

City of Alexandria
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:00 PM
City Council Legislative Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor Justin M. Wilson, Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Members of Council Canek Aguirre, John Taylor Chapman, Amy B. Jackson, Redella S. Pepper, and Mohamed Seifeldin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Lawrence, Special Assistant to the City Manager; Ms. Taylor, Legislative Director; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Smith, Urban Planner, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Ms. Snow, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Sindiong, T&ES; Ms. Pledger, Director, Information Technology Services; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Mr. Keeler, Deputy Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Jovovic, Office of Housing; Ms. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Greenlief, Assistant Director, Finance; Mr. Moritz, Director, P&Z; Ms. Bryan, Information Technology Services; Police Captain Andreas, and Mr. Lloyd.

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

1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All 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.

3. Reading and Acting Upon the Minutes of the Following Meetings of City Council:

The Special Meeting Minutes for January 03, 2019 (City Council Installation Ceremony); and The Special Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2019 (City Council Retreat).

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council approved the minutes for the following meetings of City Council: the Special Meeting minutes for January 3, 2019 (City Council Installation Ceremony) and the Special Meeting minutes for January 26, 2019 (City Council Retreat). The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor

Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

ORAL REPORTS FROM CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the Subcommittee discussed the facilities assessment that is being conducted by ACPS and how the assessment might yield some challenges not covered in the current CIP, but will inform next year's CIP development process. Mayor Wilson reported that the Subcommittee discussed scheduling a joint work session in June with the School Board to review the information received from the assessment process and how to use the information to shape the future budget process. Mayor Wilson stated that there was a discussion about the future Potomac Yard school site and whether the developer would be submitting plans for the site later in the year. Mayor Wilson noted that there was a discussion of planning for the Witter/Wheeler site and the inclusion of a school in the planning. Mayor Wilson stated that there was a discussion of early education and professional development and training early youth providers.

Councilman Chapman reported that there discussion of the out of school time program and he noted that there would be addiotnal

***CSO Workgroup (Mayor Wilson and Councilwoman Jackson)**

Mayor Wilson noted that this meeting was postponed because of weather. Mayor Wilson reported that the stakeholders group would be meeting and they would be discussing the funding and financing of the CSO project and the rate structure that the Alexandria Renew Board has been reviewing. Mayor Wilson stated that after two years, there will be a better idea of the costs and a more exact rate structure can be established.

***Potomac Yard Implementation Workgroup (PYMIG) (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Aguirre)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the meeting was postponed because of weather.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that he attended the COG Board of Directors and there were three presentations. Mayor Wilson noted that one of the committees has been looking at tree canopies around the region and brought a recommendation to the Board to create a tree canopy subcommittee to protect and expand the canopy, which was approved unanimously. Mayor Wilson reported that there was a presentation about agriculture production in the region and there was discussion about urban agriculture opportunities that exists in the regional urban and inner suburban areas. Mayor Wilson also reported that the Board received the first report from the housing group about the regions ability to address the need for housing for the increased workforce coming to area.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that he joined the NVTa and the Finance committee of the NVTa for his first meeting. Mayor Wilson stated that the NVTa approved a modification to a project

agreement for Alexandria, for a real-time bus information project to leverage some WMATA funding. Mayor Wilson also reported that there was discussion of a bill that would ban participation in regional transportation sector emissions program. Mayor Wilson reported that the NVTAF Finance committee reviewed the draft budget for next year, requesting three additional positions and discussed some policy changes about how quickly projects can be started.

***INOVA Alexandria Task Force (Councilman Seifeldein and Councilwoman Jackson)**

Councilman Seifeldein reported that the meeting has been rescheduled for April 6.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that COG Transportation Planning Board had a presentation on a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the role of the Transportation Planning Board. Councilman Aguirre reported that the region is ranked well as it relates to carpooling and transit use in the area. Councilman Aguirre reported that there is a bus transformation project occurring that is looking at the regional bus system, reviewing bus speeds and decrease in ridership. Councilman Aguirre noted that the Transportation Planning Board received an update on traffic incident management.

***Joint Transportation Commission/Alexandria Transit Company Meeting (Councilman Aguirre and Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Aguirre that there would be a presentation on the DASH later in the meeting and he noted that his colleagues should pay attention to coverage versus ridership.

Councilman Chapman reported that DASH is reviewing the overall system and that DASH will be looking at the efficiency and effectiveness of the bus system. Councilman Chapman noted that they received a debriefing of first round of engagement and received the committee input and will be seeking community input in the future.

***Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the FY2020-2025 Transit Development Plan was adopted for state funding for expanded train capacity, adjusted train times, more frequent service, and attracting new riders. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the short term service goals are to expand the Fredericksburg line and the Manassas line with additional cars. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that she asked about VRE's role in the upcoming Metrorail shutdown and she inquired whether it would be possible to lease railcars from other train lines. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that VRE would be receiving an update on the plans for the Metrorail shutdown in March.

***Library Board (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the Library has been awarded a second grant for the Truth in Racial Healing book club as part of the racial equity workgroup and this will be part of the Juvenile Detention Center. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker also reported that the Library Director, Rose Dawson, has been selected to become a Racial Healing practitioner through a program funded by the Kellogg Foundation. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that patron counts and circulation are both up at the libraries and e-borrowing continued to be at a 50% higher rate than last year. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker pointed out that the library had

many activities highlighting Black History Month in February and activities will continue for the 225th Anniversary of the founding of the library and for the 80th Anniversary for the library sit-in of 1939. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that a brochures and posters for Hungry Free Alexandria grocery and meal distribution sites are available in the libraries. Vice Mayor Bennett- Parker reported that the thermal camera initiative launched on Friday and she stated that this a partnership with Transportation and Environmental Services and Eco-City Alexandria to allow patrons to rent thermal cameras to check their homes air leaks and insulation gaps.

***Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (Councilman Aguirre and Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that at the meeting the data from the Annual Data presentation was discussed and the trends were good, with a decrease in the teen pregnancy rate in the City. Councilman Aguirre noted that the rates have consistently been decreasing and work will continue on the areas that need improvement. Councilman Aguirre reported that there was a joint board meeting with Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) to discuss ways to collaborate and share resources.

Councilwoman Jackson reported that SAPCA would be increasing their awareness and outreach with various events throughout the year. Councilwoman Jackson also noted that Tobacco 21 legislation was passed in the General Assembly and SAPCA would be increasing awareness surrounding that legislation.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jinks reported that there would be a public Budget Presentation on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center at 7:30 p.m. and he invited the public to come out to hear about the FY2020 Proposed Budget.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER
CONSENT CALENDAR (4-6)**

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

4. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Carried Out by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 02/26/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

5. Consideration of A Grant Application to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Services Grant Program.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 5; 02/26/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration of a Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for a Creative Community Partnership Grant (Formerly the Local Government Challenge Grant) for the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 6; 02/26/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

4. City Council: (1) approved the submission of an application to Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for funding in the amount of \$50,000 to be used to support underage drinking prevention initiatives for Alexandria youth; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

5. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of an application to Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS) for ongoing funding in the amount of \$550,000 to be used to enhance service for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault survivors who are residing in the City of Alexandria; (2) authorized the submission of an application to DCJS for ongoing funding in the amount of \$197,604 to be used to enhance services for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault survivors who are residing in the City of Alexandria under category 1 (Services for Victims of Crime) of this grant application; (3) approved one FTE Project Management Analyst I, and one FTE Family Services Specialist I which will be fully supported by grant revenues; and (4) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

6. City Council: (1) authorized the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$4,500 to Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Community Partnership Grant Program; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS

7. Redevelopment and Housing Authority
1 Member who is a Representative from the Alexandria Resident Council (The ARC representative must be a resident of public or publicly assisted housing)

Mayor Wilson noted that the City Clerk distributed a note regarding the discrepancies in the resolution regarding this position and requested the position be re-advertised.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council deferred this appointment and requested that

the City Clerk re-advertise the appointment for consideration in April. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

8. Consideration of a Final Update on the 2019 General Assembly Session.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 8; 02/26/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Legislative Director Taylor gave Council a final overview of the actions of the 2019 General Assembly Session and responded to questions from Council, highlighting the funding for the CSO project.

City Council received the final update on the 2019 General Assembly Session and thanked Legislative Director Sarah Taylor for her work during the session.

9. Adoption of 2019 City Council Work Plan.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 9; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Special Assistant to the City Manager Lawrence reviewed the City Council work plan and schedule and responded to questions from Council.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) adopted the proposed 2019 Work Program (attachments 3 and 4); (2) directed the City Manager to docket these items generally within the timeframes noted, acknowledging that some scheduling changes may occur throughout the course of 2019; and (3) directed the City Manager to docket as soon as practical a resolution for Council consideration affirming the Council's endorsement of Regionalism as a City policy principle. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

10. Small Cell Facilities/5G Overview.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 10; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Special Assistant to the City Manager Lawrence gave an overview of the small cell facilities/5G Overview and he, along with staff, including Mr. Smith, Planning and Zoning, Ms. Pledger, Director, Information Technology Services, and Ms. Snow, Assistant City Attorney along with outside counsel, Matthew Ames, responded to questions from Council about the implementation and small cell facilities in the City.

City Council received the small cell facilities/5G overview.

11. Alexandria Transit Vision Plan Oral Update.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 11; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Mr. Baker, DASH CEO, gave a presentation, along with, Mr. Sindiong, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), on the proposed redesign of the DASH bus system and how to make it more efficient for the community and responded to questions from Council.

City Council received the update on the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan.

12. Work Session with the Office of Housing

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 12; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing, along with Office of Housing staff, gave a presentation on the Office of Housing and their projects and initiatives that they are working on in the City to increase affordable housing and the housing stock in the City and responded to questions and comments from Council.

City Council held the work session with the Office of Housing, highlighting the work on housing affordability in the City of Alexandria.

13. Short-Term Residential Rentals (Airbnb) Status Report

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 13; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Ms. Taylor, Director, Finance, and Mr. Greenlief, Assistant Director, Finance, gave a report on the status of short-term residential rentals and they, along with Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning, responded to questions from Council.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, City Council received the report. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

14. Update of the Proclamation Policy and Procedures.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 14; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, City Council approved the updated proclamation policy. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended a moving event at the Durant Arts Center featuring the City's Poet Laureate.

2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he also attended the Chinese Lunar New Year event held at the Durant Arts Center and there was a large crowd with people of all ages participating and enjoying all of the activities.

3. Councilman Aguirre thanked the organizers of the successful George Washington Birthday Celebration Parade and he encouraged everyone to come out on March 2 to the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

4. Councilman Aguirre noted that the City is offering free tax preparation to qualifying residents through the Department of Community and Human Services at the 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue location.

OTHER

15. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated February 20, 2019, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 15; 02/23/19, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the City Council schedule for February 2019 to June 2019. The vote was as follows: Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, the regular meeting of February 26, 2019 was adjourned at 11:31 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk