

**City of Alexandria
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:30 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

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. Triggs, Deputy City Clerk; Ms. Collins, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Pledger, Director/Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. McLean, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Eze, ITS; Mr. Chozick, ITS; Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); Ms. S. Taylor, Assistant City Manager/Legislative Director; Ms. Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Ms. Kott, DPI; Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Mr. Kerns, Division Chief, P&Z; Ms. Miliaras, Principal Planner, P&Z; Ms. Jovovic, Office of Housing; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Sharma, Deputy Director, T&ES; Ms. Mason, T&ES; Mr. Ziemann, T&ES; Ms. Snow, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Smith, ITS; Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Captain Ballentine.

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

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of City Council were present, with Vice Mayor Jackson and Councilman Chapman arriving during the Executive Session.

2. Executive Session.

5:30 p.m. - Closed Executive Session - Consideration of a closed session to discuss the personnel matter of performance reviews for the three city council appointees. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried 5-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 5:30 p.m., to discuss a personnel matter, specifically, the mid-fiscal year evaluations of the three City Clerk, City

Attorney and City Manager; pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Vice Mayor Jackson and Councilman Chapman.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:14 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the resolution regarding the Closed Executive Session previously circulated to 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. 3053

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 22nd day of February, 2022 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.

3. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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 Councilwoman Gaskins, 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.

ORAL REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

***Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) Redevelopment Work Group (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the Work Group received an update on the Samuel Madden redevelopment, noting that a recent staff charrette was held and the concept plan will be discussed during the joint meeting with ARHA, Planning Commission and City Council. Mayor Wilson reported that there was discussion of the master developer agreement and there were updates on the RAD applications. Mayor Wilson noted that there has been significant residential community engagement at Madden and Ladrey about the redevelopment of those properties. Mayor Wilson noted the passing of the Chief Financial Officer at the Redevelopment Authority.

***Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson reported that he did a presentation at the meeting about City's housing efforts and how it is working toward meeting COG's housing goals and he noted that he is featured on a podcast discussing the topic.

***Commission on Aging (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that Deputy City Manager Debra Collins gave a presentation about the work she does in the City for the Commission and the Commission had an in-depth conversation about masks and where to acquire them. Councilman Aguirre spoke about the consolidation of several City departments at the Mark Center location and how that will benefit the community.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the group received an update on activity in Richmond from the General Assembly and the group discussed planning for release of data on trends in the community.

Councilmember Bagley noted that work with Sex Ed for All continues to make the program a more inclusive program for participants.

***COG Transportation Planning Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received updates on climate and Visual 2045 Plan. Councilman Aguirre also reported that the Board received an update on the 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region, including those that may have disabilities.

***Alexandria Workforce Development Center (Vice Mayor Jackson and Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that there was an overview of the groups work and goals and they discussed some of the challenges faced by the center, including work with new Afghan refugees and connecting them with opportunities. Councilman McPike reported that the group received a report on the accomplishments of the center, holding virtual job fairs and connecting residents with job opportunities and the summer youth employment programs.

Vice Mayor Jackson highlighted the summer youth employment program and how it is such a valuable asset to the community for the youth to gain work experience.

***Commission on Information Technology (Vice Mayor Jackson and Mayor Wilson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson deferred discussion until the docket item later in the docket.

***COG - Food and Agricultural Regional Member (FARM) Committee (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the Committee will be announcing the release of the working draft of the Healthy Food Access Policy Compendium for the Metropolitan Washington area. Vice Mayor Jackson Committee discussed the post pandemic patterns in the region and how food insecurities are still impacting the community.

***Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) (Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilman Chapman reported that the Commission reviewed a fast ferry study for the region and how it could be useful for area and offer another transit option. Councilman Chapman noted that the City would be a stop along the system instead of the hub that was proposed in the past.

Councilwoman Gaskins reported that NVRC issued numbers on COVID-19 and noted that as reminder that there is still a human toll from this pandemic.

***Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC)(Councilmember Bagley and Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilmember Bagley received updates from the Board and received an updated on Council priorities and work plan topics from Councilwoman Gaskins. Councilmember Bagley noted that the Commission has issued its first report card for mentoring month for January. Councilmember Bagley also noted that the Commission is seeking youth members.

***Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley noted that the Commission received a presentation on stormwater mitigation along the Waterfront and that the presentation is available on the website. Councilmember Bagley also reported that the Commission agreed to issue a letter supporting the closing of the Unit Block.

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

Chapman)

Councilman McPike reported that the Commission discussed the 2023 Regional Roadside Grant Application and received an update on the Duke Street in Motion project including survey results indicating strong support for the project. Councilman McPike reported that there was discussion about joint letter from the Transportation Commission, the Planning Commission and the Environmental Policy Commission regarding the City Council goals as it relates to climate change.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

None.

City Manager Parajon responded to Councilman Aguirre's inquiry about reporting on School Resource Officers from the Alexandria City Public Schools, noting that he would be in contact with the Superintendent to see how the request can be moved forward as expeditiously as possible.

Councilman Chapman requested that the topic be added to the upcoming joint meeting with the School Board.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER CONSENT CALENDAR (5-8)

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

5. Consideration of a Fiscal Year 2023 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 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration and Approval of a Waiver to the Special Event Policy to Allow for Programs and Events on Consecutive Weekends in Old Town in June 2022.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

7. Receipt of the Viewers' Report for Vacation #2021-00001- Vacation of a portion of a City-owned alley.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Request to vacate a position on the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task

Force.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar, with the exception of docket item #6, which was considered under a separate motion. The City Manager's approval was as follows:

5. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$4,500 to the Virginia Commission for the Art's creative Community Partnership Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2022; and (2) authorized the city Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

7. City Council received and approved the viewers' report for the vacation of a portion of a City-owned alley as part of Vacation #2021-00001.

