

**City of Alexandria  
City Council Special Budget Public Hearing  
Monday, March 13, 2023 5:30 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, Aliya Gaskins, and R. Kirk McPike.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Hamm, Assistant Director, OMB; Ms. Dawson, Director, Libraries; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Captain Ballantine.

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

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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, with Councilman McPike attending the meeting via Zoom webinar.

Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Members of City Council.

Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Members of City Council (if needed).  
[ROLL-CALL VOTE]

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolutions regarding electronic participation by members of Council. 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. 3144**

**Resolution Regarding Electronic Participation by a Member of City Council**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2 provides that an individual member of a public body may fully participate in meetings electronically if any such member meets the criterial 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 March 13, 2023 Special Budget Public Hearing 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 will participate in the City Council Meeting by Zoom Video Conference Call from Riverside, 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 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.

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating budget for FY 2024 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2024 to FY 2033 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

Adoption is scheduled for May 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing on the ordinance establishing the Real Property Tax Rate will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

1. Jill Norcross, Reston, Virginia, spoke in support of funding affordable housing initiatives.
2. Michael Schuster, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of budget items supporting older residents and initiatives that support their wellbeing.
3. Vicki Fishman, Alexandria, spoke in support of investment in affordable housing.
4. Ana Cifuentes, Alexandria, spoke about more funding for housing requesting that the Council start a voucher program for residents in need.
5. Nathaly Zelaya, Alexandria, spoke about more funding for housing in the City.
6. David Lagos, Alexandria, spoke about funding for mental health support of students.
7. Daniel Roth, Alexandria, spoke about funding for libraries and looking at salaries for library staff.

8. Libby Bawcombe, Alexandria, representing the Friends of Duncan Library, spoke about increased funding for libraries and requested that salaries for library staff be reviewed.

9. Carolyn Griffin, Alexandria, spoke about additional funding for MetroStage and the funding for the Arts District in Old Town North.

10. Sindy Carballo, Alexandria, spoke about additional funding for mental health services for ACPS students.

11. Peter Siderovski, Alexandria, spoke about the need for affordable housing in the City and other investments for affordable housing.

12. Betsy Faga, Arlington, Virginia, spoke in support of affordable housing.

13. Jason Longfellow, Alexandria, spoke in support of funding for the local arts community.

14. Trudi Hahn, representing the Library Board, spoke about increasing library staff compensation.

15. John Hill, Alexandria, spoke in support of funding for stormwater infrastructure in the proposed budget.

16. Robert Ray, Alexandria, spoke in support of increased funding for library for staff compensation and security for the branches.

17. J. Lynn Van Pelt, Alexandria, representing the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission, spoke in support of the alternative budget and using the funds for mental health resources for children and youth in the City.

18. William DeFreitas Kick, Alexandria, spoke in support of increased funding for the City libraries.

19. James L. Durham, Alexandria, spoke in support of funding for DASH bus service in the proposed budget.

20. Kebede Asfaw, Alexandria, spoke about housing cost in the Alexandria and the need for affordable housing.

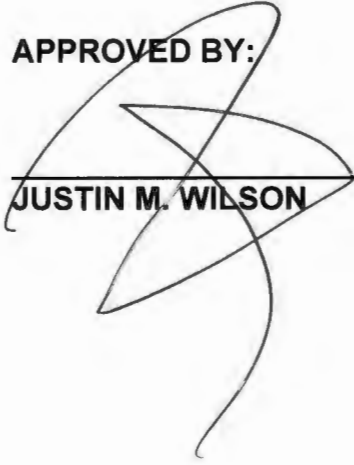
**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council closed the public hearing on the City Manager's proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2024 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2024 and FY 2033 (including Schools CIP), and the Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations. The vote was 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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**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the Special Budget Public Hearing Meeting of March 13, 2023 at adjourned at 6:36 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