

**City of Alexandria
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:00 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting
Council Chamber
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. Wedeles, Special Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Maines, Division Chief, T&ES; Mr. Skrabak, Deputy Director, T&ES; Mr. Medina, T&ES; Ms. Suehr, Director, Office of Project Implementation; Ms. Teate, Office of Communications and Public Information; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS), Mr. Adelshin, 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 Councilman Chapman arriving during the executive session.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of convening in closed executive session for a discussion of a personnel matter and actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried 6-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:01 p.m., to consult with Legal Counsel and Staff regarding actual or probable litigation where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body and to discuss personnel matters; specifically, a proposed settlement for litigation involving an employee of the Alexandria Police Department and various personnel matters involving employees in the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Fire Department;

pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) and (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilmember Bagley, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Chapman.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:07 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 Vice Mayor Jackson 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. 3060

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

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council moved to authorize the City Attorney to enter into the settlement agreement of the litigation titled Rachel Shockey v. City of Alexandria under the terms as discussed in closed session. 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.

3. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Commission discussed the move to in-person meetings and the Commission on Aging sent a letter to Council with some budget requests.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board discussed an overview of the regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the region, with a lot of conversation about connectivity to metro station, bike stations and other areas.

***Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Commission had two presentation, one from Archaeology about the re-sinking of one of the recovered ship hulls in Ben Brennan Park in April and a presentation from the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership on the Torpedo Factory and the possibilities for the space including future funding mechanisms and opportunities to incorporate a larger arts district.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that Board will be presenting their annual data presentation in May with updated information on local statistics and they discussed changes to their bylaws and upcoming elections.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Secretary of Transportation attended the meeting and spoke at the exciting changes in the transportation. Councilmember Bagley reported that the Board talked at the return to new normal and VRE participating in a ridership recovery program and the outreach the organization is starting to publicize the effort.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the Board of Directors held its first in-person meeting in two years and discussed the 2030/2050 regional climate goals and had presentations from some local governments about the work they are doing on climate action. Mayor Wilson reported that the presentation was followed by discussion on collaboration opportunities on regional climate action.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the Authority received a transaction update tracking survey on transportation and transit behavior and he highlighted some of the findings from the survey, including that 21% of the workers reported teleworking everyday pre-pandemic, now that number is 35%. Mayor Wilson noted that 78% of workers reported working from home at least some of the work week, with 77% expecting to continue to work from home at least once a week. Mayor Wilson noted that use of public transit has dropped dramatic post pandemic.

Mayor Wilson reported that the Authority approved the FY28 CMAQ/RSTP recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for the City that includes the Mount Vernon Avenue North effort, the Duke Street Transitway Operations funding and Commuter Outreach projects. Mayor Wilson reported that the Programming and Planning Committee of the Authority met and has started to received submission for projects for consideration for NVTa.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

None.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR (4-6)

4. Consideration of a resolution to support Grant Applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation and Department of Rail and Public Transportation for FY 2028 to FY 2029 SMART SCALE projects. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 4; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

5. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Execution of Administrative Project Agreements with the Virginia Department of Transportation. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration of a Resolution Consenting to the Issuance of Bonds for Virginia Railway Express. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The approval was as follows:

4. City Council approved the resolution to: (1) authorize the submission of up to \$56 million in SMART (System Management Allocation of Resources for Transportation) SCALE (Safety, Congestion mitigation, Accessibility, Land use, Environmental) applications from the City of Alexandria and DASH; and (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3061

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATIONS
FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING “SMART SCALE” FOR FY 2027 to
FY 2028**

WHEREAS, in 2014, HB2 was signed into law, and in June 2016, the program was renamed SMART SCALE. SMART stands for System Management Allocation of Resources for Transportation and SCALE stands for Safety, Congestion mitigation, Accessibility, Land use, Environmental and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SMART SCALE is to fund the right transportation projects through a prioritization process that evaluates each project’s merits using key factors, including: improvements to safety, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, economic development and the environment. The evaluation focuses on the degree to which a project addresses a problem or need relative to the requested funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, projects are scored based on an objective and fair analysis applied statewide. SMART SCALE also requires that project benefits be analyzed relative to project cost. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) policy requires the project benefits be analyzed relative to the amount of SMART SCALE funds requested, so the final SMART SCALE score is based on the project cost to the state; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit applications for an allocation of funds of up to \$56 million for City of Alexandria and DASH projects, through the VDOT SMART SCALE Program; and

WHEREAS, up to \$44 million is requested to fund the critical transportation needs in the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and City of Alexandria applications include: 1) I-395 Exit Ramp Improvements at Duke St: Up to \$14 million, 2) Duke St and Van Dorn St Intersection Improvements: Up to \$20 million 3) Metroway Extension: Up to \$10 million; and

WHEREAS, up to \$12 million is requested to fund the continued transition to 100% electric buses, the following DASH project application includes the DASH Facility Expansion Phase II.

