

**City of Alexandria**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6:45 PM**  
**City Council Legislative Meeting**  
**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, Alyia Gaskins, and R. Kirk McPike.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA); Assistant Police Chief Andreas; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Ms. Teate, Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI); Ms. Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Znidersic, Principal Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation (DPI); Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; 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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**WS.** 6:45 p.m. - Alexandria Transit Company Stockholders' Meeting (voting on new members)

The Alexandria Transit Company Stockholders' meeting was held prior to the City Council meeting to vote on new members to the Board of Directors.

**I. OPENING**

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All the members of Council were present.

2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**II. PROCLAMATIONS**

3. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing the 78th Anniversary of D-Day Commemoration Month.

**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.

4. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, 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.

5. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, 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 CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **\*Council of Governments (COG) Human Services Committee (Councilwoman Gaskins)**

Councilwoman Gaskins reported that the Human Services Policy Committee met and discussed how regional jurisdictions are addressing mental health issues in their communities, noting some of the practices other communities are using underutilized resources and partnerships with other agencies and community organizations.

#### **\*Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force (Councilwoman Gaskins and Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilwoman Gaskins reported that the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force meeting was canceled.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that VRE operators are in full compliance and are fully certified. Councilmember Bagley reported that VRE is preparing for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and more information on events will be upcoming. Councilmember Bagley also reported that NVTC will be issuing an action plan for the issuance of bonds to fund upcoming projects like the Long Bridge. Councilmember Bagley noted that there was conversation about ways to use VRE during the upcoming shutdown of the yellow line on Metro.

#### **\*Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that the Commission discussed an update on the Torpedo Factory and the task force is in process of selecting its membership and members of the Commission were encouraged to apply. Councilmember Bagley noted that the Commission discussed the upcoming closure of the Strand and the impact it would have on the area.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board held their data presentation at the last meeting and Mayor Wilson presented a proclamation for Sex Ed for All month. Councilman Aguirre noted that the city is trending in the right direction as it relates to teen pregnancy, with some needed improvements in the Latino community.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board discussed what the range for review CO2 emissions in the area should be used reporting targets. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board reviewed the draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update.

**\*Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group (PYMIG) (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the station is still on track for opening later this year and there will be continued construction into the Spring of 2023.

**\*Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP)(Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that AEDP was introduced to the new staff member who will be an ARPA funded recovery manager working business associations and different business groups in the City. Councilman Chapman reported that City Manager Parajon attended to meeting to speak with Board to discuss business development strategies. Councilman Chapman reported that the Board received a presentation from staff on business development strategies and strategies for filling commercial spaces.

**\*Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)(Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that the Commission he would share information from his trip with Commission to Germany that focused on economic development, affordable housing, and environmental sustainability.

**\*COG Board of Directors (Councilman McPike)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Board discussed the proposed work program for the Board and the all organizational budget, noting that 63% of the budget was geared toward transportation related programs. Councilman McPike reported that the Board is working to finalize a regional housing equity plan to HUD and working on finalizing a revision to the regional public safety operational agreement. Councilman McPike also reported that the Board received a report on the homelessness count for the region, noting that the numbers were the lowest ever for the region.

### **\*Eisenhower Partnership Board of Directors (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the held a successful Bike to Work Day in Carlyle. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that there was discussion about crosswalk enhancements in the area. Vice Mayor Jackson noted that the have been events held on the Green in the Carlyle area, including the King Street Arts festival. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that there is a Beltway sound barrier issues that was discussed.

### **\*Commission on Information Technology (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the Commission received a presentation from Ting about technology they will be providing for the City and she need that Ting will be providing free internet to 5% of the affordable housing units and affordable connectivity programs benefits throughout Alexandria. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the Commission received an update on the fiber backbone project.

### **\*City/Schools Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Wilson reported that subcommittee discussed the status of the high school project and the beginning of construction on the project. Mayor Wilson reported that there discussion about the closeout of the budget and looking forward at the next process. Mayor Wilson noted that there was discussion about the safety and security (SLEP) committee and update on its status. Mayor Wilson reported that there was a COVID update and the coordination of vaccinations for young children. Mayor Wilson reported that there was discussion of the Simpson field/Hammond and use of some of the sites and how the schools and the City will determine disposition of these sites.

