

City of Alexandria
Monday, March 9, 2020 5:30 PM
City Council Public Hearing Meeting
Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Mohamed E. Seifeldein.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Collins, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Henty, Assistant Director, OMB; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Mr. Wicks, Capital Improvement Manager, OMB; Mr. Cruz, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Kurbanov, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. McGrane, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. Poly, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Lew, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services; Police Captain Fard; 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, except Councilman Seifeldein, who had an excused absence.

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2021 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for FY 2021-2030 (including the Schools CIP). Adoption is Scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing on the ordinance establishing the Real Property Tax Rate will be held Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

The following persons participated in the special budget public hearing:

1. Kathy Stenzel, Alexandria, representing the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC), stated that BFAAC supports the use of priority based budgeting, support the efforts to grow economic base in the City, and how the budget reflects the values and priorities in the government and community. Ms. Stenzel stated that BFAAC will give Council a report on the budget.

2. Katy Matthews, Alexandria, representing the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) Council, spoke in support of funding the schools requests in the budget.

3. Carolyn Meza, Alexandria, representing the Polk Elementary PTA, spoke in

support of funding the schools requests in the budget.

4. Alicia Rutherford, Alexandria, representing the George Mason Elementary PTA, spoke in support of funding the schools requests in the budget.

5. Thomas Knighton, city employee, spoke on behalf of public works employees with the Transportation and Environmental Services department and requested an increase in compensation for those workers who are on the frontlines with other first responders.

6. William Pfister, Alexandria, representing the Douglas MacArthur Elementary PTA and PTAC, spoke in support of funding the schools requests in the budget.

7. Matt Antretter, city employee, spoke in support of increasing compensation for Transportation and Environmental Services department employees to help maintain quality employees.

8. Charles Ziegler, Alexandria, representing the Friends of the Library, spoke in support of the funding requests in the budget for the City's public libraries.

9. Barbara Waters, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging's executive committee, stated that the Commission would like to request a full-time position employment training specialist position for assistance to older workers, expressed concern in the fare increase for the DOT Paratransit services, a request for an increase in the rent assistance program, and expressed concern about the expansion of ParkMobile in Old Town.

10. John Porter, Alexandria, representing the Northern Virginia Community College Board, requested that Board would like to redirect 50 cents of the \$2.25 of the Capital support to help fund an IT Employment Pipeline at NOVA Community College to fund high demand programs and to assist with the certification costs for students.

11. Daniel Sweeney, Jr., Alexandria, representing the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, spoke about continued support and funding for the Community Service Board and the services provided by the Department of Community and Human Services. Mr. Sweeney also requested funding for safe, affordable housing for the community.

12. Kevin Dunne, Alexandria, thanked the Transportation and Environmental Services employees for their services to community. Mr. Dunne expressed concern about long term budgeting for the City and requested the City take caution in the planning for the future.

13. Victoria Almquist, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of making the business services specialist a full-time position to service the older adult community.

14. Shannon Steene, Alexandria, representing the Carpenter's Shelter, requested increased financial support from the City in serving the homeless population in the City of Alexandria.

15. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Alexandria, representing the Sheriff's Office, spoke

about the need for adequate pay compensation for Sheriff employees and the need to create new financial solutions for the increasing revenue for the City's budget.

16. Kelly Conlan Baron, Alexandria, spoke about the need for fixing the schools in the City and in support of the funding for the schools.

17. Margaret Brock, Alexandria, spoke in support of increasing salaries for public safety employees.

18. Bernard Banks, City employee, spoke about increased and fair compensation for employees in Transportation and Environmental Services, who are on the frontline with other employees to keep the City clean and safe.

19. John Taylor, City employee, spoke about increased and fair compensation for employees in Transportation and Environmental Services.

20. Blaine Jackson, Alexandria, thanked the Council for funding the schools budget and expressed concern with the possibility of a tax increase. Mr. Jackson stated that a tax increase should be used correctly for schools, affordable housing, and compensating employees.

21. Dino Drudi, Alexandria, spoke in opposition of any tax increase and stated that the increase in assessments should be enough to fund the City's budget.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried 6-0, City Council closed the public hearing for the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY2021 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Programs for FY2021-2030 (including the Schools CIP). The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilwoman Pepper; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Seifeldein.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried 6-0, the special budget public hearing of March 9, 2020 was adjourned at 6:36 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilwoman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilwoman Pepper; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Seifeldein.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk