

City of Alexandria
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 - 6:00 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting

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; Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning; Mr. Useem, Chief Performance Officer, Office of Performance Analytics; Mr. Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager; Ms. Wedeles, City Manager's Office; Ms. Fleming, Director, Communications and Public Information; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services; Mr. Ferguson, Performance Analyst, Office of Performance Analytics; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Ms. Demeke, ITS; and Police Captain Ballantine; and Mr. Lloyd.

Recorded by: Keia Waters, Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

I. OPENING.

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All the members of Council were present with Vice Mayor Jackson and Councilman Chapman arriving during the executive session; and Councilmember Bagley arriving after the executive session.

2. Executive Session.

Consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected and a personnel matter.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 5-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:08 p.m., to discuss matters involving the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected and a personnel matter; specifically, potential public funding of incentives to three different industries considering locating in the City and consideration of prospective candidates for appointment to the position of Independent Policing Auditor/Investigator; pursuant to Sections

2.2 3711(A)(6) and (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Gaskins, and Councilman McPike; Opposed, none; Absent, Vice Mayor Jackson.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:03 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 Councilmember Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, 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.

3. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Member(s) of City Council.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adopted the resolution City Council adopted the resolutions regarding Electronic Participation by Members of City 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.

4. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

4a. Recognition of Youth/Students by City Council

City Council recognized Ivy Schrouter-Stevenson. She was accompanied by her art teacher, Lauren Pierson.

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

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

Councilman Chapman reported on the USDOT Reconnecting Communities grant application submitted for the study of a pedestrian bridge connecting a west end community to the Landmark area.

Councilman McPike reported on the upcoming legislative priorities including the expansion of the speed camera programs and budget priorities regarding the state of the city's trails.

***Northern Virginia Regional Commission (Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman**

Gaskins)

Councilwoman Gaskins reported the group received a presentation from the Department of Defense on climate change, new projects, and net zero base support military.

Councilman Chapman noted a grant awarded to the region for a Go Virginia study regarding foreign investments.

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

Councilwoman Gaskins reported the group welcomed a new youth member and the group is in the process of developing an action plan with DCHS and used the Developmental Asset Survey to address specific assets. Councilwoman Gaskins noted the group increased the number of meetings from four times a year to six times a year and discussed the need for additional funding for various programs.

Councilman Aguirre reported the group welcomed a new citizen member chairman and noted the 3-5 year action plan for the board.

Vice Mayor Jackson inquired on the possibility of bringing this topic to the City Schools Subcommittee. Vice Mayor asked if new data was bought to the staff if the Task Force discussed. Councilwoman Gaskins noted that December may be a great time to check in once all reports have been combined.

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

Councilwoman Gaskins highlighted the abilities to dive deeper in the Developmental Asset Survey and looking at the specific disparities amongst students. Councilwomen Gaskins noted an upcoming communitywide discussion in October, date to be announce and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Councilman Chapman added his hope that we act on the data received.

Councilman Aguirre voiced concern to not to lose sight of the Children Master Plan.

Vice Mayor Jackson voiced concerns about communicating and promoting the resources available for those missing out.

***Waterfront Commission (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported the group received a presentation about 2 King Street potential sale. Councilmember Bagley noted General Services requested a joint committee with Parks and Waterfront members to discuss how to maximize the parcel and the sale. Councilmember Bagley noted concerns raised at the meeting regarding flooding mitigation, trashcan, and bikes racks. Councilmember Bagley reported on the I Love You installation and display through November 17. Councilmember Bagley noted the group did not receive \$15

million grant for the waterfront plan.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that a rail strike had been averted on September 27, 2022. Councilmember Bagley noted that VRE will remind fare free to DC through October to DC. Councilmember Bagley reported that VRE has posted “988” signs for suicide prevention. Councilmember Bagley noted there was an FY24 budget discussion and upcoming solar implantation projects for two stations.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported the group updated bylaws regarding virtual participation. Councilman Aguirre noted his desire to limit the number of virtual meetings, however the group voted the not limit the number of virtual meetings.

