

City of Alexandria
Saturday, January 29, 2022 9:00 AM
Building Momentum
City Council Special Meeting (City Council Retreat)
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. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning; Ms. Dudoff, Office of Organizational Effectiveness; Ms. Wedeles, Special Assistant to the City Manager; Ms. McLean, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Ms. Grayson, Management Analyst; City Manager's Office; Mr. Colevas, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; Mr. Adelshin, ITS; and Police Captain Ballentine.

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

1. Introduction

City Manager Parajon gave a brief introduction of the retreat and he introduced staff who would facilitate the retreat.

Mayor Wilson called the retreat session to order. All members of City Council were present and welcomed everyone to the retreat and what the Council hoped to gain from this retreat and lay out the priorities for Council.

2. Levels of Governance

Ms. Dudoff, Office of Organizational Effectiveness, reviewed the Levels of Governance and held a discussion with Council about how to shift Council's focus between the levels and how to use the levels and movement through the levels to inform the strategic planning.

3. Setting Expectations

Ms. Dudoff reviewed the elements that make up setting expectations and noted that this time to define expectations as the Council begins to work together and with the new City Manager and with City staff. Ms. Dudoff worked with Council to draft the expectations for the organization, City Manager, Governance Expectations, expectations among the governing board, and expectations for customer service and civic engagement. City Council outlined their expectations for each of these areas.

****City Council took a recess until 10:45 a.m.****

4. Workplan Priorities

Ms. Wedeles introduced the work plan for City Council and facilitated the discussion to updated the work plan for the upcoming year with the priorities for the new Council. Ms. Wedeles reviewed Work Program Topics for Council to discuss including COVID recovery, infrastructure resiliency, and housing. City Council discussed and updated the program topics to reflect the current priorities of City Council including economic development, climate change and then Council went through each topic and identified the result they hoped to achieve, if there was a policy question to answer and where they want the government to be on the topic.

5. Understanding the Desired Result and Policy Question

City Staff stated that it would take the results from each work program topic and develop a calendar year 2022 work plan for Council to review and consider at an upcoming legislative meeting. Council could also expect staff to bring one topic or policy questions to them for discussion during the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved: April 5, 2022