

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2027, 7:00 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting**

Present: Mayor Justin M. Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy B. Jackson, Members of Council Canek Aguirre, Sarah R. Taylor, John Taylor Chapman, Alyia Gaskins, and R. Kirk McPike.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Cordell Ivery, City Attorney; Ms. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Greenlief, Assistant Director, Finance; Mr. Lambert, Deput City Manager; Ms. Landrum, CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership; Mr. Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Fleming, Director, Office of Communications and Community Engagement (OCCE); Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Mr. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Mr. Wicks, OMB; Mr. Smith, OMB; Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Lt. Lion.

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

I. OPENING MATTERS

1. Calling the Roll

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the City Clerk called the meeting to the roll. All members of City Council were present.

2. Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed)

Not needed.

3. Closed Session (if needed)

Not needed.

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 Declaring the Month of March as Irish-American

Heritage Month and Honoring St. Patrick's Day.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, 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.

II. Oral Reports from Members of Council on Boards, Commissions and Committees

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received an update on the United Work Plan and an update on the Commuter Connection Program.

***Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received public comment from the Friends of Duncan Library, the Friends of Beatley Library and the Friends of Burke Library. Councilman Aguirre also reported that there is a new branch manager at Burke Library. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board had a discussion about compensation for library employees.

***Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Commission received a presentation on proposed redevelopment of the Robinson Terminal property and moving toward a mixed-use concept. Councilmember Bagley noted that residents' concerns about remediation were discussed as well. Councilmember Bagley reported that there was a discussion of the open space place at the Hilco Site and vision for opening 14.5 acres to the public.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that VRE approved various leases for parking lots, security and video upgrades as the meeting. Councilmember Bagley reported that the King/Commonwealth Bridge Project and the Alexandria station project are moving forward well.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Board discussed the application for the Prep Funding from the Federal Government, which the board has received since 2012.

***Transportation Commission (Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Commission discussed electric vehicle charging in the City and the need in for more public level vehicle charges. Councilman McPike reported that the Commission discussed WMATA's budget gap and how to address the gap without any

service cuts to the system.

Oral Report from the City Manager

6. Potomac Yard Entertainment District Update.

City Manager Parajon, Stephanie Landrum, CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, and Ms. Kendel Taylor, Finance/Acting Deputy City Manager, gave an update presentation on the Potomac Yard Entertainment District and responded to questions from City Council.

III. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar (7-10)

7. Consideration of a Grant Application to the National Park Service for the Semiquincentennial Grant Program.

(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. 7; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations.

(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. 8; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Services Grant Program.

(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. 9; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of Authorization to the City Manager to Enter into a Support Agreement in Connection with a Loan to be Obtained by the Industrial Development Authority for Certain Economic Development Activities.

(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; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar, with the exception on item #10, which was considered under separate motion. The approval was as

follows:

7. City Council: (1) approved the submission of the grant application; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents to apply for, accept, and implement the grant, if awarded.

8. 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 \$1,875,000 for the duration of five years with no match required to implement evidence-based substance use prevention and mental health promotion programming in the City of Alexandria; (2) approved the following positions supported by grant revenues if the competitive request is successful: one Grant Coordinator (1 FTE) to oversee grant activities, one Training and Prevention Specialist (1 FTE) to provide implementation support for grant activities, one Human Services Specialist II (1 FTE) to deliver evidence-based prevention education curricula; and one part time Data Analyst (0.5 FTE) to support evaluation of grant activities; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

9. City Council: (1) authorized the grant application for competitive funding to Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 to 2027 in the amount of \$200,000 with twenty percent (20%) match requirement to enhance services for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault survivors residing in the City of Alexandria. The matching funds requirement will be met using in-kind volunteer hours from the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program. Contingent on funding availability, awarded projects may receive continuation funding in State Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

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. Consideration of Authorization to the City Manager to Enter into a Support Agreement in Connection with a Loan to be Obtained by the Industrial Development Authority for Certain Economic Development Activities.

