City of Alexandria Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - 7:00 PM Alexandria City Hall - Council Chamber City Council Legislative Meeting

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. Brown, Deputy City Attorney, Mr. Useem, Director of Office Performance Analytics (OPA), Mr. Stackhouse, Analyst, OPA, Mr. McPike, Director of General Services, Ms. Garvey, Director of Community and Human Services, Ms. Gilbert, Economic Support Director, Community and Human Services, Marc Barbiere, Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Lloyd, and Police Lt. Mays.

Recorded by:

Keia Waters, Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

I. OPENING

Calling the Roll.

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

2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution (if needed).

Not needed.

- 3. Closed Session (if needed).
- 4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

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

- II. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
- 5. Presentation of a Proclamation Honoring the Annual Scottish Christmas Walk.

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 Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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

Councilman Aguirre highlighted a presentation on highway safety targets, the safety summit, and the recruitment status of the Citizen Advisory Committee.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported on updates she received from ACAP meeting. Councilmember Bagley noted the Wrap It Up program has dispensed over 100,000 condoms and a grant orientation meeting.

*Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Councilmember Bagley)

Councilmember Bagley highlighted the Santa Train will take off on December 14, 2024, and tickets go on sale December 2. Councilmember Bagley reported on a discussion regarding the upcoming budget and timeline.

*Council of Governments (COG) Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)(Councilmember Bagley)

Councilmember Bagley highlighted a briefing received regarding weather patterns to brace the region for a snowy season and other extreme weather events. Councilmember Bagley noted a program on public truck charging stations for heavy freight vehicles. Councilmember Bagley also noted that Electrify DC: Health Homes Fair will be on March 29, 2025.

*City Council/Alex Renew Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Vice Mayor Jackson)

Mayor Wilson reported that the board held its last meeting and will unveil a dashboard to provide further updates and the work continues. Mayor Wilson noted that the AlexRenew board adopted a resolution recognizing the members of the subcommittee.

*Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Councilman McPike)

Councilman McPike reported the board considered recommendations for items to include in the city's legislative package and the package will come to council next month.

Mayor Wilson note delegation will join council on December 10.

*Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)

Councilman Chapman noted the board will be visiting Germany to extending their partnership, tour of Arena 2038, a data centers, and meeting with a number of students and professors about apprenticeships.

IV. Oral Report from the City Manager

City Manager Parajon introduced Marc Barbiere, Emergency Management Coordinator, the newest member to the Emergency Operations Center.

6. Consideration of the 2024 Alexandria Resident Survey Results

City Council received an update on the 2024 Alexandria Residents Survey from Mr. Useem, Director of Office Performance Analytics (OPA) and Mr. Stackhouse, Analyst, OPA.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council received the 2024 Alexandria Resident Survey Results. 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.

7. Progress Report on the City Hall Renovation and Market Square Project.

City Council received an update on the City Hall Renovation and Market Square Project from Mr. McPike, Director of General Services.

V. ACTION DOCKET

Regular Consent Calendar (8-12)

8. Consideration of a Lease Agreement Between the City and Eisenhower Mill Properties, LLC for office space at the Eisenhower Center III Office Building located at 2331 Mill Road

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of an Addendum to the Lease Agreement Between the City and Bankers Square Associates, LLC for office space at the Bankers Square Office Building located at 100 North Pitt Street.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of an Amendment to the Lease Agreement Between the City and WG Tavern Square Venture, LLC for office space at the Tavern Square Office Building Complex located at 421 King Street and 123 N. Pitt Street.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

11. Consideration of a Lease for the Arts Resource Foundation (dba Del Ray Artisans) continued use of the Colasanto Center located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the

Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

12. Consideration of a Grant Application to Bloomberg Philanthropies for the Global Mayors Challenge

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council approved the regular consent calendar, 8-12. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

- 8. City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the proposed lease agreement with Eisenhower Mill Properties, LLC.
- 9. City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the proposed Fifth Addendum to the lease with Bankers Square Associates, LLC.
- 10. City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the proposed Sixth Amendment to the lease agreement with WG Tavern Square Venture, LLC.
- 11. City Council: (1) Received this recommendation regarding the form and content of the proposed lease for the Del Ray Artisans use of the Colasanto Center; and (2) Scheduled a public hearing on Saturday, December 14, 2024, and after the public hearing is concluded authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement (Attachment 1).
- 12. City Council: (1) Authorized the submission of a grant application for up to \$1,000,000 to Bloomberg Philanthropies; and (2) Authorized the City Manager to apply for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Global Mayors Challenge and enter into any necessary agreements with Bloomberg Philanthropies to accept this funding.

