

City Council Special Emergency Meeting
City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 6:30 PM - Council Chamber
Special 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. Brown, Deputy City Attorney; Ms. Zechman Brown, Deputy City Attorney; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Predeoux, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Mansoor, ITS; and Police Sgt. Jones.

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Mayor Gaskins called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of Council were present.

Mayor Gaskins stated the propose of the special meeting: (1) to consider an emergency ordinance amending City Code sections 2-4-7 (b) and (c) to allow for waiver of public notice and application deadlines in emergency appointment circumstances, allowing for Council response to the resignation of eight ARHA commissioners received on October 14, 2025; and (2) to appoint new members to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) Board of Directors, in order to ensure continuity of operations and leadership at ARHA.

2. Introduction and First Reading of the Emergency Ordinance. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

Second Reading and Final Passage of the Emergency Ordinance. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

Mayor Gaskins read the emergency ordinance into the record for introduction, first reading, second reading and final passage. The ordinance reads as follows:

An Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 2-4-7 (Appointments to Committees) of Article A (General Provisions) of Chapter 4 (Committees, Boards and Commissions) of

Title 2 (General Government) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2025, the City Council received a letter from an attorney representing eight of the nine Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority ("ARHA") commissioners. In that letter, all eight of the represented commissioners resigned from the ARHA board of commissioners, effective immediately;

WHEREAS, such resignations constitute an emergency requiring the City Council to take immediate action to ensure the continuity of ARHA operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to make new appointments to ARHA immediately, an amendment to section 2-4-7 of the Code of the City of Alexandria is required.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-4-7(b) and (c) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding the text shown in underline in the attachment to the agenda, which states as follows:

The following language will be added to the end of section 2-4-7(b):

Public notice requirements may be waived by the city council in the event of a need to address time-sensitive or emergency appointment(s). The nature of the circumstances requiring a waiver must be stated on the record prior to the city council making such appointment(s) and shall be recorded in the minutes.

The following language will be added to the end of section 2-4-7(c):

Applications must be filed with the executive secretary not less than seven days prior to the date that the appointment will be considered by the city council, except in the event of a time-sensitive or emergency appointment as described in subsection (b).

Section 2. That Section 2-4-7 as amended pursuant to Section 1 of this ordinance, be, and the same hereby is, reordained as part of the City of Alexandria City Code.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved on introduction and first reading of an emergency ordinance amending City Code section 2-4-7(b) and (c) to allow for waiver of public notice and application deadlines in emergency appointment circumstances. 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 Vice Mayor Bagley, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted on second reading and final passage of an emergency ordinance amending City Code section 2-4-7 (b) and (c) to allow for waiver of public notice and application deadlines in emergency appointment circumstances. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Green, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

The final ordinance reads as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 5604

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-7 (APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES) of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2025, the City Council received a letter from an attorney representing eight of the nine Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority ("ARHA") commissioners. In that letter, all eight of the represented commissioners resigned from the ARHA board of commissioners, effective immediately;

WHEREAS, such resignations constitute an emergency requiring the City Council to take immediate action to ensure the continuity of ARHA operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to make new appointments to ARHA immediately, an amendment to section 2-4-7 of the Code of the City of Alexandria is required.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-4-7(b) and (c) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding the text shown in underline as follows:

City Code 2-4-7. Appointments to Committees

(b) *Public notice of appointments.* Before appointing or reappointing any person to a committee, the executive secretary shall give public notice of the impending appointment and cause the same to be advertised in the form and manner prescribed by law for public notices at least 21 days prior to consideration by the city council of the appointment or reappointment. Insofar as practicable, the notice shall indicate the name of the committee, the number of positions to be filled, any special occupational, professional or other qualifications that may be required for a particular position and the time within which the application required by subsection (c) of this section must be filed. Where a position can be filled only by a designated member, the notice shall also include the name of the organization,

group or committee from which such member must be designated. Public notice requirements may be waived by the city council in the event of a need to address time-sensitive or emergency appointment(s). The nature of the circumstances requiring a waiver must be stated on the record prior to the city council making such appointment(s) and shall be recorded in the minutes.

(c) *Appointment application form and deadline.* No person shall be appointed or reappointed by the city council to any committee until there is first submitted and filed with the executive secretary an application form. No person shall submit an application for membership for more than one committee position at any city council meeting at which appointments to committees are considered. Such application may include personal data with respect to the applicant's name, address, age, educational background, practical experience, length of residency, employment of the applicant or any relative by the city, any special qualifications that the applicant possesses for a particular position, and any other information the executive secretary deems necessary in order for city council to make its appointment. Applications must be filed with the executive secretary not less than seven days prior to the date that the appointment will be considered by the city council, except in the event of a time-sensitive or emergency appointment as described in subsection (b).

Section 2. That Section 2-4-7 as amended pursuant to Section 1 of this ordinance, be, and the same hereby is, reordained as part of the City of Alexandria City Code.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

3. Appointments of ARHA Board of Commissioners

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilwoman Greene and carried unanimously, City Council approved the following slate of candidates for appointment to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners:

Mark Jinks and Darnella Nelson, both with terms to expire on October 15, 2029;
Nate Macek and Theresa Peterson, both with terms to expire on October 15, 2028;
and
Justin Jackson and Kristen Weber, both with terms to expire on October 27, 2027.

The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilman Elnoubi, Councilwoman Green, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none.

Mayor Gaskins congratulated the newly appointed ARHA board members and stated the Council expectations for the new members to include the following:

1. To ensure the timely execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between ARHA and the City.

2. To ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Including retaining legal counsel to advise on FOIA and participate in board meetings.
3. To adopt practices that require annual board and staff training(s) to enable the board and staff to undertake the work of ARHA knowledgably and in compliance with laws and regulations.
4. To allow for City input into the hiring decisions for executive director/chief executive officer and other senior management of ARHA.
5. To ensure adoption of and compliance with personnel policies and provide appropriate oversight of ARHA staff.
6. To have an independent third-party conduct on an annual basis an audit and assessment of ARHA's finances and business operations, including but not limited to, customer relations, responsiveness, and staff capacity, and adopt the third party's recommendations regarding improvements and/or training to improve performance.
7. To establish sound, efficient, prompt, and responsive customer service and inspection and maintenance programs, reflected in updated policies and procedures.
8. To ensure that ARHA shares information in an open and timely manner with the City related to all undertakings, to provide transparency related to ARHA's work and strengthen alignment of ARHA and City housing goals. At a minimum, timely shall mean that ARHA shall enter into no agreement or contract related to a project without first briefing the ARHA Work Group, potentially in an executive session, if appropriate.
9. To ensure that Commissioners and staff who have the authority to speak for ARHA, attend the City - ARHA Redevelopment Work Group.
10. To establish a regular meeting of the board and staff with those served by ARHA, where those served are provided the opportunity to speak. Representatives of the board are expected to attend, participate, and ensure that feedback from residents is considered in ARHA operations and policy.

4. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Vice Mayor Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the special meeting of October 15, 2025 at 6:48 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. Sifton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: November 12, 2025