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

1. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports these applications for an allocation of up to \$56 million through the Virginia Department of Transportation SMART SCALE 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.
5. City Council adopted the resolution delegating to the City Manager or his

designee authority to approve and execute all project agreements with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3062

AUTHORIZE THE DESIGNATION OF THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT)

WHEREAS, the City Council has the authority to approve and authorize the execution of contracts and project agreements to which the City is a party; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is the chief executive officer of the City, responsible for the proper administration of all affairs of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to delegate to the City Manager the authority to approve and execute, on behalf of the City, all project agreements with VDOT to which the City is party, other than those whose approval the Council has delegated to the purchasing agent or has reserved to itself;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alexandria does hereby authorize the execution of Project Agreements between the City of Alexandria and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for local administration of projects;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, or his/her designee, be designated to execute these agreements on behalf of the City, to which the City is party;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that by the City Manager signing any agreement authorized herein, the City agrees to pay its share of the total cost of the related project in accordance with any applicable financial documents.

6. City Council adopted the resolution consenting to the issuance of bonds from Virginia Railway Express.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3063

RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission ("NVTC") and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission ("PRTC") (collectively, the Commissions) operate the Virginia Railway Express ("VRE") commuter rail service in Northern Virginia pursuant to the Master Agreement for Provision of Commuter Rail Services in

Northern Virginia – Establishment of the Virginia Railway Express among the Commissions, the Participating Jurisdictions and the Contributing Jurisdictions (the "Master Agreement");

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, Virginia (the "City"), is a Contributing Jurisdiction under the terms of the Master Agreement;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2021, VRE entered into a Passenger Rail Improvements and Funding Agreement (the "Funding Agreement") with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, which was subsequently assigned to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority;

WHEREAS, the Funding Agreement includes provisions for the Commissions to fund a portion of the Planned Improvements of the Transforming Rail in Virginia Program, as well as the purchase of real property for right-of-way acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Project");

WHEREAS, as provided for in the Funding Agreement, the Commissions will utilize Commuter Rail Operating and Capital ("C-ROC") funds for a debt issuance as the source of the initial funding commitment to the Project;

WHEREAS, in September 2021, the Commissions approved updated and amended Financial and Debt Management Principles for VRE to guide the issuance of debt backed by the C-ROC funds;

WHEREAS, each of the groups met, VRE Operations Board; November 19, 2021, NVTC; December 2, 2021, and PRTC; December 2, 2021. Each group authorized VRE staff to advance a public bond issuance backed by the C-ROC funds to support the financing of the Project, provided such bonds do not require credit support from, and are not a debt of, the City;

WHEREAS, the issuance of public bonds backed by the C-ROC funds shall not require credit support from the Participating Jurisdictions or Contributing Jurisdictions and shall not be a debt of the Commonwealth or the Participating Jurisdictions or Contributing Jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section III(A)(2) of the Master Agreement, the Commissions shall utilize reasonable debt financing to the extent that such financing is advantageous to the commuter rail project and is in the interest of the parties to the Master Agreement but requires that the Commissions not issue debt related to the commuter rail project, other than the initial debt, without the consent of all Participating and Contributing Jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, meeting in regular session this 22nd day of March, 2022, does hereby consent, in accordance with the terms of the Master Agreement, to the issuance of additional commuter rail revenue bonds by the Commissions in accordance with the Funding Agreement to finance the Project, provided such bonds do not require credit support from, and are not a debt of, the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the City are authorized to execute and deliver such agreements, instruments and certificates as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

7. Update on 2022 Virginia General Assembly (Oral Report).

Deferred until Tuesday, April 5, 2022

This item was deferred.

8. 2022 City Council Priorities.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) discussed and considered the proposed City Council Priorities, as developed during the January 29, 2022 City Council Retreat and as discussed at the March 8, 2022 Legislative meeting; and (2) directed the City Manager to develop business plans for each priority and provide regularly scheduled progress reports on the priorities during the upcoming year. 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.

