

**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Council Special Meeting**  
**Monday, March 16, 2015**  
**4:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers**

Present: Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, and Members of Council John Taylor Chapman, Timothy B. Lovain, Redella S. Pepper, Paul C. Smedberg and Justin M. Wilson.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, Acting City Manager; Mr. Banks, City Attorney; Ms. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Burch, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Mr. Routt, Office of Management and Budget; Mr. Bever, Office of Management and Budget; Police Captain Wemple; Ms. McLean, Information Technology; and Mr. Lloyd.

Recorded by: Jacqueline M. Henderson, City Clerk and Clerk of Council

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Euille called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of City Council were present. (Councilmember Lovain arrived at 4:30 p.m.)

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2016 (Including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2016-2025 (Including the Schools CIP.) Adoption is Scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015. A Public Hearing on the Ordinance Establishing the Real Property Tax Rate Will Be Held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Jinks, Acting City Manager, made opening remarks on the proposed budget.

The following persons participated in the public hearing on this item:

1. Charles Ziegler, 309 N. Langley Street, vice president for advocacy for the Friends of the Beatley Central Library, spoke in support of the library budget and by matching the challenge by the Alexandria Library Foundation for \$50,000 for the materials budget. Mr. Ziegler said the Beatley envelope project for water intrusion problems are included for FY2017/2018. He said the members of the Friends of the Beatley Central Library do their part to provide financial support for the library that are not covered by the budget and during 2012-2014 raised \$140,000. The libraries are evolving to increase the variety of public demands in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and they also launched the education of their children with pre-literacy skills before they enter the school system. Mr. Ziegler said they are eager to continue to partner with the City and the Library Board to realize the full potential of Alexandria's public libraries.

2. Bob Eiffert, 1418 Juliana Place, chair, Commission on Aging, thanked Council for its incredible work in crafting an appropriate compromise on important community issues in last year's budget. Mr. Eiffert thanked Acting City Manager Jinks and the City staff for the budget,

which maintains programs for older adults with no cuts proposed for the coming fiscal year, and they ask Council to maintain the proposals. He said they concur with the Commission on Persons with Disabilities that the CIP is a dramatic improvement in the funding for accessibility enhancements and recreation facilities in public parks and it has been increased from \$30,000 to \$450,000 in FY 2016 for a total of \$1.95 million over the next ten years. Mr. Eiffert said that speaking on his own behalf, as a resident of the Seminary Hill area, he saw a letter from the Seminary Hill Association about affordable housing and the idea that affordable dwelling units proffered by developers is going to cost the City an arm and a leg and serving those poor people in schools and other City services, he found outrageous, as they have lost thousands of units of affordable housing in the past ten years and whatever is proffered in new development would be miniscule compared to what they have lost. He said he supports Council in its efforts to advance affordable housing wherever it possibly can.

3. Chief Judge Constance Frogale, 520 King Street, Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, thanked Council for the supplemental increase to the clerks, noting that it has changed their lives and has made the Clerks feel like they are part of the community and appreciated for the work they do.

4. Jack Estabrook, 10 W. Braddock Road, a second grader at Maury Elementary School, spoke of his favorite parts of the day – gym and recess – and said the playground needs to be fixed and they need Council's help to fix it. He said there is a lot of mud on the playground and he asked Council to set aside more money to help them stop the water from running down the hill.

5. Alena Cooper, 205 E. Braddock Road, a third grade student at Maury Elementary School and the student council treasurer, said they would like to have a new school yard and playground at Maury. She said that when she and her sister attended the after-school Campagna program, Maury playground was the only place to play, but there were many times when they could not play on it because it was in such bad condition and was flooded, muddy and slippery. She said the sidewalk near the playground is usually a muddy mess and dangerous. She spoke of this year's Spring to Action on April 22, and she said they would be out again to ask for help for the school yard.

6. Lilly Boyd, 31 E. Myrtle Street, a fifth grade student at Maury Elementary School, and president of the Maury Elementary School, spoke of the school yard and said it is in terrible condition. She said the playground is muddy and slippery and the equipment is unstable, shaky and dangerous. She said the mud from outside gets on the carpets inside. She said it would be better for the school yard to get rubber padding in the playground instead of mulch.

