

**City of Alexandria  
City Council Legislative Meeting  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

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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; Ms. McLean, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office (CMO); Ms. Pledger, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Teate, Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI); Mr. McPike, Director, General Services; Mr. Freed, Climate Action Officer; Mr. Saenz, Deputy Director, ITS; Mr. Medina, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); Mr. Maines, Division Chief, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer, CMO; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. S. Taylor, Legislative Director/Assistant City Manager; Fire Chief Smedley; Police Chief Hayes; Ms. Manual, Chief Human Resources Officer; Ms. Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer, CMO; Mr. Wicks, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Mr. Routt, Director, OMB; Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Mr. Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Ms. Gilbert, DCHS; Ms. Kelleher, Interim Deputy City Manager/Director, Human Rights; Ms. K. Taylor, Interim Deputy City Manager/Director, Finance; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Smith, ITS; and Police Captain Ballantine.

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

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**I. OPENING**

1. Calling the Roll.

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

2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Members of City Council (if needed).

Not needed.

3. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

## **II. PROCLAMATIONS**

4. 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 Aguirre, 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.

5. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing Virginia Flood Awareness Week.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, 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.

## **III. ORAL REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board reviewed the Unified Work Plan for the region and began discussions on Visual 2050.

### **\*Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board welcomed new members to the Board and the Library Foundation reviewed a six month report on donations to the Library. Councilman Aguirre distributed Save the Date cards announcing the Alexandria Black Family Reunion at the Barrett Branch on April 29.

### **\*Transportation Commission (Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Commission discussed a letter to WMATA regarding their upcoming fiscal year budget, fares, the 11Y bus route, and timetables and cost for the Potomac Yard Metro Station. Councilman McPike also reported that the Commission received an update on the bikeshare and docketless mobility program in the City.

### **\*Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Committee received presentation on upcoming events around the region highlighting efforts regarding clean air quality from the clean air

partners. Councilman McPike reported that the Committee received updates regarding compliance for air quality for the region.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that ridership has increased to the levels from Fare Free September for VRE. Councilmember Bagley reported that there was discussion about resuming the cross agreement between MARC to increase ridership. Councilmember Bagley noted there is some upcoming discussion about the rehabilitation work for the bridge at Commonwealth and King and at the station and improvements for the surrounding area.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the subcommittee received updates on Capital projects and received updates on the budget process with the schools. Mayor Wilson noted that there was discussion about the budget amendments that passed in Richmond regarding state school funding. Mayor Wilson also reported that there was discussion about coordination around school enrollment, specifically with larger development projects and student generation rates. Vice Mayor Jackson noted that there is a need for school crossing guards.

**IV. ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

6. Becker & Poliakoff Federal Report.

City Manager Parajon introduced Ms. Manuel, Chief Human Resources Officer to discuss the City becoming a certified employer for veterans and has received certification from the Commonwealth.

City Manager Parajon announced that the City was selected as the 2023 Organizational Leadership Recipient by the American Society for Public Administration.

City Council received the presentation from Becker and Poliakoff Federal Lobbyists and they responded to questions from Council about their vision and processes.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR (7-11a)**

**(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)**

7. Consideration of Future Use of a Portion of City-Owned Real Estate Located at 2 King Street.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated February 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity (Guaranteed Income Pilot) Update.

(A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council,

marked Item No. 8; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Social Services for the Sexual and Domestic Violence American Rescue Plan Act Grant.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of a Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for a Creative Community Partnership Grant for the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Consideration of a Contract Modification to Add Custodial Services at 4850 Mark Center Drive.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

- 11a. Consideration of a Temporary Lease Agreement Between the City and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of General Services (for the Virginia Department of Health), for 44,461 Square Feet of Rentable Space in 4850 Mark Center Drive.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 24, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11a; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council approved the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item #8, which was received under separate motion. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

7. City Council authorized the City Manager to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale and redevelopment of a portion of City-owned property at 2 King Street for no less than ninety (90) days following the process detailed in the City Real Estate Disposition Policy.

9. City Council: (1) approved the grant application; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

10. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$4,500 to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Creative Community Partnership Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2023; and (2) authorized the City Manager

to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

11. City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Contract Modification to add custodial services at 4850 Mark Center Drive.

11a. City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a temporary lease agreement consistent with the general terms of the Temporary Lease Agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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.

8. Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity (Guaranteed Income Pilot) Update.

(A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the update on the Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity (Guaranteed Income Pilot) program.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION**

12. Update on the 2023 Virginia General Assembly Session.

City Council received an update on the 2023 Virginia General Assembly Session from Legislative Director Sarah Taylor.

13. Presentation of the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2024 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2024 to FY 2033 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

(A copy of the City Manager's budget presentation, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 02/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Manager Parajon presented the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2024 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2024 to FY 2033 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

## **VI. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **VII. ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL**

1. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Council of Governments (COG) Fair Housing Plan Listening Session and he noted that there is still time for citizens to

give input on the plan.

2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and other members of Council attended the re-opening of the Black History Museum on Sunday.

3. Councilman Aguirre reported that he participated in a Read Across America event sponsored by the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School.

4. Councilman Aguirre reported that he recently participated in an exchange trip to El Salvador.

**VIII. OTHER**

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated February 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 02/28/23, 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 received and approved the 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.

**IX. ADJOURN.**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of February 28, 2023 at 10:00 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.

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**APPROVED BY:**

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**JUSTIN M. WILSON      MAYOR**

ATTEST:

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Gloria A. Sitton, CMC    City Clerk

Adopted: April 11, 2023