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.

VI. ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR

13. Consideration of a Resolution Approving Eagle Medical 360 LLC to Provide Private Medical Transports in the City of Alexandria. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

14. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application from DASH and the City of Alexandria for the FY 2026 to FY 2027 I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the

Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

15. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Transportation for the FY 2026 State of Good Repair Program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 15; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

16. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Funding Request for FY 2031 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funds. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 16; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

17. Consideration of a Resolution to Establish FY 2026 Budget Guidance. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 17; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

18. Consideration of a Budget Resolution Establishing the Process to be Used to Adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget and the FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 18; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar, with the exception of items #17-18, which was considered under separate motion. The resolution adoptions were as follows:

13. City Council adopted the attached resolution that approves Eagle Medical 360 LLC to provide non-emergency medical transportation to their customers in the City of Alexandria.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO.3255

WHEREAS, Eagle Medical 360 LLC, seeks to operate as a licensed EMS agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia for non-emergent medical transportation; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Medical 360 LLC wishes to incorporate non-emergent basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) transportation; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Medical 360 LLC intends to provide inter-facility nonemergency BLS and ALS medical transport services in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Medical 360 LLC has requested licensure as an EMS agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia to allow them to operate in the Commonwealth, including the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Medical 360 LLC will not interfere with the mission of the Alexandria Fire Department or respond to medical emergencies within the City of Alexandria.

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

On this date of November 26, 2024, the Alexandria City Council does hereby approve Eagle Medical 360 LLC to operate within the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

14. City Council: 1. Approved a Resolution (Attachment 1) supporting the submission of a grant application for the two I-395/95 Commuter Choice Program application requests for up to \$13 million over two years; and 2. Authorized the City Manager to apply for these grant funds and enter into any necessary agreements to accept this grant.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO.3258

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 1-395/95 COMMUTER CHOICE PROGRAM FOR FY 2026 - FY 2027

WHEREAS, As part of the agreement for the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on **I-**395/95, the toll operator (Transurban) is required to provide grant funding for the 1-395/95 Commuter Choice Program; and

WHEREAS, The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), OmniRide/Potomac/Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC), the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will provide a minimum of \$15 million annually to fund transit related improvements in the I-395/95 corridor beginning in 2019;and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the 1-395/95 Commuter Choice Program is to support projects that maximize person throughput and implement multimodal improvements along the I-395/95 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the 1-395/95 Commuter Choice Program projects will be scored based on technical merit, cost effectiveness, applicant preference, and toll day one readiness; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit applications for allocation of funds of up to \$8,000,000 over two years for the first priority project for DASH West End-Pentagon Bus Service Enhancements (Line 35), and up to \$5,000,000 over two years for the second priority project for DASH West End-Potomac Yard Bus Service Enhancements (Line 36) for a total allocation of up to \$13,000,000 over two years for the City of Alexandria, through the 1-395/95 Commuter Choice Program.

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

- I. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports the applications for an allocation of up to \$13,000,000 through the 1-395/95 Commuter Choice Program; and
- 2. 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.
- 15. City Council: 1. Approved a Resolution (Attachment 1) to support an application for up to \$2,000,000 through the VDOT SGR Locality-Owned Bridge Program for capital maintenance and repair of Duke Street Bridge over Holmes Run; 2. Authorized the City Manager to submit this Resolution and enter into any agreements with VDOT that may be required to receive these funds should the requested allocation be approved.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3256

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) ST ATE OF GOOD REP AIR LOCALITYOWNED BRIDGE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit a competitive grant application for funds of up to \$2,000,000 through the VDOT State of Good Repair (SGR) Locality-Owned Bridge Program; and

WHEREAS, up to \$2,000,000 of these funds are requested to fund the planned capital maintenance and repairs of the following bridge: Duke Street over Holmes Run;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports this application for an allocation up to \$2,000,000 through the Virginia Department of Transportation State of Good Repair Program Locality-Owned Bridge Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council hereby grants authority for the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

16. City Council: 1. Approved a Resolution (Attachment 1) supporting the submission of the FY 2031 CMAQ/RSTP funding request; and 2. Authorized the City Manager to apply for these funds and to and enter into any necessary agreements to accept this grant.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO.3260

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR FY 2031 CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY AND REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires that the City submit an application to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for up to \$5,500,000 in

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for FY 2031; and

WHEREAS, \$2,000,000 of these funds are requested to fund Safe Routes to School improvements and \$3,500,000 of these funds are requested to fund bus bulbs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Alexandria hereby supports this application for an allocation of up to \$5,500,000 in FY 2031 through CMAQ and RSTP and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby grants authority for the City Manager to apply for these funds and execute project administration agreements, as well as other documents necessary for approved projects using these funds.