7. Judge Uley Damiani, 520 King Street, said thank you for the salary supplement given to the clerk staff in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, noting that they have seen productivity increase and the attitude and morale has improved.

8. Judge Donald Haddock, 520 King Street, thanked Council for last year and for what has been put in this year's budget by the City Manager. He said they have noticed a huge rise in morale and the turnover is down.

9. Melissa Harrington, 417 Monticello Blvd., a parent of two ACPS elementary school children at George Mason Elementary, and PTA president at George Mason, said she was grateful for the City Manager's proposed increase to the current funding at ACPS, but it still leaves ACPS \$3 million short of the \$201 million it needs to fund the budget. She said the

School Board budget is a lean, no-frills budget and new initiatives are modest. Ms. Harrington said the funds are needed to keep up with the growth in the schools, to refurbish and rebuild the schools that have been neglected, and to retain the excellent teachers. She said she does support a one percent increase in taxes in order to fund the full School Board budget.

10. Marie Randall, 2904 Cameron Knolls Road, parent of children at George Mason Elementary and George Washington Middle Schools, advocated for Alexandria's public schools and implored the City Council to full fund the ACPS budget but to understand the critical needs. She spoke to the addition of 3,100 students since 2006. She said the per student budget allotment is \$17,025, and if the budget is approved with an additional 2.8 percent to ACPS, the student budget would be reduced by \$400 per student. She said that without pay raises and support for the teachers, they will not be able to retain them. Many schools need renovations and they cannot continue to defer the renovations. Ms. Randall said she would support a one percent increase in taxes that would go to the schools.

11. Ruth Heitin, 725 N. Alfred Street, said thanks to those members of Council who met with her in person over the past couple of months to talk about the budget. She spoke of the police salary issue, which has been addressed in the 2016 budget. Ms. Heitin shared with Council multiple charts of how police salaries fell behind that of the surrounding jurisdictions, a breakdown of the personnel expenditures, and data on the numbers of police officers who have left Alexandria and their years of service, and found that the City was not retaining officers as it should. She spoke of her analysis of the personnel budget proposals and the actual personnel counts by department.

12. Annabelle Fisher, 5001 Seminary Road, spoke of the \$66 million debt facing Alexandria taxpayers and ideas to find \$1 million to get the City out of the red. She said thanks for increasing the salary of the police department. She said AEDP is a non-profit organization that is being funded by taxpayers, and she said it is time to make the AEDP an independent group. She said AEDP should be eliminated from the taxes, saving \$1.6 million. Ms. Fisher spoke of the \$14 million loan to ADHC and asked if they had started to pay it back. She said on affordable housing, they are talking about people making at least \$50,000, so are they subsidizing those people earning \$50,000, or are they looking to subsidize Section 8 and public housing. Ms. Fisher spoke of a four page pamphlet put out by the ACPS and how much it cost them.

13. Jenny Hansen Ware, 459 Argyle Drive, requested more funding for Alexandria Public Schools. She said she did not feel comfortable sending her two daughters to Cora Kelly, and they since bought a home in Beverly Hills and their children attend George Mason Elementary. Ms. Ware said many people are choosing not to live in Alexandria and the City loses another family. She said without full ACPS funding, current issues at the schools will be much harder to resolve. One classroom did not have heat for several days, and reading specialists did not assess kindergarteners. She asked Council to consider the value of Alexandria's children and families when considering the budget.

14. Ann Parham, 407 Cambridge Road, chair, Public Records Advisory Commission, spoke of the CIP budget allocation for the PRAC to renovate the vacant print shop to provide public access and suitable research and workspace for the Archives and Records Center. Ms. Parham said the environmentally controlled room for mandated public records is almost full, and the archives is over capacity, so other records are stored outside the state required controlled environment and in commercial space off-site. Ms. Parham said renovation of the space will help alleviate critical shortfalls in records processing space, allow control of public

access and will provide a secure space for public research, and they urge approval of the FY2016 CIP budget request of \$150,000.

