housing; Ms. Pledger, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Gordon, Director, Emergency Communications; Ms. Douglas, Alex311; Ms. Wells, Alex311; Interim Police Chief Pedrosa, Police Sgt. North; Assistant Police Chief Laguna; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Mr. Mackey, Court Services; Interim Fire Chief Schwartz; Mr. Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Police Lt. Lion; Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Barre, ITS; and Mr. Adelshin, ITS.

Recorded by: Gloria Sitton, City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

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#### **I. OPENING MATTERS**

##### **1. Calling the Roll**

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of City Council were present, with Councilman Chapman arriving shortly following roll call.

##### **2. Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed)**

Not needed.

3. Closed Session (if needed)

Not needed.

**Tax Rate Public Hearing - 5:30 p.m.**

4. Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance on the Proposed Real and Personal Property Tax Rates and Proposed Effective Tax Rate Increase for Calendar Year 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025).

The following persons participated in the public hearing for this item:

1. Marsha Rhea, Alexandria, spoke in support of a tax rate increase for affordable housing.
2. Christian Bentley, Alexandria, spoke in support of a tax rate increase for affordable housing.
3. Sandra Valle, Alexandria, spoke in support of a tax rate increase for affordable housing.
4. Betsy Faga, Alexandria, representing the AHAAC, spoke in support of the tax rate increase.
5. Nathaly Zelaya, Alexandria, spoke in support of the tax rate increase.
6. Amanda Eisenhour, Alexandria, spoke in support of the tax rate increase for affordable housing.
7. John Rebstock, Alexandria, spoke against the tax rate increase.
8. J-Lynn Van Pelt, Alexandria, spoke in support of the tax rate increase to support schools and youth programs.
9. Dan Edwards, Alexandria, representing CYFCC, spoke in support of the tax increase to support youth programs.
10. Ethel Tally, Alexandria, spoke in support of the tax rate increase for affordable housing.
11. Ilhan Hilal, Alexandria, spoke in support of the tax rate increase for affordable housing.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing on the ordinance on the proposed real and personal property tax rates and proposed effective Tax Rate increase for Calendar Year 2024 (Fiscal Year 2025). 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.

## **Budget Work Session**

5. Budget Work Session for Add/Delete.

City Council held the preliminary add/delete budget work session and directed staff to prepare the final consensus add/delete listing for inclusion in the budget to be adopted on May 1.

6. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

## **II. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

7. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing April as Alcohol Awareness 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.

8. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing National Arab American Heritage Month.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, 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.

9. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing Letter Carriers Food Drive Day in the City of Alexandria.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, 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.

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

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that Lea Stewart joined ACAP as the youth engagement specialist. Councilmember Bagley announced that there will be an event on May 16 at the Del Pepper Center to recognize Sex Ed For All month.

**\*Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors - Mayor Wilson**

Mayor Wilson reported that the chair and CEO of WMATA were present for a conversation about the status of funding for Metro and how to address the gaps in funding. Mayor Wilson reported that there will be a joint meeting of the COG Board of Directors and the WMATA Board of Directors on May 1 to start a collaboration to work on the future funding of WMATA.

**\*ARHA Redevelopment Work Group - Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman**

Mayor Wilson reported that there was a discussion about reviving the bonding capacity of the body for future projects and he noted that ARHA is in receipt of proposal to use that capacity to fund future redevelopment projects. Mayor Wilson reported that a potential request will be coming before Council consideration for an early release of funds for the redevelopment of Samuel Madden Homes.

**Oral Report from the City Manager**

None.

- 10. Alex311 Update.

City Council received the update on Alex311 Customer Service system.

**IV. ACTION DOCKET  
Regular Consent Calendar (11-14)**

- 11. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Federal 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(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; 04/24/24; and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

- 12. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grant.

(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. 12; 04/24/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

- 13. Consideration of the Release of \$20,000 from FY 2024 Contingent Reserves to Fund Police Technology Initiatives to Increase Safety and Deter Crime.