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. Consideration of a Resolution to Establish FY 2026 Budget Guidance. [ROLL CALL VOTE].

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the FY 2026 Budget Guidance Resolution (Attachment). This resolution will provide guidance to the City Manager to be used in the preparation of the Proposed FY 2026 Operating Budget and Proposed FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program to be presented on February 25, 2025, for City Council consideration. 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO.3257

Setting Guidance for FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2026 to FY 2035

WHEREAS, the City Council of Alexandria will pass a resolution establishing Council's process for formulating the Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and requires that City Council set budget guidance for the City Manager and the School Board for the FY 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, the City will seek input into the development of the FY 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's budget deliberations and annual spending decisions should reflect a balancing of the Strategic Priorities adopted by the City Council in March of calendar year 2022 and updated in January 2024; and

WHEREAS, those services directly supporting the Adopted Strategic Priorities and the corresponding business plans are considered for funding support and evaluated and prioritized through the lens of equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget and the Racial Equity Office have adopted the use of a Budget Equity Tool to evaluate all departmental supplemental requests and reduction budget items using a scoring rubric; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to continuously improving the efficiency and effectiveness of City government and expects the City Manager, City staff and all organizations that receive City budget dollars to focus on achieving service outcomes and providing programs that benefit the community and its residents to advance equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to the goal of continuing to provide core services expected of a municipal government including the provision and maintenance of the City's facilities and capital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will make budgetary changes that support maintaining the City's 'AAA'/'Aaa' bond ratings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that the resources required to achieve the goals of their Adopted Strategic Priorities, various other adopted Strategic Plans and Master Plans, and other emerging priorities must be balanced with the tax responsibility placed upon residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to measure the impact of programs and against expected outcomes, to deemphasize or eliminate programs that do not yield those outcomes desired, and to identify efficiencies wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to emphasize a multi-year perspective for budget decision making and for long-range fiscal planning; and

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

- (a) Operating Expenditures: The City Manager shall propose for Council consideration a proposed operating base budget that limits the overall city general fund operating budget growth, exclusive of cash capital and debt service, to no more than two percent and the flexibility to increase the real estate tax rate if revenue growth does not support a two percent increase. Additionally, the City Manager shall include recommendations, to support both the needs of the City and ACPS, if revenue growth exceeds the two percent threshold without a tax rate increase. The City Manager may recommend a cost of living or market rate pay adjustment after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, and any such pay recommendation shall include the cost of providing the adjustment for both City and Schools employees.
- (b) **Two-Year Presentation of Operating Revenue/Expenditures:** The City Manager's proposed Operating Budget shall include estimates of all operating revenues and expenditures for the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 and the subsequent Fiscal Year 2027.
- (c) Taxes, Fees, Fines and Service Charges: In funding the proposed budget, the City Manager may consider changes to tax rates, tax designations/reservations, fees/fines/service charges that are equitable, fair and administratively feasible provided

that these proposals are observant of the constraints imposed by the Code of Virginia. Such changes can only be considered where they advance the priorities of the Council as stipulated in this resolution, through Legislative Sessions, adopted master plans and policies, or the Council Retreat and Work Sessions. The City Manager may consider a tax rate increase in support of two percent operating budget growth, in which the real estate tax rate remains at its current level or includes recommendations for a real estate tax or other tax rate increases.

- (d) **Cost Saving Measures:** The City Manager shall, in the proposed operating budget, continually identify and propose cost saving measures and efficiencies of at least one percent and consider reduction of service levels where the performance exceeds the level required by the community, where the current level of service is not a strategic priority, or where performance, over time, has not achieved the desired outcomes.
- (e) **Use of Surplus:** The City Manager may recommend use of prior-year surplus funds first to ensure that the Capital Improvement Program includes sufficient cash capital funding, then to address one-time or manageable ongoing costs that positively impact expected goals.
- (f) CIP: The proposed FY 2026 through 2035 CIP shall incorporate the following:
 - 1. Compliance with the City's adopted Debt Related Financial Policy Guidelines for any debt issuance planned for FY 2026 through FY 2035;
 - 2. Consistency with the City's adopted cash capital investment policy of a General Fund cash capital transfer of no less than 2.0% with the goal of funding the FY 2026 General Fund cash capital reflected at least at the level in the current adopted CIP;
 - 3. The optional use, as determined by the City Manager, of an additional General Fund operating budget surplus from FY 2025, if any, as commitment for capital projects in FY 2026 and beyond;
 - 4. Specific descriptions of projects that can be funded within recommended levels of funding, their associated operating costs, estimated for all years of the CIP, and a description of the process used to prioritize which projects were included in the proposed CIP funding levels;
 - 5. Continued funding for City and ACPS facility projects based in part on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force.
 - 6. Identification of projects where the use of a project labor agreement may be practicable. The City will evaluate all capital projects with a construction budget of more than \$35 million with the intent of using a project labor agreement.
 - 7. Proposed CIP shall include further analysis and considerations for the use of project labor agreements including evaluation of project labor agreement parameters such as including local preferences and Small Women-Owned and Minority (SWaM) Contractors
- (g) ACPS Funding: That (1) the City Manager shall recommend an Alexandria City

