

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Public Hearing Meeting
Council Chambers
Monday, March 13, 2017
4:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Allison Silberberg, Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson and Members of Council Willie Bailey, John Taylor Chapman, Timothy B. Lovain (who arrived at 6:10 p.m.), and Redella S. Pepper.

Absent: Member of Council Paul Smedberg.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Mr. Banks, City Attorney; Police Captain Andreas; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Mr. Braden, Office of Management and Budget.

Recorded by: Jacqueline M. Henderson, City Clerk and Clerk of Council

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Silberberg called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of City Council were present, with the exception of Councilman Smedberg, who was absent. (Councilmember Lovain arrived at 6:10 p.m.)

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2018 (Including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2018-2027 (Including the Schools CIP.) Adoption is Scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. A Public Hearing on the Ordinance Establishing the Real Property Tax Rate Will Be Held on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Jinks, City Manager, along with Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget, made a presentation of the budget highlights.

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

1. Dak Hardwick, chair, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, spoke of the BFAAC's work to date, items they are discussing and what should be expected of the Committee for the remainder of the budget term.

2. Robert Eiffert, 1418 Juliana Place, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of the City Manager's proposed budget, noting that there appeared to be no proposed reduction for aging adults. He spoke of the proposed cuts to the Cora Kelly Recreation Center daytime hours and asked Council to find a way for those activities to continue.

3. Jack Sullivan, 4300 Ivanhoe Place, spoke in opposition to the officials of the public schools who are putting pressure on Council to fully fund the Schools CIP. He asked Council to resist the pressures and vote the City Manager's proposal and no more for the

school system.

4. Janell Miller, 8 D. Ashby Street, president, Cora Kelly Parent Advisory Board, spoke in opposition to the reduction of hours of the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, noting its various programs and needs.

5. Debra Defreitas, 2003 Mill Road, vice president, Alexandria Government Employees Association, requested that Council table any reductions to the supplemental retirement lump sum option until the next fiscal year, so that they can review it further.

6. Thomas Knighton, 14303 Silverdale Drive, a City employee, said his department makes it possible for the Fire and Police Departments to do their jobs, by keeping the streets clean, repairing streets and sidewalks, sanitary and storm sewers and the fire hydrants, pre-treating streets in snow emergencies, among other things. Mr. Knighton asked that the Council give their department the same consideration as they give Police and Fire Departments.

7. Michelle Krocker, 301 Clifford Avenue, executive director, Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance and the organizer for Housing Alexandria, spoke about critical housing investments that were left out of the budget, including the supply of market affordable units, and the exclusion of \$4.3 million in funding needed for the Church of the Resurrection Project.

8. Sean Wilson, 3717 Ingalls Avenue, member of the Environmental Policy Commission, spoke to the CIP conversion to synthetic turf, cautioning of the health risks of the materials synthetic turf is made from, noting that turf made from virgin rubber as opposed to the used pulverized tire rubber is a better alternative.

9. The Reverend Jo J. Belser, 2280 N. Beauregard Street, Priest, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, asked Council to move \$4.3 million from the supplemental budget to the funded budget, so that the church's gift for affordable housing can be realized.

10. Melissa Harrington, 417 Monticell Blvd., parent of two ACPS students, spoke in support of fully funding for the schools, noting the needs of the schools.

11. Caroline Doughty, 6001 14th Street, N., a teacher at ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding for ACPS.

12. Meagan Carrick, 6001 14th Street, N., Arlington, a music teacher and choir director at George Mason Elementary School, spoke in support of fully funding the ACPS budget.

13. Beth Coast, 3330 King Street, a teacher at ACPS, speaking on behalf of the capacity committee of the T.C. Williams International Leadership Team, spoke in support of the vision for a new secondary school building at the Minnie Howard site and of crowding at the schools.

14. Marie Randell, 2904 Cameron Mills Road, a parent of children in ACPS, advocated for full funding for ACPS.

15. David Goldstein, 212 Woodland Terrace, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in

support of fully funding ACPS.

16. William Rivers, 10 West Mount Ida Avenue, representing the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics, spoke of the trust that the City will follow through on its promise for a new pool at Chinquapin and of the priorities for facilities in the City.