9. Dominion Energy Presentation - Reliability of Electrical Service Provided by Dominion Energy in Alexandria.

City Council received the report from the representatives from Dominion Energy about the services and improvements from the company in the City of Alexandria and the representatives will send an update to Council by the end of the month outlining the discussion this evening and that will address any questions from Council.

10. Oral Report - Flood Action Alexandria update

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the update on Flood Action Alexandria from members of staff and responded to questions from City Council.

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilman Aguirre reported that he spoke at the Health Services Agency of Northern Virginia in favor of the INOVA hospital project for the certificate of public need, which was granted.

2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Mayor Wilson attended the ribbon cutting for Matt and Tony's, a new restaurant on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

3. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Councilman McPike attended a walking

tour of the Arlandria-Chirilagua neighborhood along with Tenants and Workers United and he encouraged everyone to take the informative tour.

4. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she attended the National League of Cities (NLC) in Washington last week and she noted that Alexandria was highlighted in the NLC's brochure about how cities are leveraging their ARPA funds.

5. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the Visit Alexandria Board of Governors met and she noted that the new Alexandria Visitor Guide is available. Vice Mayor Jackson also noted that Visit Alexandria are in partnership with City hotels with the Key to the City program, offering discounts and deals to visitors to the City staying in local hotels.

6. Councilwoman Gaskins reported that she and Councilmember Bagley visited the Juvenile Detention Center and she noted that the staff at the Center were providing a much needed restorative environment for the young people at the center.

7. Councilwoman Gaskins also reported that she and Councilmember Bagley visited the DASH facility and toured facility and met the staff.

8. Councilwoman Gaskins thanked the staff at the Library for hosting Storytime for Children, noting her son participates in the program.

9. Councilwoman Gaskins noted that she and Councilmember Bagley also took the walking tour of Arlandria-Chirilagua and learned about the housing challenges that the community is facing.

10. Councilmember Bagley offered additional thanks to the staff at the Juvenile Detention Center for their compassion and dedication to the youth at the center.

11. Councilmember Bagley reported that she visited the Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory and she noted that the staff would be moving a model of one of the recovered ships to the first floor for people to be able to visit and understand the restoration process.

12. Councilman Chapman stated that the City needs to put an emphasis on capturing oral histories from the older members in our community and invited the community at large to volunteer to help with recording the histories with our Office of Historic Alexandria.

13. Councilman McPike noted that he had attend many of the same tours as other Council members and noted the important role that the Torpedo Factory Art Center has in the community and the need to preserve that role in the arts community and the archaeology community for the City.

14. Councilman McPike reported that he had met with some residents from the far West End of the City and he noted that as affordable housing is being discussed, the quality of the housing needs to be part of the conversation.

15. Councilman Chapman requested that the City Attorney provide the members with a memorandum outlining the types of tools available to them as it relates to affordable housing and the enforcement of standards within in the legal limits. Mayor Wilson suggested that

there be a work session with departments that can discuss the tools that are already available.

16. Councilwoman Gaskins reported that she also had a tour of the jail with Sheriff Casey and she learned how they have dealt with the challenges with COVID, the mental health challenges of those in the facility, and the aging infrastructure.

17. Councilman Aguirre reported that the City is offering free-tax preparation through April 23 with the Department of Community and Human Services.

18. Mayor Wilson stated that he circulated a memorandum at the parking challenges in Old Town and along the Waterfront. Mayor Wilson noted that the memorandum highlights the four possible considerations for Council: expansion of residential pay-by-phone area, residential pay-by-phone fees, incentivize City garages and split/reconfigure District 1. Mayor Wilson suggested engaging the Traffic and Parking Board for input on the District 1 option. Mayor Wilson suggested staff bring back some additional analysis and feasibility of the items listed in the memo. Councilman Aguirre requested information on accessibility of the parking and Councilman Chapman requested information on the feasibility of a resident only parking block in the area. Vice Mayor Jackson mentioned that there needed to be increased parking enforcement in the area.

19. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she enjoyed the event honoring the essential workers in the community that was held at Cora Kelly Elementary School recently.

OTHER

11. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 15, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 3/22/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the updated City Council Schedule, which includes a Tree Planting on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at 411 King Street and the addition of the ceremony on April 5, 2022 at 5 p.m. to honor the 100th Birthday of J. David Bailey, Oldest Living Veteran from the Battle of the Bulge, at Market Square. 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.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 regular meeting at 9:53 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: May 10, 2022