## **IV. ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Parajon introduced Mr. Mark Paolicelli, an IMCA Fellow, who will be working in the City Manager's Office for the next several months.

City Manager requested that Assistant Police Chief Dennis Andreas update Council on the incident that occurred this afternoon at Bradlee Shopping Center resulting in the death of an Alexandria City High School student.

### **6. Metro Staff Oral Report on Yellow Line Mitigation**

City Council received an update from Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services on the upcoming Metrorail Yellow Line shutdown and its impact on commuters from the City. Mr. Lambert and representatives from Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority responded to questions from Council about the timeline, bus routes, availability of trains, and communication plans for the shutdown.

## **V. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER CONSENT CALENDAR (7-8)**

**(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)**

7. Consideration of Receipt of Fiscal Year 2022 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status Report Related to City Council Approved Capital Projects.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 17, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 05/24/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Consideration of the Release of \$490,575 in FY 2022 Contingent Reserve Funding to Fund the INOVA Hospital Contribution.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 17, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 05/24/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

City Council approved the items on the consent calendar under separate motions. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

7. Consideration of Receipt of Fiscal Year 2022 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status Report Related to City Council Approved Capital Projects.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 17, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 05/24/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion Councilman Chapman, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council received as information the FY 2022 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status Report. 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.

8. Consideration of the Release of \$490,575 in FY 2022 Contingent Reserve Funding to Fund the INOVA Hospital Contribution.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 17, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 05/24/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council released \$490,575 in FY 2022 Contingent Reserve funding for the INOVA Hospital contribution. 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 (9)**

9. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2022 Low or No Emission Grant Program (Low-No) and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. [ROLL CALL VOTE]

## **END OF ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

9. City Council: (1) approved the resolution supporting the grant applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); (2) approved the submission of up to \$50 million to the Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs by May 31, 2022; and (3) authorized the City Manager to apply for the Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities grants and enter into any necessary agreements with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and DASH 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 3075**

#### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (LOW-NO AND BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES) FOR FY 2022**

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law, and in 2022, funded \$1.1 billion and \$372 for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Low or No Emissions (Low-No) and Buses and Bus Facilities discretionary grant programs, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of Low-No is to fund the transition of transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles and Buses and Bus Facilities Programs assists in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, projects are scored based on a merit criteria review by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. Evaluation criteria include: demonstration of need, demonstration of benefits, planning and local/regional prioritization, local financial commitment, project implementation strategy, and technical, legal and financial capacity. Additional priority considerations include climate change, environmental justice, racial equity and barriers to opportunity, creating good –paying jobs, zero emission fleet transition plan with a focus on work force development, and other selection criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Alexandria commits to support the transition of the DASH fleet to 100% zero emissions buses by the year 2037 in support of the City's Eco-City initiative and Environmental Action Plan 2040; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit applications for an allocation of funds up to \$50 million through the DOT 2022 Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities Program for the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, up to \$50 million is required to fund critical transportation and sustainability needs in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

**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 this application for an allocation of up to \$50 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities 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.

**VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION**

None.

**VIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

**IX. ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL**

1. Councilman Aguirre reported on the following events that he and other members of Council attended over the past few weeks:

-44th Annual Archaeology Volunteer Appreciation Event in April;

-Virginia Young Democrats event, where Councilman Chapman received an award;

-Event to introduce the City's new poet laureate, Zeina Azzam;

-attended the DASH Bus Rodeo at the DASH facility;

-Graduation of the 52nd Fire Recruit Class held at the Masonic Temple;

-attended tours of City schools hosted by Alexandria City Public Schools for Council;

-attended the Iftar hosted by Islamic Relief USA;

-attended the Health Department celebration of the Medical Reserve Corps and the CERT team;

-attended a site tour with Meter Research and Development with VML;

-Attended the Bike Rodeo with Police Captain Ballantine hosted by the Police Department on Eisenhower Avenue, with the money raised going to support the Alexandria Police Youth Camp;

-attend Solar Panel Christening event at church on Seminary Road;