(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; 04/24/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

14. Consideration of Petition for Special Commissioner and Acceptance of a Parcel at 129 S. Gordon Street.

(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. 14; 04/24/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar, with the exception on item #13, which was considered under separate motion. The approval was as follows:

11. City Council: (1) approved the competitive SAFER grant application submission for \$5,096,171 over a three-year period to mobilize an expansion of services through two additional emergency medical services transport units operated by 15 firefighters funded by the FY 2023 SAFER grant award; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

12. City Council: (1) authorized the application and potential acceptance of the grant award for funding to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) in the amount of \$240,000 for the duration of four years to implement underage alcohol-use prevention programming in the City of Alexandria. There is no match required for this grant; (2) approved the addition of one part-time (0.5 FTE) Management Analyst II to manage the implementation of the grant project that will be fully supported by grant revenues if the competitive request is successful; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

14. City Council: (1) authorized the City Manager to approve the initiation of the action under VA Code ? 58.1-3970.1 to appoint a special commissioner for a transfer of 129 S. Gordon Street to the City in lieu of a tax sale; and (2) Approved and accept the real property at 129 S. Gordon Street, contingent upon a successful action under VA Code ? 58.1-3970.1.

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. Consideration of the Release of \$20,000 from FY 2024 Contingent Reserves to Fund Police Technology Initiatives to Increase Safety and Deter Crime.

(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; 04/24/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 5-1, City Council moved to defer the item and referred it back to staff for a different proposal for the funding from contingency reserves funds. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilmember Bagley, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Aguirre.

## **Roll-Call Consent Calendar (15)**

15. Consideration of a Resolution Designating the Acting City Manager During Temporary Absence of the City Manager. [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. 15; 04/24/24; and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by ????, second by ???? and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The approval was as follows:

15. City Council adopted the resolution designating the Acting City Manager during temporary absence of the City Manager. 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. 3218**

**WHEREAS**, Section 4.05 of the City Charter states that, to perform the duties of the city manager in the event of his temporary absence, disability, death or resignation, the council may by resolution appoint an officer of the city or any person other than a member of the council to perform the duties of manager until said manager returns to duty or his successor is duly appointed.

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

1. That, in the scheduled absence of City Manager James F. Parajon, the City Manager may designate one of the following individuals to be appointed and authorized to perform the duties of the City Manager: Deputy City Manager Emily A. Baker, Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert, and Deputy City Manager Alethea Predeoux.
2. In the event the City Manager is unable to perform his duties due to illness, emergency or other unforeseen situation, and is unable to designate a person according to Section 1 above, the following is the order in which these persons shall act in the position of City Manager:
  - (a) Deputy City Manager Emily A. Baker, until Mr. Parajon returns to duty;
  - (b) In the absence of Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert, until either Mr. Parajon or Ms. Baker returns to duty; and
  - (c) In the absence of Mr. Parajon, Ms. Baker, and Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager Alethea Predeoux, until Mr. Parajon, Ms. Baker, or Mr. Lambert returns

to duty.

3. That this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption, and shall replace Resolution No. 3141, which shall be, and hereby is, rescinded.

## **ACTION MATTERS**

### **Recommendations from the City Manager**

16. Consideration and Receipt of the Draft City Fiscal Year 2025 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development.

(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. 16; 04/24/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received the Draft FY 2025 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development ("Draft Action Plan"), containing the City's draft application for FY 2025 funding for an estimated \$1,094,483 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies and an estimated \$712,411 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) monies; (2) approved the Plan; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute any documents required to facilitate receipt of these and any related federal grant funds. 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**

### **Oral Reports and Oral Presentations from Members of City Council**

There were no oral reports or presentations.

17. Consideration of City Council Calendar.

(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. 17; 04/24/24 and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received and approved the FY 2024 City Council Calendar; and (2) received and approved the proposed FY 2025 City Council

Calendar, which includes: proposed dates for Legislative meetings, including moving the April 2025 Public Hearing from Saturday, April 12, 2025 to Saturday, April 26, 2025; City Holidays; VML Conference, October 13 to October 15, 2024; moving the City Council Retreat from Saturday, November 2, 2024 to Saturday, November 23, 2024; and the City Council Installation on Thursday, January 2, 2025. 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.

**Closed Session (if needed)**

Not needed.

**VII. ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of April 24, 2024 at 9:07 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.

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**APPROVED BY:**

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**JUSTIN M. WILSON                      MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC      City Clerk

Adopted: May 14, 2024