15. Susan Newell, 101 W. Linden Street, chair, Social Services Advisory Board, said they appreciate the enormous amount of time and effort Council dedicates to and for the community. Ms. Newell said the Board last testified about who they are and what they are called to do and their purpose is to aid in advancing the well-being of all Alexandrians. She spoke of the needs of the Department of Community and Human Services, noting that the Department supports the most vulnerable in the midst. She said that when budget cuts are necessary, it remains imperative that the basic safety nets for the most vulnerable remains intact. Ms. Newell asked that for those who face challenges with food insecurities, homelessness, abuse, neglect and more that they all continue to work together to see how they can stretch their dollars further to help more people learn to help themselves.

16. Katy Matthews, 707 N. Paxton Street, president, James K. Polk PTA, spoke of the enrollment and population of the school, noting that 65 percent of the student body are eligible for free or reduced cost meals. She urged Council to fully fund the Schools budget, which represents an overall increase of 2.8 percent with a 3.7 percent projected growth next year. She said ACPS teachers deserve a full step increase. She asked Council to remember their kids when adopting the budget.

17. Jim Durham, 622 Ft. Williams Parkway, chair of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, spoke of the concern in the cuts for transportation, which will impede the City's ability to attract visitors and businesses. He said the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will provide investment in new infrastructure, and the budget would use the TIP funding to pay most of the \$4 million WMATA bill. He asked Council to rebalance the TIP funds and invest in three projects: extension of the Capital Bikeshare, and for capital projects for the old Cameron Run Trail and the Backlick Run Trail.

18. Michael Menchel, 3704 Pinebrook Road, said he is a board member and volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club in Alexandria, and asked Council to extend the bike trail from Old Town out to Eisenhower. He said 6-17 kids bike in that area and it is not a safe area.

19. Bruce Dwyer, 915 Bernard Street, spoke as an advocate of non-motorized transportation in Alexandria and spoke in favor of the restoration of funds for the Cameron Run trail project, noting that there used to be a safe way to get through the Alexandria Renew Enterprises property, but that no longer exists. He said the trail will provide a viable transportation and recreation source.

20. Randy Dingwell, 418 Ferdinand Day Drive, urged Council to continue to include funding for the Backlick Trail extension in the budget, noting that the extension would begin at Boothe Park and extend to the City boundary. He said the CIP has pushed the completion to 2019 and puts the project in jeopardy. Mr. Dingwell said that he uses the trail regularly for recreation, walking between parks or to shopping and uses it almost daily three seasons, noting that it is the safest bike route into south Old Town. Mr. Dingwell urged Council to maintain the \$1.1 million funding for the Backlick Trail extension.

21. Rawley Vaughan, 1237 Madison Street, spoke in favor of restoring the City's share of the expansion of Capital Bikeshare, noting that he signed up for Bikeshare when it expanded into Alexandria in 2012. Mr. Vaughan said he uses it to commute to work and for a much faster way to go home at lunch. He said the tens of thousands of dollars is a small price to pay for converting thousands of would-be car trips into bike trips. He said it is critical to

expand Bikeshare into where people are moving, such as Potomac Yard and the north end and south end of Old Town.

22. Dale Medearis, 108 E. Walnut Street, said he has three children in the Alexandria School System, and he said he's been part of the Maury School Initiative since 2012, and the successful rehabilitation of Maury's school yard is personal to him, his family and his neighbors. He spoke to the problematic issue of stormwater, and he said the Maury School Initiative has raised over \$200,000 in the past two years, but the support depends on the investment and financial support by the City.

23. Kyle Lynch, 230 W. Oak Street, said he and his wife have two children who attend Maury Elementary School, and he said their family spends a considerable amount of unstructured time at the Maury School yard on nights and weekends. He spoke in support of the renovation of the school yard project and for those who have dipped into their own pockets for the renovation of the yard. Mr. Lynch said the School Board proposed \$500,000 in the CIP for the project, and he said that if the City can provide \$250,000 for stormwater management, the project could break ground this year.

24. Sean Casey, 119 S. Iris Street, president, Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5, representing the rank and file officers of the Alexandria Police Department, spoke about their concerns of police officers' salaries being below market average and how it negatively affected the ability to recruit and retain officers. Mr. Casey said this helped shape the recommended budget that addressed many of their concerns, which includes merit increases and career ladders, and the funding of adjustments to the police department pay scale to bring the salaries to market comparability.

25. Diana Barrett, 3600 Wheeler Avenue, president, Alexandria Chapter of the Southern States Benevolent Association, one of the labor organizations that represent Alexandria police officers, said the proposed budget will greatly increase their ability to attract highly qualified candidates and keep the current officers, as the increase in starting salary and across the board increase will help retain the officers. She asked for support throughout the budget process.