***Alexandria Library Board (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre highlighted 75-year celebration and events and noted the discussion regarding library budget and staff compensation. Councilman Aguirre informed Council of the new Director of Development.

III. ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Parajon recognized and congratulated Mr. Greg Useem, Director, Office of Performance Analytics (OPA), on the OPA 10-Year Anniversary.

5. Office of Performance Analytics (OPA) 10-Year Anniversary.

Mr. Greg Useem, Director, Office of Performance Analytics (OPA), gave a presentation on the OPA 10-Year Anniversary.

**IV. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER
CONSENT CALENDAR (6)**

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

6. Release of Out of School Time Contingency Funds for Study of Demand to Determine Citywide After School Needs.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 09/28/22, 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 to allocate Contingency Funds in the amount of \$60,000 to be transferred to ACT for Alexandria who will manage a consultant conducting a study to determine the demand for after school needs throughout the City. 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.

V. ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR (7-10)

7. Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt an Updated Title VI (Civil Rights) Program for the Federal Highway Administration. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of a Resolution Amending City of Alexandria's Guidelines for the Use of the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 ("PPEA"). [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Accept a Bequest from the Winkler Botanical Preserve Organization to the City of Alexandria. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously by roll-call vote. The approval was as follows:

7. City Council adopted a resolution to adopt an updated Title VI (Civil Rights) Program for the Federal Highway Administration.

The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution No. 3100

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is a subrecipient of the Virginia Department of

Transportation (VDOT) for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds; and

WHEREAS, Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Title VI Order 1.000.12C dated June 11, 2021, requires subrecipients to have their own Title VI programs and to submit the Program to the primary recipient,

WHEREAS, City of Alexandria staff have updated the City of Alexandria's Federal Transit Administration Title VI Program in adherence with VDOT requirements of subrecipients to develop a unique program for FHWA; and

WHEREAS, the Program has been reviewed by VDOT and their comments have been incorporated into the updated Program, attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia

That the updated FHWA Title VI Program is hereby adopted; and that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to implement the Title VI Program in compliance with Federal Law.

8. City Council adopted the resolution to support a grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant.

The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 3101
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION
FOR THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (RECONNECTING
COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT) FOR FY 2022**

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law, and in 2022, funded \$1 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities discretionary grant program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Reconnecting Communities grant is to fund projects to reconnect communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. Funding supports planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance, to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities; and

WHEREAS, projects are scored based on a merit criteria review by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. Evaluation criterion includes: equity, environmental justice, and community engagement; mobility and community connectivity; community-based stewardship, management and partnerships; and equitable development and shared prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria commits to study the feasibility of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-395 to provide critical mobility, access, safety, and connectivity improvements to the redeveloped Landmark Mall through this project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to submit applications for an allocation of funds up to \$300,000 through the US DOT 2022 Reconnecting Communities Program to fund critical transportation and sustainability needs in the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

**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 \$300,000 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Program;
 2. the City Council hereby commits to include, if awarded, up to \$60,000 for the required 20% local match through the Transportation Project Planning Capital Improvement Program; and
 3. 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
9. City Council adopted a resolution amending City of Alexandria's Guidelines for the Use of the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 ("PPEA").

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3102

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE EDUCATION FACILITIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2002 GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has granted authority for localities to enter into certain public private partnerships for development or operation of qualifying projects under the Public Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (Virginia Code § 56-575.1 et seq.) ("the Act"); and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that there is a public need for timely acquisition, design, construction, improvement, renovation, expansion, equipping, maintenance, operation, implementation, or installation of education facilities, technology infrastructure and other public infrastructure and government facilities within the City that serve a public need and purpose; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that there is demonstrated evidence that public-private partnerships can meet these needs by improving the schedule for delivery, lowering the cost, and providing other benefits to the public; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that authorizing private entities to develop or operate one or more qualifying projects may result in the availability of such projects to the public in a more timely or less costly fashion, thereby serving the public safety, benefit, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, prior to requesting or considering a proposal for a qualifying project, the City must adopt and make publicly available guidelines that are sufficient to enable compliance with the Act and such guidelines shall be reasonable, encourage competition, and guide the selection of projects; and

WHEREAS, City Council adopted the City of Alexandria Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines ("the Guidelines") on September 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, several clarifications of the Guidelines are necessary to ensure appropriate flexibility and City engagement during PPEA project implementation.