Public Schools operating transfer increase of no more than two percent and debt service funding required to fund the FY 2026-FY 2035 CIP. (2) the Alexandria City Public Schools is requested by City Council to articulate in general categories and prioritize any City FY 2026 appropriation requests above the current amount, (3) the City Manager shall develop options for recommend funding of proposed public school capital needs for the FY 2026- FY 2035 time period that does not exceed the levels of funding for school capital needs that was included in the previously approved FY 2025 - FY 2034 City Council capital improvement program. The City Manager may recommend reductions or deferrals to these previously approved funding levels, in consultation with schools staff, that reflect the readiness of previously planned projects., and (4) the City Manager shall recommend ACPS capital project debt service in the FY 2026 proposed budget and include such amount as a separate element of the total recommended FY 2026 budget for the ACPS.

- (h) Partner Agencies: Organizations outside the City government that receive funding support from the City should limit funding requests to no more than two percent over current funding levels. Partner Agencies should demonstrate an alignment of their efforts with accomplishments of the City's strategic priorities and evaluate existing base budgets to identify efficiencies and cost saving measures equivalent to one percent of base budgets. Partner Agencies should provide a level of base budget detail equivalent to that provided by internal city departments.
- (i) Civic Engagement: As part of the proposed budget development process, staff should seek public input on the priorities used to formulate the budget through the collection of community comments via the budget website prior to the City Manager's final decision making for and presentation of the proposed budget and CIP.
- (j) Alignment with Council Priorities: The City Manager shall provide the City Council with an overview of how the proposed budget prioritizes investments in equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service and include the scored results of the Budget Equity Tool process, in the budget document, for the transparent evaluation of equity impacts in our final decision.
- 18. Consideration of a Budget Resolution Establishing the Process to be Used to Adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget and the FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program. [ROLL CALL VOTE].

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the proposed resolution (Attachment) establishing the process to be used to adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget and the FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program. 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution No. 3259

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council wishes to establish policies to guide upcoming budget deliberations to ensure responsible actions with current economic resources; and

WHEREAS, resolution No. 3198 previously adopted by City Council has now expired, or will soon expire; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that flexibility is needed for both the preparation and evaluation of expense items as well as with regard to diversifying the sources of revenue available to fund the General Fund Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council's deliberations on the budget each year reflect a balancing of the needs of the community with the community's ability to afford services to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to provide the core services expected of a municipal government and to continue to provide quality services and facilities for the residents and businesses of Alexandria, but understands that economic reality will require significant trade-offs between services and revenues; and

WHEREAS, City Council is committed to managing the cost of City General Fund operating and capital expenditures in order to properly balance the tax burden placed on the community; and

WHEREAS, City Council is committed to achieving the vision and strategic goals, long term outcomes, objectives, and initiatives as outlined in the City Council's Adopted Strategic Priorities; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to allow for a thoughtful and deliberate budget process given the budget's complexity and importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that the Council shall, for the purposes of consideration of the Budget for the City of Alexandria, adopt this resolution and adhere to the following rules of procedure:

Section (a) The City Manager's Budget Submission to City Council and the Setting of Budget Guidance by City Council

- (1) That the City Manager shall plan and prepare the proposed Operating Budget and proposed ten-year Capital Improvement Program and that such preparations shall include those programs and resources necessary to achieve the City Council 's Adopted Strategic Priorities.
- (2) That the City Manager shall present to City Council a preliminary forecast and outlook for

(a) revenues and (b) expenditures necessary to maintain existing services and policies (including the City Manager's forecast of cash capital and debt service costs related to the most recently approved Capital Improvement Program).