(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; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) authorized the City Manager to execute a support agreement, in substantial conference with the attachment to this memorandum, in connection with a loan to be obtained by the Industrial Development Authority for the purpose of financing the acquisition and build out of three commercial condominium units and activates the first designated arts space within the Old Town North Arts District; and (2) directed the City Manager to include for City Council consideration an appropriation equal to the amortization schedule as part of the annual budget and appropriation authorization process during the loan repayment period. 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.

Roll-Call Consent Calendar (11-13)

- 11. Consideration of a Resolution for a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program. [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. 11; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

- 12. Consideration of a Resolution Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Make Changes in the Lane Mileage Eligible for State Roadway Maintenance Payments. [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. 12; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

- 13. Consideration of Resolutions to Support Grant Applications for the Transportation Land-Use Connections Program and Regional Roadway Safety Program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. [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. 13; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The approvals were as follows:

- 11. City Council adopted the resolution to: (1) to support the submission of up to \$1,000,000 grant for a planning study on Seminary Road between Library Lane and North Beauregard Street; (2) authorized the City Manager to allocate \$250,000 in developer contributions from the City Capital Improvement Program for a 25% local match; and (3) authorized the City Manager to apply to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program and enter into any agreements with United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to accept and implement the grant.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3210

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (RAISE) FOR FY 2024

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law and in 2022, funded \$1.5 billion for the U.S. Department of

Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program (formerly known as TIGER grants); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of RAISE is to fund the small and large infrastructure projects through a prioritization process that evaluates each project’s merits using key factors, including: improvements to safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, partnerships and collaboration and innovation. The evaluation focuses on the degree to which a project addresses a problem or need relative to the requested funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, projects are scored based on a merit criteria review by the U.S. Department of Transportation evaluation team. For planning grants, RAISE also requires that project benefits be analyzed relative to project cost and demonstrate readiness in terms of start and completion dates, schedules for public engagement, financial completeness to obligate FY 2024 funds by September 30, 2028, and technical assessment of feasibility and capacity to deliver the project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit applications for an allocation of funds up to \$1 million through the U.S Department of Transportation RAISE Program for the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, up to \$1 million is required to fund a critical planning study for Seminary Road between Library Lane and North Beauregard Street, with these studies being conducted in collaboration between the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

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

1. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports this application for an allocation of up to \$1 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE Program, for FY 2024 and
2. The City Council hereby commits to include funds for its local match up to \$250,000 from developer contributions already acquired for this area, and already appropriated as prior year funds in the Seminary Road and Beauregard Street Ellipse Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project.
3. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby grants authority for the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

12. City Council adopted the resolution: (1) requesting that Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) update the list of roadways in the City that are eligible to receive annual maintenance payments from the State; and (2) authorized the City Manager to forward the resolution to the Commissioner of Highways and VDOT, and enter into any necessary agreements, and receive the payments.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3211

WHEREAS, the State Code, as set forth in Section 33.2-319, enables a process in which municipalities may request additions, deletions or changes to the functional classification of Urban Roads or Streets in the VDOT Urban Maintenance Inventory eligible for maintenance payments from VDOT on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria contains additional new roadways which meet the VDOT Urban Maintenance Inventory criteria, as set forth in Va. Code § 33.2-319; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to add/delete various new roadways and lanes as Primary/Minor Arterials and Collector/Local streets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to make these changes to the Virginia Department of Transportation Urban Maintenance Inventory in order to qualify for maintenance payments under the new quarterly payment rates per lane mile for Primary/Minor Arterial and Collector/Local streets respectively, starting as of July 1, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council requests that portions of the following roadways be added to the Virginia Department of Transportation Urban Maintenance Inventory.