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

1. That City Council adopts the amended Guidelines pursuant to Virginia Code §56-575.3.

10. City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a bequest from the Winkler Botanical Preserve Organization to the City of Alexandria.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3103

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT A BEQUEST FROM
WINKLER BOTANICAL PRESERVE ORGANIZATION TO THE CITY OF
ALEXANDRIA**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.02 (e) of the Charter of the City of Alexandria (1950), as amended, City Council has the authority to accept gifts and donations; and

WHEREAS, Winkler Botanical Preserve Organization bequest to the City of Alexandria \$1 million in funding to advance community engagement and learning resources for City residents and visitors of the Preserve.

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

1. Accepts the bequest from Winkler Botanical Preserve Organization to the City of Alexandria; and
2. Authorizes the City Manager to execute if necessary other documents to finalize the bequest from Winkler Botanical Preserve Organization to the City of Alexandria.

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

11. Receipt of the Alexandria Independent Community Policing Review Board 2022 Annual Report.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council to receive the Community Police Review Board 2022 Annual 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.

12. Youth & Families and Community Engagement Business Plans and Housing and COVID-19 Recovery Business Plan Updates.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

13. Consideration of the Creation of Office of Climate Action and the Release of \$1.85 Million in FY 2023 Contingent Reserve Funding.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 09/28/22, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilmember Bagley, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council to release \$1.85 million in FY 2023 Contingent Reserve funding set aside for climate change initiatives for the creation of an "Office of Climate Action" within the City Manager's Office. 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.

VII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

13a. Consideration of City Input to the State Board of Education on "2022 Model Policies on the Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools."

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman McPike, seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council to approve City Input to the State Board of Education on "2022 Model Policies on the Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools.". 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.

VIII. ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilman Aguirre requested that staff look at Council compensation. Vice Mayor Jackson mentioned an email she sent to the City Manager regarding compensation.

2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended Eviction Court and noted the need to meet with the Eviction Prevention Task Force.

3. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the AHTC Food Truck Fundraiser.

4. Councilman Aguirre congratulated the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium on 25th Anniversary.

5. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Leadership Greater Washington Retreat.

6. Councilman Aguirre acknowledged Cely from SBDC for their business roundtable event.

7. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended Musicpalooza.

8. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended Sweet Relief Ribbon Cutting.
9. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the Equal Justice Initiative Soil Collection.
10. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended the DASH Rodeo.
11. Councilman Aguirre reported that on Monday, September 26, 2022, he attended the first West End Business Association Minority Business Roundtable.
12. Councilman Aguirre reported that on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, he attended the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative highlighting rider and provider perspective on transit.
13. Councilman Aguirre reported that on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, he attended the ribbon cutting for Waypoint supporting affordable housing.
14. Councilmember Bagley reported on items highlighted in the road safety memo. Councilmember Bagley noted an update request for the following points: evaluation of the 25mph speed reduction throughout the city; no right on red; and leading pedestrian interval signal timing. Councilman McPike noted an update request for the following points: Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force data and timeline; status of flip lanes; and speeding and drag racing activities and how to combat them.
15. Councilwoman Gaskins reported on the following items regarding the road safety memo: noted that the Traffic and Parking Board and PTAC made motions regarding 15 mph school zones and inquired if that could be combined with the memo; the status on the scooter task force update as it pertains to youth; and transportation equity and how it is measured.
16. Vice Mayor Jackson requested an update on safety trends in Alexandria regarding incidents, crashes, and fatalities, and the impact of the changes noted in the road safety memo.
17. Mayor Wilson reported on the efforts to repeal the state participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and requested staff to draft input opposing the repeal on behalf of the city before the public comment period closes on October 26, 2022.

IX. OTHER

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 20, 2022, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 09/28/22, 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 to approve City 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.

X. ADJOURN.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by

Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 7-0, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of September 28, 2022 at 9:58 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:

Keia Waters, CMC, Deputy City Clerk