(3) That City Council shall direct that the City Manager prepare a budget resolution to be adopted by City Council to guide the preparation of the upcoming Operating Budget and next Capital Improvement Program.

(4) That the City Manager shall submit a proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement

Program to the City Council. Such budget shall meet any guidance for General Fund revenues and expenditures established by City Council.

Section (b) The Budget Submission to City Council by the Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS)

- (5) That the Alexandria City School System (ACPS) shall separately present to City Council, but in a format coordinated with the City Manager, its preliminary forecast and outlook for (a) expenditures necessary to maintain appropriate services and policies, (b) the outlook for additional requests for Schools operating in the upcoming fiscal year and capital needs through the upcoming fiscal year and the succeeding 9 years, (c) projected ACPS capital related debt service for the upcoming fiscal year, (d) the outlook for possible budget reductions and increases in fees, fines and charges for services, (e) the outlook for Federal and State grants, and the costs of meeting unfunded Federal and State mandates, both current mandates and projected new mandates.
- (6) That the Board of the Alexandria City Public Schools is requested to adopt a Capital Improvement Program no later than December 19, 2024 and an Operating Budget no later than February 20, 2025 so that any request may be considered by City Council in parallel with the City Manager's proposed operating budget and Capital Improvement Program. If the ACPS budget request exceeds or otherwise does not comply with any guidance regarding fiscal limitation provided by City Council to ACPS, then ACPS shall clearly identify what operating programs and activities would be funded if additional funding were provided.

Section (c) Actions of City Council Concerning the Budget Submissions of the City Manager and the Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS)

- (7) That as part of a preliminary forecast of assessments and expenditures provided by the City Manager, City Council will consider this information and any other relevant information available to it at that time including the comments of residents provided via a public hearing or other public input opportunities.
- (8) That the Council shall hold two budget public hearings on the City Manager's proposed budget in the month following the budget submission by the City Manager and should reserve time for public comment at a public hearing once the Preliminary Add/Delete list of City Council Budget Proposals and technical adjustments by the Office of Management and Budget has become available and distributed to the community. Any additional public hearing shall not conflict with or serve in place of a public hearing regarding the establishment of an effective tax rate as required by the Code of Virginia. Council shall also hold a series of budget work sessions in which the public may attend in-person or virtually to listen as the body discusses topics and questions related to the budget. These work sessions will take place after the City Manager's proposed budget and prior to the adoption of the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. Finally, all budget questions from members of Council shall be submitted to staff for response as soon as feasible. These questions and answers shall be posted on the City of Alexandria's Management and Budget website along with existing budget resources.
- (9) That Council directs City staff to organize at least one public meeting to present the budget to interested residents and solicit input. Additionally, City staff shall provide an opportunity for residents and organizations to submit written budget comments to the Council in lieu of or in addition to participation in public meetings. The written budget comments should be submitted via the City of Alexandria's Management and Budget website.
- (10) That Council directs City staff to prepare motions for adoption of the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program and a summary of decisions made in the Preliminary or Final Add/Delete work session following the work session. Those motions and the summary of

final decisions shall be released for public review no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled adoption.

(11) That City Counci I shall consider these proposals and endeavor to enact an Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program that balance the needs of the community with the community's desire and ability to pay for services to meet those needs.

(12) That City Council plans to adopt such a budget resolution.

Section (d) Proposed Budget for the City of Alexandria

(13) For purposes of this resolution, the proposed budget of revenue rates and expenditure levels for the fiscal year shall be that proposed by the City Manager.

(14) For purposes of this resolution, the Office of Management and Budget shall provide revenue and/or expenditure projections for any motion or amendment that could affect the proposed budget specified in Section (a) (2).

Section (e) Maximum Expenditure Levels May Not Exceed Sum of Projected Revenue and Appropriation from Fund Balance in Proposed Budget