26. Tom Williamson, 205 Tennessee Avenue, president, Warwick Village Citizens Association, spoke about the Warwick pool, noting that the City Manager has said they didn't close any City facility, but they did and there is no money for pool operations in the coming fiscal year, and they accept the rationale for not funding it and are encouraged that the CIP has money in FY2017 to replace or renovate the pool. He asked that the monies be moved to FY 2016 to demonstrate that they are serious about renovating the pool. He spoke of the water to the pool house being shut off because of a leak, noting that they have offered to City staff to pay for the plumbing repair so that they can continue to use the pool house.

27. Mary Parker, 920 S. Alfred Street, speaking as a citizen, a member of the Commission on Aging and the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, spoke in favor of the CIP budget to implement Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements for outdoor parks and recreation areas, and she supported the letters by the Commission on Aging and Commission on Persons with Disabilities in support of the CIP budget, as well as the statement by Bob Eiffert. Ms. Parker spoke of linking funds for maintenance of sidewalk and safe street requirements to enhance access to parks, recreation areas and open space, noting that maintenance of a five-foot wide flat sidewalk surface, audible signal lights at crossings, and perpendicular curb cuts, as well as restroom facilities that are conveniently placed and have

access doors meeting ADA standards, benches, parking lots with handicapped spaces, and road crossings that provide adequate space between speed bumps.

28. Cindy Martinez, 2706 Holly Street, president, Alexandria Council of Parent Teacher Associations, spoke about how critical every penny of the ACPS school budget is this year and how it will affect the students, schools and neighborhoods. She spoke of the projected increase in student enrollment this year of 500 students and how the per student spending will be reduced by \$400. She said the school buildings and playgrounds are old and need extensive upkeep and renovation. She said 60 percent of the student population will qualify for free and reduced lunch, as compared to 28.8 percent in Fairfax County. She said to retain the most talented teachers, they need to remain competitive with surrounding jurisdictions. Ms. Martinez said she supports a one percent increase in property tax to allow the City to fully fund the ACPS budget.

29. Dan Sweeney, Jr., 22 E. Oak Street, representing the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer non-profit, spoke with gratitude about the allocation to the Community Services Board not being reduced. He noted that many served by the CSB are among the most vulnerable residents. Mr. Sweeney said he hoped the maintenance of the CSB's funding level signals a return to the City's ability and commitment to fund the programs that serve the disadvantaged. He spoke to replacing the funds that had been cut in the past.

30. Eric Wagner, 18 W. Uhler Avenue, spoke in support of continued funding for infrastructure for citizens who walk and bike around the City. He said he has been a user of Capital Bikeshare since 2010 and has observed increasing usability of the system. He said using Capital Bikeshare is more than twice as efficient as using DASH for cost recovery. Mr. Wagner said the 16 additional stations proposed for expansion are important, and he spoke in support of the expansion and existing City priorities to restore the required funding and operating budget.

31. Lonnie Phillips, 487 Mandys Way, Front Royal, president, Alexandria Medics Association, spoke in support of the merit increases for employees and for funding the fire department expanded career ladder, and the \$2.1 million increase in APD funding, as public safety is underfunded. Mr. Phillips encouraged Council to keep the items in the budget. He asked for increased funding for AFD pay issues to \$750,000, not just for career ladder but also for other issues, noting that they are at least five to eleven percent below the average. Mr. Phillips also spoke to the EMS service delivery model change that is being implemented for the cross training of EMS personnel and requested open dialogue on the issue.

32. Susana Carey, 1411 Russell Road, president, Charles Barrett Elementary PTA, said she has two students in City schools, and she asked for support for the ACPS budget request, noting that several major areas require the needs of funds, such as \$4.6 million for full step implementation for salaries for all employees, and \$3.5 million for teachers and instructional support personnel because of increased enrollment. She said growing enrollment places more demands on the aging facilities, requiring significant investment to maintain and improve. Ms. Carey said that as parents and PTA members, they support the schools and stand ready to offer help.

