

**City of Alexandria
Tuesday, January 28, 2020– 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 E. Seifeldein.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Fine, Assistant City Manager; Fire Chief Smedley; Police Captain Fard; Ms. Taylor, Legislative Director; Dr. Gaddy, Deputy Director, Health Department; Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services; 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 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2020.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, City Council approved the minutes of the following meeting of City Council: the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2020. 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.

4. Introduction of the New Fire Chief Corey Smedley.

City Manager Jinks introduced, Corey Smedley, Fire Chief, and welcomed him to the position.

Newly inducted Fire Chief Corey Smedley gave brief remarks to Council following his swearing-in ceremony earlier in the evening. Members of Council offered remarks of appreciation and welcomed Chief Smedley to the position.

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

***Waterfront Commission (Councilman Seifeldein)**

Councilman Seifeldein reported that the Waterfront Commission met on January 21 and there was continued discussion about the King Street Plaza with staff and concerns from businesses about the proposals. Councilman Seifeldein reported that the Commission discussed the Riverfront Taco DSUP amendment proposal for an outdoor speaker and acoustic entertainment, which is consistent with the noise ordinance. Councilman Seifeldein stated that there was a presentation from the restaurant owner. Councilman Seifeldein also reported that the Commission discussed the Tallship Providence, which has been delayed. Councilman Seifeldein noted that there is an application coming forward at the March public hearing for the addition of two cottages on the pier for a reception/museum area and a gift shop. Councilman Seifeldein noted that there were updates on the debris mitigation activity, updates on the private developments at Robinson Landing, and updates on restaurants along the Waterfront.

***Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force (Councilman Seifeldein and Councilwoman Jackson)**

Councilwoman Jackson reported that the Task Force will be continuing a community/parent support group that will meet monthly at Charles Houston Recreation Center to discuss options for keeping children safe and prevention them from joining gangs. Councilman Seifeldein reported that the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is developing protocols and information sharing mechanisms regarding human trafficking. Councilman Seifeldein also reported that there was a report on gang activity in the City and he noted that the Court Diversion program has the most success in preventing gang activity and reducing incidents.

***MacArthur Design Advisory Committee (Councilwoman Jackson)**

Councilwoman Jackson reported that the School Board would vote on the remaining design plans for MacArthur on February 6. Councilwoman Jackson also reported that at the next community meeting on February 3, there will be a discussion on affordable housing and co-location with City staff and ACPS staff. Councilwoman Jackson noted that all information related to MacArthur redevelopment project will be the ACPS website.

***Citizen Corps Council (Councilwoman Jackson and Councilman Seifeldein)**

Councilman Seifeldein reported that the draft of the Charter will be circulated to stakeholders and they are reviewing peer review documents to make sure everything is

relevant.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)(Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and Councilman Aguirre)**

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that NVTC welcomed new members and installed officers, noting that Councilman Aguirre will be serving as the new vice chair for the Commission. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the Commission received public comment on the 2020 Work Plan and Budget and approved those two documents. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the Commission approved amendments to MOA for the Inside the Beltway project, which will allow some Commuter Choice funding from the tolls to go toward the Long Bridge project. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker pointed out that the Commission approved the VRE budget and submitted comments to WMATA on their proposed budget.

Councilman Aguirre offered congratulations to the new officers for NVTC. Councilman Aguirre noted that there will be additional comments sent to WMATA on the budget and the elimination of bus service.

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

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that VRE welcomed new members and installed new officers and held a special ceremony for outgoing member, Sharon Bulova of Fairfax County. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that there was an update from Jennifer Mitchell from DRPT about the rail plan and the omnibus transportation bill before the General Assembly, as it relates to a rail authority. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that the Board extended a parking garage lease and changed the August meeting date to July.

***Alexandria Works! Coalition (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Pepper)**

Councilwoman Pepper reported that the Coalition received an update on the Council work session from November and she noted that there was discussion about services to elderly population and there is a senior specialist that they would like to expand the job from part-time to full-time position in order to serve more people. Councilman Pepper reported that the City of Alexandria and Arlington County has received a joint grant from the State to help communities around National Landing that can use help with increasing skills and employment advancement during the transition with Amazon. Councilwoman Pepper reported that the Coalition discussed the TeenWork program, the summer youth program for City teens. Councilman Pepper also noted that the Coalition received an update on the vocational English services provided by the office.

***Local Emergency Planning Committee (Vice Mayor Bennett- Parker and Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that the LEPC reviewed and adopted the bylaws for the Committee.

***Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and**

Councilman Chapman)

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the NVRC welcomed new members from Prince William County and Fairfax County and the Commission held a discussion about affordable housing with multiple guest speakers from various jurisdictions and shared information about what other areas are doing regarding affordable housing. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker gave an overview of the different ideas shared by the speakers at the meeting.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the Subcommittee discussed the budget and budget timing and there was an updated report around the fleet study for the City and Schools, noting there was a recommendation for the Schools "White" fleet to transition maintenance of those vehicles to the City. Mayor Wilson noted that the fleet study report had other recommendations that will be discussed over the next few years that will involve more transformational items. Mayor Wilson reported that the Subcommittee discussed facility co-location, the process and how it might work if considered, with a specific conversation about the MacArthur redevelopment and how the process was impacted because of MacArthur moving up in the CIP. Mayor Wilson noted that there was a more significant conversation regarding co-location principles going forward and staff from the City and Schools presented a draft resolution that might be considered by both bodies regarding an approach for considering co-location for future facilities going forward. Mayor Wilson reported that this would be a topic for discussion for the joint work session in March. Mayor Wilson also noted that Dominion Virginia has donated electric buses to various school districts in Virginia, including Alexandria City Public Schools.

***ARHA Redevelopment Committee (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**

Mayor Wilson reported that there was an update on the repositioning for financing housing through the redevelopment authority and they are still waiting a decision from HUD. Mayor Wilson noted that Ramsey Homes are on track for completion during the summer. Mayor Wilson noted that there was a discussion about the work program and about the timing for some of the land use work needed to facilitate future redevelopment.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that this was the first meeting with new presiding officers. Councilman Aguirre noted that there was discussion about dockless mobility and many of the recommendations were similar to those that are part of the phase II pilot program in the City. Councilman Aguirre also noted that the Citizen Advisory Committee appointed new leadership at the meeting. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received an update from the Metropolitan Area Operations Coordination Program, a group formed following 9/11 and they are fine tuning the regional information sharing through that program. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received an outline of the preliminary budget from the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program.

***Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP)(Councilman Aguirre and Vice**

Mayor Bennett-Parker)

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that there was discussion about the Virginia Healthy Youth Act, which requires the State Board of Education to develop standards of learning regarding comprehensive sex education, but she noted that it has not been introduced this session. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that there was a continued discussion regarding City-wide strategic planning and how ACAP can help in achieving the goals of the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission master plan. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that ACAP will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in May with a 2020 Data Plan presentation and other activities.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that PYMIG met and he noted that the Workgroup received information on refining the pricing for the Southwest access for the station, noting there still work to be done. Mayor Wilson noted that there is some frustration from the Workgroup and the community that the process has not concluded because there is a significant gap between the construction firm's quote and the amount that is believed should be paid for the access alternative. Mayor Wilson reported that the DRPT is taking an outside look at the numbers to see if the pricing is fair and WMATA is providing back to the construction firm a number they would be willing to pay. Mayor Wilson noted that if an agreement isn't reached, they will solicit bids just for the access to the station.

Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager, responded to questions from Council about the project.

***Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Update (Councilwoman Pepper)**

Councilwoman Pepper reported that CEEPC held their meeting at the Washington Auto Show on January 23, focusing on the environmental-friendly vehicles. Councilwoman Pepper gave an update on the number of vehicles and charging stations in the region. Councilwoman Pepper noted that there was an update on how the regional jurisdictions were spending the funds from the Volkswagen settlement for emissions. Councilwoman Pepper noted that the funds were being spent on charging stations, electric buses and charging stations, and propane school buses. Councilwoman Pepper reported that they received an update on transportation climate initiatives and an update on the cap and invest program, requiring credits for selling gasoline and diesel fuel, noting that it will be considered by the COG Board at its upcoming meeting. Councilwoman Pepper reported that Alexandria will receive electric school buses from Dominion Power.

***Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (Councilwoman Jackson)**

Councilwoman Jackson reported that Committee has a legislative subcommittee working on tracking all the bills in the General Assembly concerning the Chesapeake Bay. Councilwoman Jackson reported that there will be a competition for an academic paper from

the Agriculture Task Force. Councilwoman Jackson noted that the competition is open to all students and the award is \$500 and requires a five page paper due February 17 about best practices about various topics including urban agriculture policies, farm to school program, and healthy eating. Councilwoman Jackson noted that they will only be accepting 40 paper submission.