- (15) It shall not be in order in the Alexandria City Council to consider any motion or amendment to the proposed budget of the City of Alexandria if:
- (i) there has not been a Budget Memo or formal information request submitted that relates to the specific item proposed for consideration or a Council discussion of the proposal during a budget work-session or public hearing has not occurred; and
- (ii) any such motion or amendment that has the effect of increasing any specific budget expenditures proposed by the City Manager or would have the effect of reducing any specific revenue proposed by the City Manager unless such motion or amendment provides for a specific offset of either expenditure or revenue and ensures the maintenance of the fiscal balance of the proposed budget; and
- (iii) such motion or amendment is not provided in the form of a City Council budget proposal submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (0MB) or an 0MB technical adjustment at least 20 days prior to the adoption of the budget in accordance with the FY 2026 Rules of Engagement for the Add/Delete Process.
- (16) In the Alexandria City Council, any appropriation from the Fund Balance or any like account beyond that proposed in the Manager's proposed budget shall require an affirmative vote of five Council Members. Section (f) Actions of City Council Concerning the Add/Delete Process
- (17) The City Council shall adhere to the following Add/Delete Rules of Engagement for amending and adopting the final budget. These Rules of Engagement were first adopted for use during the FY 2016 budget process and continued in each of the subsequent budget processes:
- (i) Continue use of the add/delete spreadsheet that was produced by 0MB prior to the FY 2016 budget process and reintroduced in the FY 2017 budget process delete anything from the City Manager's Proposed Budget. The form will require the following prior to Council consideration:
- 1. Additional information related to how the change advances the Council 's goals/priorities.
- 2. Additional information related to how the change impacts the performance of that program, service or goal.
- 3. The support of at least 3 of 7 Council members (the original sponsor and two co-sponsors).
- 4. Must be accompanied by an add/delete spreadsheet prepared by the Council member or 0MB in which the sum of the individual Council members adds and deletes, including the items originally sponsored by that member and those co-sponsored by that member, are in balance or produce a revenue surplus.
- 5. Any add/delete proposal requiring a change to a City Ordinance or requiring a new

ordinance must be submitted to staff eight days prior to the first legislative meeting in April in order for the item to be introduced and docketed for the April public hearing [For FY 2026, March 311

(iii) The completed City Council Budget Proposal form must be returned to the Office of Management & Budget (0MB), with each of the steps from #2 above completed, at least 20 days prior to the adoption of the budget [for FY 2026, April 3].

(iv) City Council will hold a third budget public hearing to receive feedback on the preliminary

add/delete items submitted by City Council Members [for FY 2026, April 8].

(v) A combined list of all City Council Budget Proposals that meet the criteria in #2, any technical adjustments from 0MB, and any City Manager recommended changes, will be provided and discussed at the 2nd Legislative Meeting in April [for FY 2026, April 22].

(vi) Council will work with 0MB to refine/develop funding figures based on the proposals submitted, to be completed no later than the Preliminary Add/Delete work session [for FY

2026, April 221.

(vii) If Council reaches a consensus during the preliminary add/delete work session, the final add/delete work session will become optional.

(viii) Completed Council Budget Proposals, with funding, will be circulated to Council and the public the Friday prior to budget adoption [for FY 2026, April 25]

(ix) City Council will be required to keep the budget in balance once all decisions are made.

(x) Budget Adoption will occur on April 30, 2025 with all City Council Budget Proposals, those approved and those not approved, made public upon adoption of the budget.

Section (g) Expiration -The provisions of this resolution shall expire on June 30, 2025.

VII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

19. Consideration of a Request to Repeal Senior Rent Relief Resolution No. 2019, Adopt a New Senior Rent Relief Resolution to Reflect the Economic Changes Impacting the City's Low-Income Older Adults and Disabled Residents, and Amend the Senior Rent Relief Program Eligibility Criteria. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 19; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council City Council:

1. Repeal the current SRRP Resolution 2019 in its entirety.

Repeal the current name of Senior Rent Relief Program and change it to "Rent' 2. Relief for Older and Disabled Adults" to reflect more age-friendly language and the

target population.

- Adopt the proposed replacement of Resolution 2019 and accept the new 3. Resolution, number to be assigned following approval, which authorizes recommended program modifications and sets forth other associated terms and conditions.
- Approve a change in the City's income eligibility criteria from at or below \$25,600 to 4. thirty percent (30%) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Area Median Income (AMI) limits as outlined by the newly adopted Resolution, number to be assigned following approval.

Approve the new exemption amounts to determine the income disregards 5.

associated with the program as reflected in the newly adopted Resolution, number to be assigned following approval; and

6. Approve the provision of a two-tiered subsidy of either \$375 or \$500, as reflected in the newly adopted Resolution, number to be assigned following approval. 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3261

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to amend the Senior Rent Relief Program for older adults and disabled persons; and

WHEREAS, Council believes those persons who qualify for the subsidy under the provisions of this resolution currently bear an extraordinary burden of rent costs in relation to their income and net worth; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, I 974, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 352, which established the Senior Rent Relief Program for elderly citizens of Alexandria, VA; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 352 was amended numerous times, including through various resolutions (Resolution Nos. 569, 728, and 854), during the fifteen years after its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the City Council replaced those Resolutions with one combined Resolution No. 1391 on June 27, 1989, and

WHEREAS, Council replaced Resolution No. 1391 with Resolution No. 2019 on February 26, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Council deems it necessary to replace Resolution No. 2019 with a new Resolution to reflect the economic changes for low-income older adults and/or disabled residents, included recommended name change.