8. City Council vacated a position on the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force for a citizen at-large member due to lack of attendance and request the Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions re-advertise the position as a vacancy.

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.

6. Consideration and Approval of a Waiver to the Special Event Policy to Allow for Programs and Events on Consecutive Weekends in Old Town in June 2022.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 2/22/22, 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 received the recommendation to approve a waiver to the Special Event Policy to all for programs and events on consecutive weekends in Old Town. 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.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

9. Oral Update on 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

City Council received the oral update from Assistant City Manager/Legislative Director Sarah Taylor on the 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

10. Request for City Support for Phase 1 - Building 1 of the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation Mount Vernon - Glebe Affordable Housing Project, including a Loan of \$10.5 Million from the Housing Opportunities Fund and a Rental Subsidy Grant of \$240,000.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman McPike and carried unanimously, City Council approved a \$10.5 million loan for development and construction of Phase I of Alexandria Housing Development Corporation's (AHDC) Arlandria project, along with a rental assistance grant of \$240,000 pursuant to the rental assistance pilot program. These commitments will facilitate AHDC's March 2022 application for competitive (9%) low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), which is estimated to yield more than \$22 million in private investment equity, if successful. 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.

11. Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Project Report

(A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the updated on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Project.

12. Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Coordinated Development District Conceptual Design (CDD #2021-00004) Plan Update.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Please note: Councilmember Bagley submitted a disclosure statement pursuant to Section 2.2-3115(H) of the Code of Virginia for the record.

City Council received the update on the proposed redevelopment of the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) in late spring/early summer and provided feedback on key elements of the proposed Coordinated Development District Conceptual Design Plan and rezoning approach.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

13. Consideration of a Request to Approve a Resolution Designating the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation (AHDC) Mount Vernon Avenue - Glebe Road Project Site a Revitalization Area. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the

Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 2/22/22, and is incorporated part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) approved a resolution designating Alexandria Housing Development Corporation Mount Vernon Avenue-Glebe Road Project site a Revitalization Area pursuant to Section 35-55.30:2A of the Code of Virginia; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute documents related to the tax credit application and the financing plan, including a letter of support. 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. 3054

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 36-55.30:2.A of the Code of the Virginia of 1950, as amended, the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, desires to designate the Site which will include the proposed Alexandria Housing Development Corporation (AHDC) Mount Vernon Avenue – Glebe Road Project Site as the area (the “Area”) described on Exhibit A attached hereto, as a revitalization area;

WHEREAS, the proposed Area will include a multi-phased, mixed-use development to construct approximately 475 rental and for sale units affordable to households at a range of incomes, from below 40 to 80% of the Area Median Income, thereby creating a mixed-income community within a larger neighborhood;

WHEREAS, private enterprise and investment are not reasonably expected, without assistance, to produce decent, safe and sanitary housing and supporting facilities that will meet the needs of low- and moderate-income persons and families in such Area and thereby create a desirable economic mix of residents in such area;

WHEREAS, the affordable housing proposed in this Area would not be economically feasible without the provision of federal low-income housing tax credits and significant City investment at advantageous rates and terms; and

WHEREAS, the proposed development will provide a critical source of affordable housing for current and future low-and-moderate income residents at a range of incomes whose tenancy and local employment is essential to the Area’s future economic development and sustainability, as well as to the City’s strategic plan goal of maintaining neighborhoods that are diverse, inclusive and true mixed-income communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY DETERMINED as follows:

Private enterprise and investment are not reasonably expected, without assistance, to produce the construction or rehabilitation of decent, safe and sanitary housing and supporting facilities that will meet the needs of low-and-moderate income persons and families in the Area and induce other persons and families to live within such area thereby creating a desirable economic mix of residents in the Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 36-55.30:2.A of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, the Area is hereby designated as a revitalization area.

14. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of Ordinances to Grant Right-Of-Way Franchises to Ting, Inc., and Lumos Telephone, Inc. For Broadband Services.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 2/22/22, 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. 14; 2/22/22, 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. 14; 2/22/22, 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 franchise ordinances on first reading and schedule them for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, March 12, 2022. The vote was as follows: In favor Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley,

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Clerk of Court and the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) have partnered together to provide at the Clerk of Court's office gun locks, trigger locks and medication lock boxes to anyone, and more specifically, to anyone who comes in the apply for a conceal carry permit. Councilmember Bagley thanked the Clerk of Court for providing the distribution of these tools for public safety. Councilmember Bagley also noted that these items are also available at 4480 King Street and at 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue.

2. Councilmember Bagley thanked the Public Health Advisory Commission who recently passed a resolution aimed at promoting safe storage in the City with regards to firearms and encouraged physicians to inquire about firearms in the home and whether they are stored safely.

3. Councilman Aguirre acknowledged Volunteer Alexandria for working with area nonprofits to identify volunteers who have been doing good work in the community and supporting the groups. Councilman Aguirre noted that he stopped at the celebration for Community Lodgings and Alive! who honored their volunteers here at City Hall.

OTHER

15. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 15; 2/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the 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.

Adjourn.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022 at 9:50 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.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved: April 5, 2022