17. Mary Beth Testa, 3212 Holly Hill Drive, Falls Church, representing Voices for Virginia's Children, a statewide non-profit privately funded child advocacy organization, spoke of the economically disadvantaged children in the City, noted that the 2017 increased investments for child care subsidy are missing from the FY 2018 budget and she asked Council to invest in child care subsidy.

18. Anne Reynolds, 2507 Farm Road, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

19. Richard Merritt, 2729 Franklin Court, co-chair of the Alliance for Alexandria's Uninsured, spoke in support of the City Manager's budget for \$668,000 for Neighborhood Health, the Federally qualified health center for Alexandria's uninsured.

20. Allison Riley, 2704 Cameron Mills Road, George Mason Elementary PTA president, spoke in support of fully funding the ACPS.

21. Abigail Riley, 2704 Cameron Mills Road, a 6th grade student at George Washington Middle School, spoke of the needed repairs to the schools.

22. Emily Hammond, 18 E. Oak Street, spoke in support of fully funding of ACPS.

23. Sherry Reilly, 405 W. Windsor Avenue, said her children go to ACPS and she spoke in support of fully funding of ACPS.

24. Jeanne Iglesias, 115 E. Glebe Road, along with Rosa Byrd, 203 Wesmond Drive, both spoke in support of the importance of maintain senior programs and the aging in place initiative and they spoke in support of the Cora Kelly Recreation Center funding and programs, noting that they had a meeting set up with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

25. Mary Dixon, 5052 Donovan Drive, representing the ALIVE! Child Development Center, spoke in support of early childhood care and education, noting that they provide full-day, year-round early care and education for low income and working families and offer a sliding scale tuition structure.

26. Karen McManis, 308 Kentucky Avenue, PTA president, Jefferson-Houston, said her children go to ACPS and she spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

27. Amanda Eisenhour, 4 E. Oxford Avenue, a senior at T.C. Williams and the student liaison to the School Board, spoke in support of funding ACPS for the teachers and the \$2 million gap in funding for teachers.

28. John Lennon, 244 Murtha Street, president, T. C. Williams PTSA, and the parent of a T.C. Williams graduate and a sophomore, spoke in support of fully funding the CIP for ACPS.

29. Sandy Marks, 306 E. Windsor Avenue, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

30. Anna Jaeger, 202 East Luray Avenue, said she has four children in ACPS and she spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

31. Ricardo Roberts, 59 South Gordon Street, spoke of the Patrick Henry project and of accountability from the School Board and School Superintendent of money for the schools.

32. Charles Ziegler, 309 North Langley Street, vice president for advocacy, Friends of the Beatley Central Library, spoke in support of the funding for the public libraries.

33. Mollie Danforth, 4016 Harris Place, chair, Commission on Persons with Disabilities, said they are pleased that the City Manager's budget contains level funding for many of the programs that benefit persons with disabilities and support vision zero and affordable and accessible housing. They request funding for a full-time paralegal position in the Office of Human Rights to address issues, and that additional funds be added so that more diagonal curb cuts can be replaced with perpendicular curb cuts.

34. Annabelle Fisher, 4801 Kenmore Avenue, spoke of the budget and the ACPS, noting that ACPS does not have a budget crisis, and she hoped Council would decrease funding for ACPS.

35. Joy Pochatila, 405 Monticello Blvd., parent of two children in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

36. Janese Bechtol, 1734 Stonebridge Road, spoke in support of fully funding of ACPS and fully funding the supplemental CIP.

37. Stephanie Sample, 118 Stewart Avenue, parent of two children in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

38. Manya Magnus, 415 Underhill Place, a parent of two children in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

39. Lonnie Phillips, 487 Mandy's Way, Front Royal, City paramedic, spoke about the employees of the City, noting what they do on an everyday basis to serve, and he spoke for equal pay and promises of retirement, noting that he opposes the change in the lump sum contribution for the City supplemental retirement.