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

- 1. That Resolution No. 2019, adopted on February 26, 2002, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- 2. That the Director of the Department of Community and Human Services (OCHS) or designee, in the capacity as the constituted Local Board of Social Services and in accordance with the Virginia Social Services Laws and Relates Statues, shall administer a Rent Relief for Older and Disabled Adults, formerly the Senior Rent Relief Program, for the older adults and disabled citizens of Alexandria, Virginia.
- 3. That said program shall be administered as follows:

A. Definitions

The following words and phrases, when used in this resolution, shall, for the purposes of this resolution, have the following meanings, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Director of Community and Human Services: The City's Department of Community and Human Services Director or any of its duly authorized designee.

Subsidy Year. The fiscal year for which relief is sought. The City 's fiscal year begins on July 1 each year and ends on June 30 of the following year.

Permanently and Totally Disabled Person. A person furnishing the certification or affidavit required by section 3C of this resolution and found by the Director of Community and Human Services to be unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable physical or mental disability which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for the duration of such person's life.

Total Combined Income of the Applicant. Gross income from all sources of the applicant and of all relatives or roommates of the applicant, including a spouse, who reside in the dwelling or portion thereof for which rent relief is sought.

Exemptions to the total combined income are:

\$11,000 of the income of any roommate or relative living with the applicant other than the applicant's spouse, and \$12,700 of the income of any permanently and totally disabled person. The exemption amounts shall be reviewed and possibly amended every three years.

Total Combined Financial Worth of Applicant. All assets, including equitable interests, of the applicant and of all relatives or roommates of the applicant, including the spouse, who reside in the dwelling or portion thereof for which rent relief is sought.

Housing and Urban Development Area Median Income (HUD AMI) is a metric used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine the median (middle) income for a specific area, such as a city, county, or metropolitan region. The AMI is calculated based on household income data and is used to assess eligibility for various assistance programs. HUD categorizes income levels relative to the AM I to define different levels of affordability. Extremely Low Income: Households earning less than 30% of the AMI.

Rent-to-Income Ratio (often called "rent-to-ratio") is a metric used to assess housing affordability. It represents the percentage of a tenant's gross monthly income spent on rent. The formula for calculating the rent-to-income ratio is{Rent-to-Income Ratio} = {Monthly Rent} /{Gross Monthly Income}

Affordability Guideline: A commonly recommended rent-to-income ratio is 30% or less. Spending more than 30% of gross income on rent is often considered a cost burden, leaving less income for other essentials like food, transportation, and savings.

B. Subsidy Authorized

Subsidy in the amount provided in Section 3. Sub-section D of this Resolution is hereby authorized to applicants for the Rent Relief for Older and Disabled Adults subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. The applicant shall be sixty-five years of age or older and or permanently and totally disabled as of December 31 of the calendar year preceding the subsidy year and shall be a resident of the City at the time of making the application.
- 2. The applicant shall have paid rent for a dwelling or portion thereof in the City during the past 12 months.
- 3. The applicant's total combined income shall not exceed 30 percent of HUD's annually

produced Area Median Income at the time of application.

4. The applicant's total combined financial worth shall not exceed \$75,000 as of December 31 of the calendar year immediately preceding the subsidy year.

Any applicant under sixty-five years old shall include a certification of disability from the Social Security Administration or, if the applicant is not eligible for Social Security, a completed Disability Certification Form from a medical doctor in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the effect that the applicant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental disability which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for the duration of such person's life. Residents participating in Section 8 housing subsidy assistance or any other federal, state, or local housing subsidy are ineligible for the program.

C. Application for Subsidy

Current Participants

Annually, and not later than May I of the subsidy year, participants shall re-apply in such manner prescribed by the OCHS. An application setting forth the names of any spouse, related persons, or roommate occupying the dwelling or portion thereof for which rent relief is sought, their total combined income, and their total combined financial worth shall be provided by the applicant. If, after processing the application, OCHS determines that the applicant is eligible to continue to receive a rent relief subsidy, the Finance Director or designee will certify, and the subsidy will continue to the applicant as determined by Section 3. Subsection D of this resolution.

