

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - 5:30 PM
City Hall City Council Chambers
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, Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Barbieri, Emergency Management Coordinator; Mr. Greenlief, Director of Finance; Ms. Garvey, Director of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Mr. Gutierrez, Deputy Director of DCHS; Ms. Flemming, Director, Office of Communications & Community Engagement; Ms. Kamara, Interim Director, Independent Policing Auditor; Mr. Mansoor, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Lt. Jones.

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

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Gaskins called the meeting to order, and the Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All council members were present with Councilman Chapman arriving late during the closed session.

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

Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by City Council was not needed.

Closed Session

3. Executive Session - 2.2-3711(A)(3) and 2.2-3711(A)(6) - Discussion or consideration of 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 and discussion/consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council convened in closed executive session at 5:33 p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2 3711(A)(3) and 2.2 3711(A)(6) Discussion or consideration of 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 and

discussion/consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Chapman.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, 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 Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Chapman.

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

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3323

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 30 day of September 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.

Opening Matters

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 September as National Preparedness Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilwoman Greene 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.

6. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene 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.

Oral Reports

City Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees

7. Oral Reports from Members of City Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

Council of Governments (COG) Board of Governors (Mayor Gaskins)

Mayor Gaskins highlighted that the meeting focused on AI policies, governance, and responsibilities and how to use AI as a tool to deliver resident services and support regional collaboration. Mayor Gaskins gave a shoutout to Vanetta Pledger, ITS Director, who was recognized as a local leader for her AI policies and training.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) (Mayor Gaskins)

Mayor Gaskins reported that the board received a presentation on the I-495 express lanes from VDOT. Mayor Gaskins noted that VDOT requested the board to endorse a letter supporting the express lanes, which she voted against and ultimately the endorsement failed.

Health and Safety Coordinating Committee (Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene)

Mayor Gaskins highlighted the three updates the board received: 1) State of Health - to inform the board of the community health assessment and community engagement; 2) Safe Housing Team - to assist with resident complaints and how to engage residents and address quality of life issues; 3) Evictions Impact – deep dive on trends, the eviction process, and the city's role.

Councilwoman Greene noted a discussion on goals for reducing truancy.

Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors (Councilwoman Greene)

Councilwoman Greene reported on an update from Ken Wire, attorney for the developer of Block Three and 2051 Jamieson Avenue and highlight the upcoming event series.

Citizen Corps Council (Councilwoman Greene and Councilman McPike)

Councilwoman Greene highlighted the boards annual report, membership update, and the Tons of Truck event.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Vice Mayor Bagley)

Vice Mayor Bagley noted the discussion of the Long Bridge Project and encourages riders to visit the website for updates and options. She highlighted the construction differences for Virginia and DC, as DC has different noise restrictions preventing evening construction.

Vice Mayor Bagley noted two events: the Hundred Million Rider Day would be rescheduled due to the federal government shutdown, and the Tour De VRE bike ride will be on October 4, a fundraiser for breast cancer.

COG- Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) (Vice Mayor Bagley)

Vice Mayor Bagley highlighted presentations about what kind of environmental actions we are taking in the region regarding tree canopy, certified green buildings,

Waterfront Commission (Vice Mayor Bagley)

Vice Mayor Bagley highlighted a presentation discussion about the pump house and waterfront flood mitigation.

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) (Councilwoman Greene and Councilman Chapman)

Councilwoman Greene highlighted a presentation from Nova Natives which is a volunteer group working to reduce the decline of native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia. Councilwoman Greene also noted that the board adopted several resolutions and welcomes the new director.

Councilman Chapman announced the board is having a Housing Symposium on October 6 at George Mason University.

City Council General Member Updates

8. City Council gave the following general member updates:

1. Councilman Chapman noted a memo request for updates for staff on the residential parking permit plan to look at how we include house managers.
2. Councilman McPike noted a memo request to strengthen the policy for scheduling city events to avoid floating religious holidays, particularly holidays of sort of outside of the Christian religion and adding those holidays to city calendar.
3. Councilman Aguirre highlighted several events including: 1) September 11 - 911 ceremony; 2) Commission on Aging – received a presentation from the health department on the community health assessment and now moving into the community health improvement plan; 3) Citizenship Day at City Hall – celebrated approximately 28 new US citizens; 4) American Public Transit Association Conference in Boston - learned about The Vanguard issues that are going on in transit, latest and greatest gadgets. Also noted WMATA won three awards at APTA, one of them being transit agency of the year;

5) Field Day hosted by the City of Alexandria Human Resources Department; 6) Dash Celebration for 5.6 million riders; 7) Tons of Trucks to check out some of the really cool vehicles that not just the city has, but some of the other agencies in the city have. 8) Eisenhower Rock the Avenue Celebration; 9) Masonic Temple for the 25th Anniversary of Remember the Titans movie; 10) DMV Moves regional transit tour. Also noted that DMV Moves is working to figure out how to improve transit across the region; 11) Four Mile Run Plaza to join TW for a vigil for our immigrant community; 12) NALEO Policy Institute for emergency preparedness; 13) Eco City Team event – to test driving electric vehicles and scooters and bikes; 14) Chalk-a-Block hosted by NOTICe - great artwork, some music; 15) Equality Nova ice cream social; 16) Latino Heritage Month – moderator on the panel; and 17) Mortar and Pestle Society 90th anniversary celebration.

4. Mayor Gaskins noted a memo related to the waterfront flood mitigation project and to ask staff to look into alternative locations, such as One Prince Street.

5. Councilman Chapman noted that the Naming Committee has entered its second phase of review for name changes and spelling alternatives for the remaining streets.