40. Micki MacNaughton, 816 Crescent Drive, parent of three boys and also as a realtor, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

41. Sheila Sirois, 816 Crescent Drive, parent of two students and also as a realtor, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

42. Joe Haggerty, 2834 Duke Street, CEO, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, spoke about business issues, noting that they support the Potomac Yard Metro Station, continuing to address recruitment, retention and rewarding high performing City employees by linking compensation with performance and by looking at the salaries paid by bordering

jurisdictions, a comprehensive broad-band network is essential to make the City a more competitive regional player, and the combined sewer abatement program, broadband, schools and others mean they need to look at the challenges and suggest a formal and proactive risk management program to identify and assess strategies.

43. Jesse Holcomb, 335 Wesmond Drive, president, Cora Kelly Elementary PTA, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

44. Timmy Barnett and Will Jones, 2507 Farm Road, a 7th grader at Francis Hammond and a 7th grader at George Washington Middle School, spoke of the problems with the schools, overcrowding and asked for funding of the ACPS.

45. Suzanne Duddy, 1106 Dartmouth Road, parent of an ACPS student, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

46. Addie Rasavong, 1111 Dartmouth Road, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

47. Ariya Harrington, 1111 Dartmouth Road, a third grade student at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, spoke of the need for swing space money for MacArthur.

48. Molly McCabe, 133 E. Taylor Run Parkway, an ACPS teacher and parent of children at MacArthur, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

49. Kristina Seppala, 19 E. Taylor Run Parkway, a member of the PTA Board at Douglas MacArthur and parent of children in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

50. Bill Pfister, 3718 Templeton Place, parent of ACPS students, spoke in support of fully funding of ACPS.

51. Maureen McNulty, 700 S. Overlook Drive, parent of children in ACPS, a member of the NVCS PTA and a member of the Mount Vernon Community School Playground Improvement Committee, spoke in support of funding for the playground revitalization at Mount Vernon.

52. Justin Rosario, 5445 N. Morgan Street, William Ramsey PTA president and parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

53. Robert Knotts, 504 Upland Place, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully-funding ACPS.

54. Mark Tonsetic, 700 S. Overlook Drive, a citizen member of the Social Services Advisory Board, spoke about the 22,000 residents who depend on the Department of Community and Human Services for their health, families, opportunities, welfare and future, and he reminded Council of the needs of those residents that can be impacted.

55. Jerica Webber, 339 Helmuth Lane, former PTA president at Charles Barrett Elementary and a current member of the PTA Board at GW Middle and Alexandria's PTA Council, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

56. Dawn Bauman, 1404 Key Drive, a member of the Social Services Advisory Board, spoke in support of the work of the Department of Community and Human Services and in support of the 22,000 residents who receive services.

57. Steven Teslik, 1823 Potomac Greens Drive, spoke in support of alternatives for the delay of or scaling down of or abandoning of the Potomac Yard Metrorail project until the time that Metro regains its safety, ridership and economic viability. An increase in the tax rate for Metro will account for \$40 million in 2018.

58. Joy Cameron, 1001 Virginia Avenue, spoke in support of fully funding of ACPS.

59. Roy Shannon, 302 E. Raymond Avenue, chair, Community Services Board, spoke in support of funding for the CSB and the members that it serves, noting that they serve an average of 4,800 individuals annually.

60. Arden Levy, 1400 Crestwood Drive, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

61. Haley Crittenden Gordon, 905 Crestwood Drive, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS as well as the public libraries.

62. Cindy Martinez, 2706 Holly Street, parent of students in ACPS, spoke in support of fully funding ACPS.

63. Dino Drudi, 315 N. West Street, spoke of his concern of the magnitude of the tax increase, including the stormwater fee.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing. The voting was as follows: In favor, Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, Councilman Bailey, Councilman Chapman, Councilmember Lovain and Councilwoman Pepper; Opposed, none.

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Mr. Jinks, City Manager, gave an update on the incoming snow storm and possible cancellation of the meetings.

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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously, the special public hearing meeting of March 13, 2017, was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. The voting was as follows: In favor, Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, Councilman Bailey, Councilman Chapman, Councilmember Lovain and Councilwoman Pepper; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council