CHANGES TO THE URBAN MAINTENANCE INVENTORY:

Potomac Avenue	Dogue Street	President Ford Lane
East Glebe Road	Seaton Avenue	McConnell Avenue
Maskell Street	East Swann Avenue	Mandeville Lane
Watson Street	Bluemont Avenue	Swamp Fox Road
Conoy Street	McKenzie Avenue	Osprey Place
Annie Rose Avenue	East Custis Avenue	Stabler Lane
Diamond Avenue	East Howell Avenue	
Main Line Boulevard	East Nelson Avenue	
East Alexandria Avenue	East Glendale Avenue	
Savoy Street	John Carlyle Street	
Eisenhower Park Drive	Limerick Street	
Port Street	Dock Lane	
Lyles Lane	Carpenter Road	
Potomac Greens Drive	Duke Street	
Arell Court		

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council urges the Virginia Department of Transportation to approve this request as submitted.

13. City Council adopted the resolutions: (1) to support the submission of a grant application by March 8, 2024, for up to \$100,000 in Technical Assistance to perform planning, outreach and conceptual design for corridor improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the city boundary; (2) approved the resolution to support the submission of a grant application by March 8, 2024, for up to \$100,000 in Technical Assistance to study safety improvements on Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the city boundary; and (3) authorized the City Manager to apply to the Transportation Land-Use

Connections Program (TLCP) AND Regional Roadway Safety program (RRSP) for Technical Assistance through Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and enter into any agreements with MWCOG to accept and implement the grants.

The resolutions read as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3212

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TRANSPORTATION-LAND USE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM FOR FY 2025

WHEREAS, the Transportation-Land Use Connections (TLC) Program is administered by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG); and

WHEREAS, the TLC Program is intended to fund short-term consultant services to local jurisdictions for small planning projects that promote mixed-use, walkable communities and support a variety of transportation alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the TLC Program provides up to \$100,000 in consultant assistance for planning and design projects; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council adopted the Alexandria Mobility Plan in 2021, which aims to improve mobility, access, safety, and convenience for all users; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council desires to submit an application to the TLC Program for up to \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for Edsall Road Corridor Improvements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports the application for up to \$100,000 from the TLC Program from MWCOG for Fiscal Year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby grants authority to the City Manager to apply for this grant and enter into any necessary agreements with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to accept this grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 3213

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT APPLICATION FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM FOR FY 2025

WHEREAS, the Regional Roadway Safety Program (RRSP) is administered by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG); and

WHEREAS, RRSP is intended to fund short-term consultant services to member jurisdictions or agencies to assist with planning or preliminary engineering projects that address roadway safety issues; and

WHEREAS, RRSP provides up to \$100,000 in consultant assistance for planning and design projects that lead to a reduction in traffic fatalities and severe injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council adopted the Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan in 2017, which include a goal to eliminate fatal and severe injury crashes by 2028; and

WHEREAS, Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City boundary is one of the corridors on the City's High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council desires to submit an application to the RRSP for up to \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for the Seminary West Safety Improvements Study; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports the application for up to \$100,000 from RRSP from MWCOG for Fiscal Year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby grants authority to the City Manager to apply for these grant funds and enter into any necessary agreements with MWCOG to accept this grant.

IV. ACTION MATTERS

Recommendations from the City Manager

14. Presentation of the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2025 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2025 to FY 2034 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

City Manager Parajon presented the proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2025 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2025 to FY 2034 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations to City Council.

Resolutions

None.

Ordinances

None.

V. Other Business

15. Oral Reports and Oral Presentations from Members of City Council

(a) Councilman Chapman suggested that a summit to discuss the economic sustainability for the City of Alexandria and how major economic development project impacts the economic health of the City.

(b) Councilman Aguirre congratulated Senior Services of Alexandria on hosting a successful Valentine’s Day party for the senior community.

(c) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast.

(d) Councilman Aguirre reported that he and his colleagues participated in the George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade honoring living legends.

(e) Councilman Aguirre thanked City staff for hosting the informational popup at William Ramsey about the proposed arena project.

(f) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Del Ray Citizens Association Chili Cook-off this past weekend.

16. 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. 16; 02/27/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the FY2024 City Council Schedule. 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.

17. Closed Session (if needed)

Not needed.

VI. 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 February 27, 2024 at 9:31 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: March 12, 2024