6. Councilman Elnoubi thanked the interns that worked on the research for some of the history and naming options for the Naming Committee.

City Manager Oral Report

9. APA Virginia Presentation of Virginia Plan of the Year Award to the City of Alexandria for the AlexWest Plan.

City Council received a presentation from Nick Rogers, President Elect and Sophie Humor, Awards Committee Chair, of APA Virginia recognizing staff from Planning and Zoning on receiving the Virginia Plan of the Year Award to the City of Alexandria for the AlexWest Plan.

City Manager Parajon recognized the Office of Communication and Community Engagement for receiving the VML Innovation Award in Local Government for FY2026 budget communications.

City Manager Parajon highlighted that there is a federal government shutdown resource information page on the city website outlining city services and support that may be available.

City Manager Parajon highlighted that the city rated an AAA bond rating, the highest bond level rating, from both rating agencies ensuring the lowest interest rate on borrowing for infrastructure projects.

ACTION DOCKET

Roll-Call Consent Items (10)

10. Consideration of an Application for a FY 2026 Virginia Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance 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. 10; 09/30/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Elnoubi, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council approved the roll-call consent item 10. The approval was as follows:

10. City Council authorized the submission of a grant application for up to \$450,000 in funding from the FY 26 Virginia Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance Grant Fund.

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.

Individual Action Items [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

11. Resolution Authorizing and Directing the City Manager to Execute (1) A Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement and (2) Local Performance Agreement Related to the Expansion of Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 09/30/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously by roll-call vote to adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute (1) A Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement and (2) Local Performance Agreement Related to the Expansion of Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc. 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. 3324

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE (1) A COMMONWEALTH'S DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FUND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT AND (2) LOCAL PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE EXPANSION OF SYSTEMS PLANNING AND ANALYSIS, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria ("City") has been awarded a grant of and expects to receive \$1,700,000 (the "COF Grant") from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund (the "Fund") through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority ("VEDP") for the purpose of inducing Systems Planning And Analysis, Inc. (the "Company") to expand, equip, improve, and operate its corporate headquarters facility in the City at 2001 N. Beauregard Street in Alexandria, Virginia, thereby making a significant Capital Investment, and creating and Maintaining a significant number of New Jobs, as such capitalized terms are defined in Attachment 1.,

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership ("AEDP" or "the Partnership") is organized to promote and administer economic development activities on behalf of the City, and the City desires to designate the Partnership to act as the COF Grant administrator on the Locality's behalf, including coordinating compliance, reporting, and related administration;

WHEREAS, the City will provide the funds to the Partnership with the expectation that the Partnership will provide the funds to or for the use of the Company, provided that the Company meets certain criteria relating to Capital Investment and New Jobs;

WHEREAS, the City, the Partnership, the Company, and VEDP desire to set forth their understanding and agreement as to the payout of the COF Grant, the use of the COF Grant proceeds, and the obligations of the Company regarding Capital Investment and New Jobs in a performance agreement (the "COF Agreement"), which is further described in Attachment 1;

WHEREAS, a Local Performance Agreement among the City, AEDP, and the Company outlines the conditions for disbursement of City funds in coordination with the COF Agreement (the "Local Performance Agreement"), which is further described in Attachment 2;

WHEREAS, the acquisition, expansion, equipping, improvement, and operation of the Facility will entail a capital expenditure by or on behalf of the Company of approximately \$33,400,000, of which approximately \$3,900,000 will be invested in furniture, fixtures and business personal property, approximately \$18,000,000 will be invested in the acquisition of a privately-owned building, and approximately \$11,500,000 will be invested in the construction, expansion and up-fit of the buildings for the Facility;

WHEREAS, the expansion, equipping, improvement, and operation of the Facility will further entail the creation and Maintenance of 494 New Jobs at the Facility in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the stimulation of the additional tax revenue and economic activity to be generated by the Capital Investment and New Jobs constitutes a valid public purpose for the expenditure of public funds and is the animating purpose for the COF Agreement and Local Performance Agreement.

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

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the COF Agreement in substantially the same form and content as contained in Attachment 1. The COF Agreement may be updated with completions, omissions, insertions, and changes not inconsistent with this Resolution, as deemed necessary by VEDP, the Company, and the City Manager in consultation with the City Attorney.
2. Upon execution of the COF Agreement, the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Local Performance Agreement, in substantially the same form and content as contained in Attachment 2. The Local Performance Agreement may be updated with completions, omissions, insertions, and changes not inconsistent with this Resolution, as deemed necessary by the Company and City Manager in consultation with the City Attorney.

3. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to carry out the obligations set forth in the COF Agreement and Local Performance Agreement, and to take all necessary steps on behalf of the City as may be required in connection with both agreements.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

12. Framework for the FY 2027-2029 Alexandria Fund for Human Services Grant Cycle.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 09/30/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously by roll-call vote to: (a) received and approved the proposed operational framework and recommendations for the Alexandria Fund for Human Services (AFHS) FY 2027-2029 grant cycle; and (b) considered and approved the recommended reporting format for ensuring AFHS grant cycles. 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.

Other Business

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; 09/30/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council approved the look ahead schedule and received the City Council Calendar from September 2025 - December 2025, with following updates: City Council Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, October 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Patrick Henry Recreation Center; CIP and Economic Development Strategy Update, Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room; and City Council Budget Retreat, Saturday, November 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Del Pepper Community Resource Center. 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.

14. **Closed Session (if needed)**

Not needed.

15. **ADJOURNMENT.**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of September 30, 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:

Keia Waters, CMC Deputy City Clerk

ADOPTED: November 12, 2025