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

Councilman Chapman reported that AEDP met last week and received a presentation from the Vice President of Business Development, Jerry Sanford, about some of the business development practices that AEDP is looking at implementing. Councilman Chapman also reported that Stephanie Landrum, President/CEO, updated the group on the regional economic development coordination occurring and the new organization formed by the localities. Councilman Chapman also reported that the Board received a briefing on some of the changes to small business zoning that will be coming before Council in the spring.

***Alexandria Mobility Plan (Councilman Chapman)**

Councilman Chapman reported that the group has been meeting since the summer and they are reviewing focus groups as well as adding additional committee, specifically from civic associations, to give their prospective about how to move forward with a new Transportation Master Plan for the City.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dr. Gaddy, Deputy Director, Alexandria Health Department, gave Council an update on the Coronavirus and what the City is doing to prepare for anyone who may be affected by the virus. City Manager Jinks also noted that City staff would be conducting an Table Top Emergency exercise on Thursday to prepare for dealing with a biological outbreak.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

CONSENT CALENDAR (5)

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

5. Consideration of a Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to Support the City's Trauma Informed Community Network Initiative.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated January 22, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 5; 01/28/20, 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 recommendation was as follows:

5. City Council: (1) approved the submission of grant application to Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)/Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) requesting funding in the amount of \$50,000 to mitigate the impact of trauma and adversity in our City through building a more trauma-informed and resilient Alexandria; 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.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

6. Update on the 2020 Virginia General Assembly Session.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated January 28, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 6; 01/28/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Ms. Taylor, Legislative Director, gave an update on the activity in the General Assembly session and responded to questions from members of Council about legislative package.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council approved the legislative positions included in the Recommended Positions on Bills of Impact of the City as recommended by Council's Legislative Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker) at the Subcommittee's January 17 and January 24 meetings. 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.

****Mayor Wilson recognized members from Boys Scout Troop 1107 present at tonight's meeting. ****

7. Report and Recommendations from the Boards and Commissions Audit/Review Committee.

(A copy of the City Clerk's memorandum dated January 23, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 7; 01/28/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Ms. Sitton, City Clerk, gave a presentation on the activity of Audit/Review Committee for Boards and Commissions and reviewed the recommendations from the Committee for changes and updates to processes and procedures for boards and committees. Ms. Sitton, along with Ms. Fine, Assistant City Attorney, Councilman Aguirre and Councilman Chapman, responded to questions and had a discussion with members of City Council about composition of boards/commissions, policy for fundraising, process for appointment and applying to boards,

annual reports, and bylaws.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilman Seifeldein and carried unanimously, City Council received the report from the Committee and approved the recommendations on changes to the processes and procedures for City boards, commissions and committees and directed staff to return with the necessary legislation to implement any changes, including updates to the City Code and creation of a fundraising policy for boards and commissions. City Council also directed the Committee to generate a list of boards and commissions (1) that have composition change requests; (2) boards which have been dormant for a period; and (3) boards that have potential for consolidation for efficiency purposes. 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. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that there will be new Eco-City Academy beginning in the Spring related to the Environmental Act Plan 2040 and she noted that applications are due Friday, February 12. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker also noted that application deadline are upcoming for the Fire Academy, the City Academy and Police Academy.

2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker participated in a photo-op for the AT1+ improvements, which were funded by the I-395 Commuter Choice. Councilman Aguirre noted that the buses are fully wrapped and have "Welcome to the West End" on them in three different languages, English, Spanish and Amharic. Councilman Aguirre also noted that ridership was up since last November.

3. Councilman Aguirre reported that he attended International Night at Mount Vernon Community School last Friday and he recognized Rosa Landeros, the Parent Liaison for Mount Vernon Community School, for being named a Living Legend for 2020, the first Latina recipient.

4. Councilman Aguirre recognized Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria for holding a ribbon cutting for the permanent drug dropbox at the Police Station on Saturday.

5. Councilman Aguirre reported that he went to Richmond to the General Assembly for Transportation Lobby Day to speak to about the importance of transportation bills being considered this session.

6. Councilman Aguirre announced that the City will be offering free tax preparation on February 1 for residents on Wednesdays and Fridays.

OTHER

8. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated January 22, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 8; 01/28/20, 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: (1) received the updated City Council Schedule which includes: the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Glass-Only Recycle Bin on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. MoM's Organic Market (3831 Mt. Vernon Avenue); VML Day which is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at the Omni Hotel Richmond (100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA) and (2) approved the City Council Schedule for January 2020 through June 2020. 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.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, the regular meeting of January 28, 2020 was adjourned at 10:05 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