33. Roy Shannon, 302 E. Raymond Avenue, chair, Community Services Board, said thank you, as for the past eight years the CSB budget has been reduced but this year it has not been. He said he wished to speak about emergency services, wait list and accessibility. Mr. Shannon said there is a huge increase in emergency services calls. There are 44 people

on the wait lists on the Behavioral Health Center for Children and Families. He said on accessibility, they try to reach out to libraries and for people to use the website so they know they are there to help.

34. David Kaplan, 418 Queen Street, spoke about the development turning Potomac Yard into an urban village, hopefully to be supported by Metro and smart growth surrounding Braddock Road Metro where empty warehouses give way to new housing. He said the neighborhoods succeed because current and prior City Council's funded a transportation network that get people where they need to go without overburdening the roads. He said the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was created to ensure the City could invest in the right mix of transportation choices to support the growth coming and to connect more the residents, workers and visitors to Metro. He spoke of the expansion of Capital Bikeshare and said he and his wife use it. He spoke in support of the expansion of Capital Bikeshare and for the TIP money.

35. Joy Cameron, 1001 Virginia Avenue, said she has a child at George Mason Elementary School, and said they should increase the property taxes by one percent to off-set the need and total budget asked for by ACPS. Ms. Cameron said that when she selected where she was to live, she selected it based on what school her son would go to. She said they need to support their buildings, their teachers and the students.

36. Jerry King, 400 E. Howell Avenue, vice chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission, said the Commission is concerned about the reduction in funding to high priority projects within the Transportation Improvement Program and the CIP. He said the Transportation Commission voted to prioritize six transportation projects under consideration for reduction or deferral. They included DASH service and fleet expansion, Capital Bikeshare expansion and Van Dorn Metrorail Station area improvements. Mr. King said they realize that the cost of the City's increased contribution to WMATA is a burden and hope the amount is lowered. If that contribution is lowered, they request that the funds be returned to the TIP and can be restated to fund expansion of DASH and Capital Bikeshare.

37. Don Buch, 389 Livermore Lane, said that in 2008, City Council authorized fire station 210, and seven years later the station is now complete, except there is no personnel or equipment, and last year were told that it would be put in place this year, but that is not the case. He said they have now been told that they might be able to afford personnel next year or two years from now, and the equipment is in use elsewhere. He asked if it made any sense to rehab other fire stations but not be able to find the money to open the new station. He asked why the proposed 2016 budget not provide for staffing or equipping fire station 210. He said the government is responsible for public safety, and the response times in the West End remain unacceptable, and the fire station needs to be open, staffed and fully equipped now and not in another couple of years.

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6:00 - City Council took a 30 minute break.

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38. Sharon Annear, 1118 N. Howard Street, spoke in support of the increase for police, saying that they cannot keep funding the training of officers only to have them hired away by Fairfax County. Ms. Annear said thanks for the amount set aside for the library system for matching funds for materials. She said she has concerns about the funding plan for

the Chesapeake Bay Clean Up and for solving the combined sewer system problem. They need between \$150 and \$300 million over the next 20 years and it needs to be clarified exactly how it will be funded so they can plan for something that is viable. She said she is concerned about funding additional firefighters and to get them trained for the new fire stations. Ms. Annear said she hoped Council would have staff explore the ideas put forward and address them.

39. Elizabeth Jones, 608 S. View Terrace, speaking on behalf of the MacArthur Elementary School, said that about 12-14 years ago, Council was faced with an aging infrastructure where not enough maintenance had been done and it had to figure out how to update all the CIP needs, a process that is continuing today. She said the School Board is now in the same predicament, trying to prioritize improvements to the schools, ranging from Code requirements and ADA requirements, to capacity issues in crumbling buildings. She said that almost every school has structural, mechanical or capacity issues. At MacArthur, they are appreciative of Council approving the learning cottage so the band and orchestra students don't have to have class in a closet. Ms. Jones said they have four classes in rooms with no windows and only one door, and they have two adult bathrooms in the school with a staff of over 100, and a health unit that has no bathroom. She asked Council to make the schools a priority.

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**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the special public hearing meeting of March 16, 2015 at 6:38 p.m. The voting was as follows: In favor, Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, Councilman Chapman, Councilmember Lovain, Councilwoman Pepper, Councilman Smedberg, and Councilman Wilson; Opposed, None.

APPROVED BY:

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE      MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council