

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 6:00 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. Anderson, City Attorney; Mr. Spangler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Mr. McPike, Director, General Services; Mr. Lambert, Interim Deputy City Manager/Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Wicks, Office of Management and Budget; Ms. McLean, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); Mr. Pugh, Deputy Director, T&ES; Ms. Pledger, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS); Mr. Browand, Deputy Director, RPCA; Mr. Baker, CEO, DASH Transit Services; Ms. Teate, Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI); Mr. Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Taylor, Assistant City Manager/Legislative Director; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Fleming, Director, OCPI; Mr. Routt, Director, OMB; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Browning, ITS; and Police Captain Ballantine.

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

I. OPENING

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order following the work session and the City Clerk called the roll. All the members of Council were present with Councilwoman Gaskins attending the meeting virtually from her home due to a medical reason.

2. Executive Session (the executive session has been cancelled)

6:00 p.m. - Consideration of a closed executive session to Consult with legal counsel regarding actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

The executive session was cancelled.

3. 6:30 p.m. -- Council Work Session

City Council Work Session regarding City Capital Projects under Consideration in the upcoming FY 2024 to FY 2033 Capital Improvement Program.

City Council held the work session with Office of Management and Budget and key City staff regarding City Capital Improvement Projects and the upcoming budget process for those projects.

4. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Member(s) of City Council
(if needed)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the electronic participation resolution. 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. 3104

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 criterial 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 Alyia Gaskins has notified the Mayor and the Clerk that he is unavailable to be physically present for the October 25, 2022 City Council Meeting due to a medical matter, specifically maternity leave, and

WHEREAS a Council Member may participate in a City Council Meeting by electronic means for an unlimited number of times during this calendar year for a medical reason for the member or a family member of the member; and

WHEREAS the City Council Member will participate in the City Council Meeting by video conference call from 271 Cameron Station Blvd 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 Alyia Gaskins will participate remotely in this meeting by video conference call.

5. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS

6. Presentation of Proclamation Declaring October 23-31, 2022 as Red Ribbon Week in the City of Alexandria.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, 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.

7. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing ALIVE! and World Food Day.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman 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 CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

***Virginia Railway Express (VRE)(Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that VRE will be extending Fare Free September for the northern most six stations with the extension of the work with Metro, noting the success with VRE gaining new ridership. Councilmember Bagley reported that there was a vote to approve an reduced fare schedule for the duration of track work through next year. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Board discussed the budget for funding VRE moving forward with all changes in the workforce in the area.

***Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that Commission issued a letter supporting the permanent closure for the pedestrian zone near the Strand, with suggestions for safety, signage, and accessibility. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Commission discussed the future of 2 King Street and ideas for the space. Councilmember Bagley also noted that the Commission received an update on the guardrails at Robinson Landing.

***Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) (Councilmember Bagley and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that Commission issued a letter with budget recommendations focusing on the social, mental, and emotional health of children need to be a focus of the budget process going forward. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Commission discussion the Opioid Response Work Group and inadequacy of the current system. Councilmember Bagley also reported that there was discussion about all City boards and commission to include a seat for student or youth representative.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the TPB discussed the 2022 Bus Transit Equity Update and he would share the information from that discussion with his colleagues, noting the statistics of the region as it relates to bus transit in the COG region.

***Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Friends of the Library Board has installed landscaping and plants in front of the mural at Burke Library. Councilman Aguirre mentioned that Library employees are having system integration issues with City system since they are a quasi-city agency. Councilman Aguirre reported that there is a vacancy at the Law Library and there will be rotating staff until the position is filled. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Library just completed an audit with no findings.

***Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force (Councilman Aguirre and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilman Aguirre reported task force had a presentation on refocusing the mission and goals of the group. Councilman Aguirre noted that the task force is working to start a champion program for different aspects of the groups goals.

Councilwoman Gaskins mentioned the letter that the Task Force sent to Council regarding the IPE program and request for additional resources for the servicing the program.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that Peer Advocates reviewed the actions plans and gave their feedback on ways to updated the plan. Councilmember Bagley mentioned the need for a consistent supply of menstrual products in the restrooms at both middle and high schools.

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

Councilman McPike reported that Commission discussed the update to the City's Transportation Management Plans through consolidation and funding. Councilman McPike reported that the Commission received a Complete Streets update, including the Safe Routes to Schools program, multiuse trails, and Vision Zero program. Councilman McPike reported that the Commission also had a discussion about the proposed Duke Street Bus Rapid Transit project and his noted that there is an upcoming open house and the public comment would close on October 28.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that Subcommittee discussed capital updates on MacArthur and Minnie Howard. Mayor Wilson noted that there was discussion related to the Legislative Package and the need for the City and Schools to coordinate their requests going forward. Mayor Wilson reported that there was discussion about the guidelines for the disbursement of the School Facility Money and its impact on budget, causing the City not to receive any of the money. Mayor Wilson noted that there was an update on Section 18 and recharacterization of existing public housing and their financing for those projects.

***Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group (PYMIG)(Mayor Wilson and Councilman Aguirre)**

Mayor Wilson reported that last Sunday the first train traveled through the Potomac Yard Metro Station tracks and the test will continue until the reopening of the Blue Line on November 5. Mayor Wilson reported that there was discussion on the schedule for Metro going forward and with an announcement from WMATA in early December about the opening date for the station. Mayor Wilson noted that the Safety Commission approved the restoration of the 7000 series cars, increasing service across the system.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) Board of Governors (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson announced the Deputy City Attorney Christina Brown was appointed to the

Council of Counsels. Mayor Wilson reported that the PPC Committee gave an updated on the public input on the transaction plans.

***Commission on Information Technology (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that there was discussion on the Digital Equity Plan focusing on devices, wi-fi and digital literacy for the community and use of multiple community engagement tools to increase community participation in surveys about technology. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the Commission discussed the budget as it relates to technology and the need for more capacity in the department.

***COG Food and Agricultural Regional Member (FARM) (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that Committee had its first annual meeting with the USDA and discussing Federal programs and impact on community and funding, particular those programs impacting students.

***City Council/Alexandria Renew Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the project is on time and Subcommittee reviewed the construction plans and there is information on the website and in-person engagement events throughout the City.

IV. ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

None.

**V. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER
CONSENT CALENDAR (8-10)**

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

8. Consideration of the Appointment of the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program and Projects Update.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Receipt of Annual and Attendance Reports for Council Appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

City Council approved each item under separate motion. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

8. **WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) appointed Kim Neal to the Office of the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator effective December 12, 2022; and (2) authorized the Mayor to execute an employment agreement with the Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator on behalf of the City. 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. **WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council received the quarterly report. 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.

10. **WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council received the reports from the Council appointed boards, commissions and committees from July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022. City Council also removed members who have not met the 75% meeting attendance requirement. 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.

VI. ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR (11)

11. Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt a City Flag/Flagpole Policy. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END ROLL CALL CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The approval was as follows:

11. City Council adopted the resolution for the use of City flagpoles or other flag-flying locations owned by the city for official governmental speech.

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. 3105

RESOLUTION REGARDING GOVERNMENTAL SPEECH ON CERTAIN CITY PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, in the case of *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, the United States Supreme Court held that the City of Boston, by not exercising enough control over flags flown on one of its flagpoles on the plaza outside Boston's City Hall made that flagpole a public forum,

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria maintains three flagpoles on Market Square, flies a flag on City Hall, and flies other flags on flagpoles surrounding Market Square, down King Street, and in other locations throughout the City,

WHEREAS, flags are symbolic of civilization; they speak for the communities that fly them,

WHEREAS, the content of a flag, and its presence and position, convey important messages about government,

WHEREAS, flying a flag other than the government's own flag conveys a governmental message,

WHEREAS, the symbolism and expression conveyed by the flying of flags by the City on City property is official governmental speech protected by the First Amendment,

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

1. The City of Alexandria reserves the use of its flagpoles, or other flag-flying locations owned by the City, for its own official governmental speech;

2. The City of Alexandria's flagpoles, or other flag-flying locations owned by the City, are not intended to serve as a public forum;
3. The following categories of flags may be flown on such locations:
 - a. The flag of the United States of America
 - b. The flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia
 - c. The flag of the City of Alexandria
 - d. Flags of governments recognized by the United States
 - e. Flags of Sister Cities of the City of Alexandria
 - f. Flags displayed in conjunction with or pursuant to official proclamations or resolutions by the City Council of the City of Alexandria;
4. The City Manager is empowered to enact policies consistent with this resolution.

VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

12. Consideration of the Release of \$500,000 in FY 2023 Contingent Reserve Funding set aside for Minority Business Incubation.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council released \$500,000 in FY 2023 Contingent Reserve Funding set aside for Minority Business Incubation for programs that support BIPOC-owned small local businesses. 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.

VIII. ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Mayor Wilson spoke about the repeal of an ordinance to name all north/south streets in the City after Confederate generals and his intent to bring a proposal to his colleagues to come up with a process to change all the street names over an extended period of time with community input about what those names should be.
2. Councilman Aguirre attended Quintango musical tango event at the Ramsey Recreation Center.
3. Councilman Aguirre attended the opening of the new Hitachi plant in Hagerstown, Maryland. He was representing the WMATA Board.

4. Councilman Aguirre attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Krunch Bunch Senior Program at Charles Houston Recreation Center.
5. Councilmember Bagley attended the ERASE convention to learn about programs that used pandemic related funding to create programs and how to make those programs sustainable long term, particularly as it relates to evictions.
6. Councilmember Bagley congratulated the Environmental Policy Commission and the Planning Commission for holding a joint session with Congressman Don Beyer about environmental and sustainability issues.

IX. OTHER

13. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated October 18, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 10/25/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received the updated City Council Schedule, which includes date change of the Tuesday, November 8 Legislative meeting to Wednesday, November 9; and (2) approved the City Council Schedule. City Manager Parajon noted that the Council Retreat will be held at the Alexandria Renew Facilities and materials for the meeting will be forthcoming. 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.

X. ADJOURN.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of October 25, 2022 at 9:16 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.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: December 13, 2022