

**City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:15 PM - City Hall, Council Chamber
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; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Roberts, Deputy City Attorney; Ms. Kamara, Acting Independent Police Auditor; Mr. Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Mr. Routt, Director, OMB; Mr. Freed, Office of Climate Action; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Lt. May.

RECORDED BY: Gloria Sitton, City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

I. OPENING

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Gaskins called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All the members of City Council were present with Councilman McPike electronic attending via Zoom.

2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed)

Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by City Council. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the electronic resolution. 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. 3281

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 criteria 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 R. Kirk McPike has notified the Mayor and the Clerk that he is unavailable to be physically present for the April 22, 2025 City Council Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically travel for work; and

WHEREAS, the Council Member has not participated in more than two or 25% of City Council Meetings by electronic means during this calendar year; and

WHEREAS the City Council Member R. Kirk McPike will participate in the City Council Meeting by video conference call from California 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 R. Kirk McPike will participate remotely in this meeting by video conference call.

CLOSED SESSION

3. Consideration of a closed executive session to discuss the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:17 p.m., pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) to discuss or consider 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. 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:07 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolution regarding the closed executive session that was previously circulated to the Council. 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. 3282

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 22nd day of April, 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.

4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Public Hearing. Consideration of Passage on Public Hearing of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-6-233 (STORMWATER UTILITY FEE) of Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Article C (STORMWATER UTILITY) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

(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. 5; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing. 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. Public Hearing. Consideration of Passage on Public Hearing of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-8-77 (PARKING PERMITS; ISSUANCE) of Article F (PERMIT PARKING DISTRICTS) of Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

(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. 6; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

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

1. Mallory Lawhorne, Alexandria, spoke about the need better parking regulations and enforcement in areas with reduction parking.
2. Carol James, Alexandria, requested the reinstatement of parking stickers for specific areas with new parking fees.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing. 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.

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

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

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the proclamation. In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

8. Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Elnoubi, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed 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.

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

*** Council of Governments: Board of Directors (Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board received a briefing on World Pride, noting the addition of an International March on Washington as part of the activities and the addition of a Human Rights Conference to focus on policies. Mayor Gaskins also reported that there are ongoing safety conversations about what each jurisdiction needs to do keep the LGBTQ and trans residents safe during World Pride activities. Mayor Gaskins reported that the Board also received a report of the state of the economic impacts of the current administration on the region.

*** Northern Virginia Transportation Authority: Governing Body (Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that she was part of the kick-off ceremony for the NVTa Transportation Summit, which included members of City staff as presenters. Mayor Gaskins reported that NVTa is in the process of updating its Strategic Plan to be completed by Fall 2025, focusing on transportation equity, transportation safety and transportation sustainability.

*** Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors (Councilwoman Greene and Mayor Gaskins)**

Councilwoman Greene reported that there discussion about increasing membership for the Partnership. Councilwoman Greene noted that there was discussion about the upcoming Economic Summit. Councilwoman Greene reported that there was discussion about their recurring events including the WEBA Networking Event and Movie Nights, which will resume on May 17.

*** Council of Governments: Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) (Councilwoman Greene)**

Councilwoman Greene reported the Committee received an update on the potential for food insecurity in the region due to loss of funding and grants from the federal government. Councilwoman Greene reported that there was an update on food waste prevention week and there was discussion on the committees legislative updates and outreach.

*** Council of Governments: Regional Transportation Planning Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board was only receiving information items and there will be more discussion when the 495 HOT lanes are discussed at the next board meeting.

*** Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Library Board received updates from Friends of the Library groups and he noted that Spring2Action was a successful event for the branches. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board would be electing new officers at the June meeting.

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

Councilman Chapman reported that the Commission received information on the kick-off for the Smart Mobility Lab, on May 1 at 2 p.m., at the Virginia Tech Campus. Councilman Chapman reported that there was an update and modernization of the Paratransit Program. Councilman Chapman reported that there was an update on bikeshare, including the inclusion of a new bikeshare program.

*** Stormwater Advisory Committee (Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that the Committee would be sending a letter to Council with concerns they have about the Flood Action Alexandria program, including the timeline of the work for the program. Councilman Chapman reported that there was conversation about challenges and opportunities for flood preparation throughout the City.

*** ARHA Redevelopment Work Group (Councilman Chapman and Mayor Gaskins)**

Mayor Gaskins reported that the Work Group met and began the discussion about the policies of the current administration and how it will affect the work of ARHA and how the City would support families and the amount of coordination that needs to occur to address concerns of the both organizations. Mayor Gaskins reported that there was a discussion about future ARHA projects and the process of integrating those projects into the development pipeline for the City.

