

**City of Alexandria  
City Council Legislative Meeting  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 7:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes**

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**Present:** Mayor Justin M. Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy B. Jackson, Members of City Council Canek Aguirre, Sarah R. Bagley, John Taylor Chapman, Alyia Gaskins, and R. Kirk McPike.

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Mr. Parajon, City Manager; Ms. Zechman-Brown, Deputy City Attorney; Mr. Mackey, Court Services Unit; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Mr. Lawrence, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Ms. Neal, Independent Police Auditor; Ms. Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA); Police Chief Hayes; Police Captain Ballantine; Mr. Lambert, Deputy City Manager; Ms. DeSilva, Police Department; Police Captain Wemple; Acting Assistant Police Chief Andreas; Police Lt. North; Ms. Wedeles, City Manager's Office; Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation; Mr. Freed, Climate Action Officer, Ms. Fleming, Director, Office of Communications and Public Information (OCPI); Ms. Talis, Alexandria Health Department; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS) and Ms. Demeke, ITS.

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

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**I. OPENING**

**1. Calling the Roll.**

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

**2. Approval of Electronic Participation Resolution by Members of City Council (if needed).  
[ROLL-CALL VOTE]**

Not needed.

**3. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**II. PROCLAMATIONS**

4. Presentation of Proclamation Honoring the late Percy White, Gang Prevention Coordinator.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Vice Mayor Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman 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**

#### **\*ARHA Redevelopment Work Group (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the Group received an update on the Ladrey Redevelopment Concept One that has been submitted. Mayor Wilson that there were additional updates on the Samuel Madden Redevelopment. Mayor Wilson noted that there was still work to be done on the Section 106 and the Section 118 applications. Mayor Wilson noted that there was an update on the strategic planning efforts that ARHA was undertaking.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the subcommittee received updates on the big facility efforts including the high school and there was conversation for the planning for the next joint work session with the School Board following the budget approval. Mayor Wilson reported that there was an update on Early Childhood Education work from ACPs, as well as an update on out of school time. Mayor Wilson noted that there was discussion about safety and security and the creation of subcommittee to work on the models. Mayor Wilson reported that there was discussion about alternative education initiative and the work that needed to be coordinated around that topic. Mayor Wilson reported that there was an update on the automated speed cameras and there was discussion about the possibility of school board moving to staggered terms.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that Commission discussed the potential Old Town BID and responded to questions from the members and the Commission endorsed the efforts to start the BID. Councilmember Bagley reported that Commission discussed a text amendment reducing the need for Special Use Permits for park activities. Councilmember Bagley noted that Commission requested increased parking enforcement for the area.

#### **\*Council of Governments (COG) Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (Councilmember Bagley)**

Councilmember Bagley reported that there were discussions about Net-Zero content, electric vehicle charging readiness. Councilmember Bagley reported that Loudoun County and Frederick, Maryland gave presentations on their local climate and energy plans. Councilmember Bagley reported that COG is in the process of updating their environmental

justice tool kit and it is on their website.

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

Councilmember Bagley reported that meeting focused on passenger information, messaging and marketing for the system to attract new and different riders. Councilmember Bagley noted that there are changes to the signage for VRE. Councilmember Bagley noted that there may be potential fare increase.

**\*MacArthur Update (Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Vice Mayor Jackson gave updates on the MacArthur construction project, highlighting completion dates for the building, moving dates for faculty, and start dates for staff and students. Vice Mayor Jackson highlighted the changes and new additions to the school.

**\*Citizen Corps Council (Councilman McPike and Vice Mayor Jackson)**

Councilman McPike reported that the Council received an update from the Health Department on the chemical emergency exercises planned for the fall. Councilman McPike reported that the Council is readying for the upcoming Teen CERT program in the fall for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Councilman McPike noted that the local CERT committee will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October. Councilman McPike reported that the Council has turned the Resilient Alexandria report and look forward to working with Council on it.

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

None.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR (5-10)**

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

5. Consideration of a Commitment of \$5 Million in Federal Funding to Support Capital Improvements at Park Vue Apartments, plus a Grant of \$350,000 to Fund Rental Subsidies for 10 Units.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration of an Application for Community Impact Grant Funding from Virginia Housing to Enhance Culturally Competent Outreach and Engagement in the Alexandria West Plan Area.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

7. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Department of Criminal Justice Services for

the Sexual Assault Services Program Special Funding Opportunity.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

8. Consideration of the Release of Early Childhood Contingency Funds for Unmet Needs Related to Children in Early Childhood Programs.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Consideration of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services One-Time \$64,300 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant to Develop Alexandria's Mentor University: A Free College for Caring Adults.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Consideration of a Grant Application to the National Association of County and City Health Officials to Address Increased Early Syphilis in Alexandria.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

5. City Council approved the following: (1) a commitment of up to \$5 million in federal funding overall to be disbursed pursuant to a loan agreement with Housing Alexandria for capital improvements at Park Vue Apartments to include: a) a transfer of \$1 million in currently available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant carryover and program income from the Home Rehabilitation Program to the Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF) Multifamily Rehabilitation Program Funds; b) future transfers of CDBG program income, including loan repayment proceeds, as available, and as necessary to meet this commitment, from City-administered federally funded programs eligible for this use; and c) from funding awards, appropriate for this purpose pursuant to other TBD federal grant applications, on which the City and Housing Alexandria will collaborated; along with; (2) a grant up to \$350,000 from city Housing Trust Fund monies to be used for rental subsidies for 10 committed deeply affordable (40% AMI) units at Park Vue Apartments; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute agreements and all related documents to implement the approvals.