New Applicants

A new applicant may apply anytime during the year. If the applicant is approved, the monthly subsidy shall commence in the first month following approval. However, if the total dollar amount of the subsidy for approved participants exceeds the available funds for the program within the fiscal year, the new applicant shall be placed on a waitlist. Should funds become available, or the City Council chooses to appropriate additional funds for the program, the applicant will be enrolled. If a participant moves to a new address within the city's geographical area at any time during the Subsidy Year, the participant shall immediately notify OCHS by submitting a change of address. If the United States Post Office notifies OCHS of a change of address for the participant, OCHS shall suspend subsidy payment until the participant submits an address change. If a participant is approved for a Section 8 housing voucher or other rent subsidy at any time during the subsidy year, the participant shall notify the OCHS. The monthly subsidy shall be terminated.

D. Amount of Subsidy

The monthly subsidy shall be either \$375 or \$500. Their rent-to-income ratio will determine the tier of the households. If the household 's rent-to-income ratio is below 75%, they will receive \$375. If the household's rent-to-income ratio is at or above 75%, they will receive \$500. These two tiers will be monitored for the first year of this new Resolution, with any needed modifications taking place before the next fiscal year. Following that review and possible modifications, the subsidy amount shall be reviewed every three years.

E. Payment of Subsidy

The subsidy will be paid monthly; checks for the following month will be sent the second week of the previous month. That the provisions of this resolution shall prevail except where they conflict with any legal provision of higher force.

This resolution shall become effective on the date of its final passage

20. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Bonds by the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Alexandria for Learning Foundations of Metropolitan Washington, Incorporated (doing business as Commonwealth Academy) [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated November 20, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 20; 11/26/24, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council received and adopted the attached Resolution (Attachment 1) as recommended by the AIDA. 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 3262

RESOLUTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$25,000,000 OF ITS REVENUE BONDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF LEARNING FOUNDATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, INC., D/B/A COMMONWEALTH ACADEMY

WHEREAS, the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Alexandria (the "Authority") has considered the application of Learning Foundations of Metropolitan Washington, Inc., a Virginia nonstock corporation, doing business as Commonwealth Academy (the "Borrower"), an organization which is not organized exclusively for religious purposes and is described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), requesting that the Authority issue its revenue bonds, at one time or from time to time, in one or more series, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$25,000,000 (the "Bonds"), pursuant to a plan of financing, to assist the Borrower in financing and/or refinancing a portion of the costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with: (i) the acquisition and rehabilitation of land and the improvements thereon located at 1321 and 1423 Leslie Avenue in the City of Alexandria (the "City"), including existing buildings comprising approximately 24,079 and 10,823 square feet, respectively (the "Project"), to be owned and operated by the Borrower as educational facilities; and (ii) certain other expenditures associated with the foregoing such as costs of issuance, capitalized interest, credit enhancement costs, liquidity costs, working capital and required reserves.

WHEREAS, Section 147(t) of the Code provides that the governmental unit having jurisdiction over the issuer of private activity bonds and over the area in which any facility financed with the proceeds of private activity bonds is located must approve the issuance of such bonds;

WHEREAS, the Authority issues its bonds on behalf of the City; the Project concerns certain facilities and improvements located and to be located in the City; and the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia (the "Council") constitutes the highest elected governmental unit of the City;

WHEREAS, the Authority has recommended that the Council approve the issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Authority's resolution approving the issuance of the Bonds and a certificate of the public hearing have been filed with the Council.

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

- 1. The Council approves the issuance of the Bonds by the Authority and the financing of the Project for the benefit of the Borrower, as required by Section 14 7(t) of the Code and Section 15.2-4906 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended.
- 2. The approval of the issuance of the Bonds and the financing of the Project does not constitute an endorsement to a prospective purchaser of the Bonds of the creditworthiness of the financed or refinanced facilities or the Borrower.
- 3. The issuance of the Bonds as requested by the Borrower will not constitute a debt or pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the City, and neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the Commonwealth of Virginia or any political subdivision thereof, including the City, will be pledged to the payment of the Bonds. Neither the City nor the Authority shall be obligated to pay the Bonds or the interest thereon or other costs incident thereto except from the revenues and money pledged therefor.
- 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption

VIII. OTHER

21. Oral Reports and Oral Presentations by Members of City Council.

Councilman Chapman reported on a memo circulated to members of council from he and Vice Mayor Jackson regarding the consideration of two additional Sister Cities committees.

22. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(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. 22; 11/26/24, 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 received and approved the City Council calendar. 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.

23. Closed Session (if needed).

Not needed.

IX. ADJOURN.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 9:08 a.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.

ALYIA GASKINS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Keia Waters, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: January 14, 2025