*** Virginia Railway Express: Board of Directors (Vice Mayor Bagley)**

Vice Mayor Bagley reported that the Board reported an increase of 100k riders in March. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was update on the King/Commonwealth Bridge project and the Alexandria Station improvements, to be completed in 2027. Vice Mayor Bagley reported that there was discussion of the 2050 Plan for the region.

IV. Oral Report from the City Manager

City Manager Parajon reported that the City has appointed Hashim Taylor as the Director of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and thanked Deputy Director Jack Browand to serve as the interim director.

9. Economic Development Update

Stephanie Landrum, President/CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership,

gave an update on the upcoming Economic Summit to be held on May 8.

V. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar (10-11)

10. Consideration of an Application for the 2025 Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) 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; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Draft City Fiscal Year (CFY) 2026 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. 11; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar. The approvals were as follows.

10. City Council: (a) approved the application for up to \$3500, and (b) authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

11. City Council (a) received the draft CFY 2026 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development ("Draft Action Plan") containing the City's draft application for CFY 2026 Funding for an estimated \$1,115,402 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies and an estimated \$594,310 in Home Investment Partnership Programs (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 grant funds.

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.

VI. ACTION MATTERS

Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of Proposed Changes to the Ordinances for the Independent Policing Auditor as well as the Independent Community Policing Review Board.

(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; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

Councilman Elnoubi inquired if an amendment would be considered by the maker of the motion to include the subpoena power for the board. Vice Mayor Bagley as the maker of the motion declined the inclusion of the amendment.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried 6-1, City Council: (1) approved the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, Councilman Elnoubi.

VII. BUDGET WORK SESSION

13. Preliminary Add/Delete Work session

City Council the held the preliminary Add/Delete Work session in preparation of the adoption of the budget for FY2026. City Council discussed various projects to be included in the upcoming budget adoption, including those that address environmental concerns, schools, staffing in the Sheriff's Department, and

VIII. OTHER

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

(a) Mayor Gaskins reported that she distributed a memo to her colleagues about additional projects that need budget discussion and she requested staff to provide the Council will data to include these items in next year's budget consideration.

(b) Councilman Aguirre reported that Spring2Action raised a significant amount of money for organizations in the community.

(c) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the VDOT Express lanes hearing at the Lee Center.

(d) Councilman Aguirre reported that the Youth Speak Up event was held at Patrick Henry School.

(e) Councilman Aguirre reported that the Alex Chamber held an event recognizing LaJuanna Russell.

- (f) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended a ceremony recognizing the graduates and promotions at WMATA.
- (g) Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended a mock public hearing at the Minnie Howard Campus.
- (h) Councilman Aguirre reported that the Miracle League held their opening day for Kelly Cares Miracle League Field.
- (i) Councilman Aguirre attended an event with WEBA and Old Town Business Association at Mystic BBQ.
- (j) Councilman Aguirre attended an event at Deanwood Metro Center highlighting a new mixed used development project.
- (k) Councilman Aguirre reported that he recently toured the Boys and Girls Club here in Alexandria.
- (l) Councilman Aguirre congratulated everyone who received awards at the Sheriff's Office recent ceremony.
- (m) Councilman Aguirre recognized the students from Liberty's Promise who visited City Hall this evening.
- (n) Vice Mayor Bagley reported that she was able to visit Dundee, Scotland recently and thanked them for their hospitality during her visit.
- (o) Councilman Chapman reported that he visited NOTice in North Old Town and introduce a panel on the arts and development in North Old Town.
- (p) Councilman Chapman reported that the State delegation hosted a town hall meeting in Council chamber for the community.
- (q) Councilman Chapman reported that St. Stephens and St. Agnes will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary soon.
- (r) Councilman Chapman reported that the Sister Cities Committee will be hosting its annual whiskey tasting event this weekend.
- (s) Councilman Chapman also reported that the ACPS Scholarship Fund will be held this weekend.
- (t) Mayor Gaskins reported that she presented a proclamation to Taverna honoring their 50th anniversary of being in business in the City of Alexandria.

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum is on file in the Office of the City Clerk's Office, marked Item No. 14; 04/22/25, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) approved the City Council Look Ahead Calendar to include the following:

- City Council Town Hall tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library (5005 Duke Street); and

(2) Receive the City Council Calendar from April 2025 – December 2025.

The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Greene, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, non.

IX. ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of April 22, 2025 at 10:52 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:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: May 13, 2025