- attended the BPAC Bicycle and Pedestrian Bike Rodeo, where they taught bicycle safety to children;
- Del Ray Citizen Association host their first annual GardenFest;
- attended a celebration for volunteers from Volunteer Alexandria held at Polk Elementary School;
- attended the Friendship Firehouse Wheel Dedication event;
- attended a meal packing event sponsored by Islamic Relief USA;
- attended Little Shop of Horrors musical held at Alexandria City High School;
- attended at reception for Nina Cook John, the featured artist for Waterfront Park;
- participated in an Infrastructure Week event with Congressman Connelly, highlighting the importance of rail and bus transportation;
- attended Cinco De Mayo event at the White House;
- congratulated all of the honorees for the Commission on Aging Excellence on Aging Awards ceremony held earlier this evening;
- attended wreath laying events for fallen Police Officers held here in the City on the Waterfront and at the Police headquarters;
- welcomed the Global Situation Room, a crisis communications company with a new business in Alexandria;
- participated in the discussion on the Samuel Madden project that was held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center;
- attended the annual Chamber of Commerce Council Breakfast;
- attended the Landmark Demolition with other members of City Council;
- attended the annual Human Resources Health Expo for employees;
- attended the Visit Alexandria Spring Social;
- participated in a panel discussion hosted by Center for Washington Area Studies to dialogue about Community Partners and Transportation Infrastructure in the region;
- attended a reception for Alexandria Living Legends and noted that the portraits in on display in the lobby;
- attended the COG Racial Equity Learning session with Councilwoman Gaskins;



- attended the Speed and Style Festival in Old Town;
- attended the flag raising at the Old Dominion Boat Club;
- attended the Sheriff's Office Annual Awards and Promotional ceremony; and
- attended the Community Cookouts held throughout the community.

2. Councilwoman Gaskins reported that she hosted a local Girls Scout troop here in City Hall to talk to them about women in local government.

3. Councilwoman Gaskins offered condolences to the family of the student who was killed at Bradlee Shopping Center. Councilwoman Gaskins noted that the Council has a responsibility to look at violence from a more comprehensive and holistic approach centered in prevention on behalf of the community.

4. Councilman Chapman would like to have discussion with School Board colleagues to talk about overall safety for students in schools and in the community at the upcoming joint meeting.

5. Councilman Chapman reported that Freedom House museum will be reopening with a ribbon cutting on June 20.

6. Councilman Chapman reported that he attended a barbershop talk sponsored by the Future Wellness Foundation focusing on the mental health of black men and the challenges of getting them to seek care for their mental health. Councilman Chapman noted that the event was hosted at the All American Barbershop on Queen Street.

7. Councilmember Bagley noted that she has been circulating a resolution to work on Gun Violence Prevention for her colleagues to review and to be considered at the next legislative meeting.

8. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she and Mayor Wilson participated in the unveiling of the plaque for the Apothecary Museum, receiving a historic landmark designation.

9. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she meet the new Virginia Tech football coach at the Innovation Campus in Potomac Yard.

10. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she attended a cabaret hosted by MetroStage at the Lyceum on May 17.

11. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that she attended the Canine Yappy Hour held at the Alexandrian to benefit the Alexandria Police Foundation.

10. Vice Mayor Jackson reported that the City hosted Bike To Work Day and there were over 15,000 registrants for the event.

11. Vice Mayor Jackson recognized the many sports foundation hosting fundraisers, noting that she and Mayor Wilson were guest bartenders at the Alexandria Little League Gala event.

12. Vice Mayor Jackson noted that the Lee-Fendall House Museum hosted their annual event in-person this year with a speakeasy theme.

13. Vice Mayor Jackson attended the ribbon cutting for the Landing Senior Assisted Living Facility in Potomac Yard.

## **X. OTHER**

10. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 17, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 05/24/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilmember Bagley and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received and approved the updated City Council Schedule which includes: a Joint School Board/City Council meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., and the addition of Juneteenth as a City holiday, which will be recognized on Monday, June 20, 2022; and (2) received and approved the Proposed City Council Schedule for FY 2023. City Council also included the following events on the Council Schedule: the Alexandria Wear Orange Rally, Friday, June 3 on Market Square at 7:00 p.m. and ACHS Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony, Saturday, June 4 at George Mason University EagleBank Arena at 9:15 a.m. Council also requested that events with three or more members in attendance be included on the calendars going forward. 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.

## **XI. ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of May 24, 2022 at 9:28 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

Approved:    September 13, 2022