7. City Council: (1) retroactively approved the submission of a grant application to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for \$20,000; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

8. City Council released Contingency Funds in the amount of \$400,000 to the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) Early Childhood Services.

9. City Council: (1) approved acceptance of \$64,300 in grant funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

10. City Council: (1) retroactively approved the submission of a grant application to the National Association of County and City Health Officials for \$150,000; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

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 of an Application for Community Impact Grant Funding from Virginia Housing to Enhance Culturally Competent Outreach and Engagement in the Alexandria West Plan Area.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 03/28/23, 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: (1) approved the City's application to Virginia Housing Community Impact Grant Funding of up to \$130,000; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute the grant application and such documents as may be necessary to document support for the City's Community Impact Grant application to Virginia Housing for the Alexandria West planning process. 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 (11)**

11. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Low or No Emission Grant Program (Low-No) and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

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

City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar was considered under separate

motion. The approval was as follows:

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) approved the resolution supporting the grant applications to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); (2) commit to include funds for its local match of \$5.8 million, if awarded, in its Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program Budget; (3) approved the submission of up to \$38 million in Federal funding to the Low-No and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs by April 13, 2023; and (4) 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. 3149**

#### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (LOW-NO & BUS AND BUS FACILITIES) FOR FY 2023**

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law, and in 2023, funded \$1.22 billion and \$469 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 Bus 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 criterion includes: demonstration of need, demonstration of benefits, reducing energy consumption, reducing harmful emissions, reducing direct carbon emissions, safety, system condition, enhanced access and mobility, planning and local/regional prioritization, local financial commitment, project implementation strategy, and technical, legal and financial capacity. Additional priority considerations include climate change, full fleet transition, creating good –paying jobs, zero emission fleet transition plan with a focus on work force development, and projects that support the Justice40 initiative; 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 \$38 million through the DOT 2023 Low-No and Bus and Bus Facilities Program for the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, up to \$38 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 \$38 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation Low-No & Bus and Bus Facilities Program;
2. the City Council hereby commits to include funds for its local match of agency funds of up to \$5.3 million, if awarded, in its Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program Budget; 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.

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

### **12. Presentation of Annual Part I and Part II Crime Statistics to Council**

(A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 12; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the report.

### **13. 2023 City Council Priorities Initiatives Updates.**

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2023, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received updates on the COVID-19, Housing, Youth and Families, and Community Engagement, Economic Development, and Compensation Philosophy Business Plan Initiatives.

## **VIII. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

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

1. Councilman McPike spoke at the memorandum he circulated to his colleagues proposing the codification of the Special Meeting held in July, noting the scheduling options and the consideration of a resolution to establish the meeting in policy. Mayor Wilson suggested that if anyone has other suggestions or changes to the meeting order resolution, they should contact the City Attorney to incorporate those changes or updates into the

resolution for Council consideration.

2. Councilman McPike thanked Senior Services of Alexandria for hosting their annual Gala this past weekend.

3. Councilman McPike thanked the Planning and Zoning department for hosting the two day kickoff for the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All Initiative, noting it was well attended by the community.

4. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Councilman McPike toured the Del Pepper West End Service Center recently and noted how user friendly the building will be for the community.

5. Councilman Aguirre reported that he also participated in the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All Initiative sponsored by Planning and Zoning.

6. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and other Council members attended the installation ceremony for the new Waterfront Park art installation over the weekend.

7. Councilman Aguirre reported attending a film debut by ACHS students of the EJI project at the Lyceum.

8. Councilman Aguirre reported attending the WEBA Women in Business Event, where Vice Mayor Jackson was the keynote speaker.

9. Councilman Aguirre reported that he delivered meals for Meals on Wheels this week.

10. Councilman Aguirre reported that he had the opportunity to welcome Friendship Place, a nonprofit for veterans, to the community.

11. Councilman Aguirre attended the free community health fair held at the Chick Armstrong Community Center.

12. Councilman Aguirre reported that the new Waterfront Park Art Installation was held over the weekend with the artist.

13. Councilman Chapman reported that he and Councilman Aguirre participated in a roundtable discussion with Senator Tim Kaine at the Departmental Progressive Club on Monday.

14. Vice Mayor Jackson thanked the Alexandria Bar Association and others for holding a successful expungement clinic over the weekend.

#### **X. OTHER**

14. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated March 21, 2021, is on file in the



Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 14; 03/28/23, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Gaskins, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the 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.

**XI. ADJOURN.**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded Councilwoman Gaskins and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of May 28, 203 at 11:28 p.m. 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**

Adopted: April 11, 2023