

**City of Alexandria  
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting  
City Council Legislative Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

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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. Seifeldin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Collins, Deputy City Manager, Ms. Triggs Deputy, City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. K. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Greenlief, Finance; Dr. Haering, Director, Health Department, Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Ms. Henty, Assistant Director, OMB; Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services.

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

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The April 14, 2020 meeting of the City Council is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and/or the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on March 24, 2020. All of the members of the City Council and staff are participating from remote locations through a video conference call on Zoom. The video conference call will be broadcasted live on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website and can be accessed via Zoom by:

**[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6D7z8o8uRMKzuJxlqZTPlQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6D7z8o8uRMKzuJxlqZTPlQ) or by using the following phone number and log in information: +1 301 715 8592**

**When prompted:**

**Webinar ID: 609 119 518**

**Password: 865144**

**International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/9123456789>**

**This Council Legislative meeting does not have a public hearing component so public comments will not be taken.**

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**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 at the meeting by video conference.

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Mayor Wilson stated that the April 14, 2020 legislative meeting of the City Council is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2708.2 (A)(3) and/or the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on March 24, 2020. All of the members of the City Council and staff are participating from remote locations through a video conference call on the Zoom app.

2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilson recognized the passing of two Alexandria residents: Fred Parker, owner of Hard Times Café and former Chair of the Alexandria Persons with Disabilities, Brian Miller.

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

**\*Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson reported on the emergency response update for the region and he noted that there was a resolution passed by the Board regarding Washington, D.C. status as a territory instead of a state.

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

Councilwoman Jackson reported that the Citizen Corps Council held a meeting via conference all and she noted that there was a discussion centered around the need for more PPE for the frontline workers and she informed Council of challenges the group is experiencing due to the reduced numbers of volunteers.

**\*Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) (Councilman Aguirre)**

Councilman Aguirre reported that WMATA was experiencing losses as result of the pandemic and they discussed the plans on how to allocate funding received from the CARES Act. Councilman Aguirre also noted that WMATA will be hosting a weekly town hall meeting to keep everyone informed on the steps WMATA will be taking to address the COVID-19 crisis.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CONSENT CALENDAR (3)**

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

3. Consideration of the Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ending February 29, 2020.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 3; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar. The City Manager's recommendation was as follows:

3. City Council received the Monthly Financial 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.

### **4. COVID-19 Update (Oral Report)**

City Council received an updated on the COVID-19 response from Dr. Haering and City Manager Jinks and they responded to questions from City Council.

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

5. Consideration of an Additional Allocation of City Funds to the ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund and for ALIVE! to Maintain Adequate Food Availability.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 5; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker abstained from voting on this item due to a work-related affiliation.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried 6-0-1, City Council: (1) authorized the allocation from City FY2020 snow removal funds for an additional \$100,000 of City matching funds to the ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund; (2) authorized the allocation from City FY 2020 snow removal funds of \$220,000 to ALIVE! to ensure adequate food supply and support for distribution efforts through the end of May; and (3) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents required. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none; Abstained, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker.

6. Review and Confirmation of the Suspension of Enforcement of Certain City Codes and Ordinances Taken by the City Manager Since the Start of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 6; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman

Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council confirmed that the suspension of enforcement of the codes and ordinances relating to Land Use and Parking shown in the attached documents shall remain in place until the end of the declaration of local emergency, or earlier if the City Manager determines they are no longer necessary. 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.

7. Consideration of Enhanced Southwest Access to the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station and Modifications to the WMATA Funding Agreement for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 7; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously, City Council received staff's recommendation to proceed with the enhanced access concept Modified Idea #1 and docketed it for public hearing and consideration on April 18, 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.

8. Budget Work Session # 8 - FY 2021 Proposed Budget Version 2.0

(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. 8; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget, gave a presentation on the City Manager's revised proposed budget for FY 2021 and City Manager Jinks and staff responded to questions from Council about the revised budget and the schedule for budget adoption.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted items 9-13, resolution of support for Sister Cities. 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.

9. Resolution of Support for the City of Norton, Virginia. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 9; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

The resolution reads as follows:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2932**

## **A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF NORTON**

**WHEREAS**, Wise County and its independent City of Norton, and the City of Alexandria, Virginia, have been formally paired by their governing officials and Governor Ralph Northam in the Local Government Exchange Program, through partnership with Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Municipal League, and Virginia Association of Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, since the establishment of this partnership, officials from both cities have shared ideas to promote that relationship, through travel, technology, and written communication; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic of COVID-19, which has rapidly swept the globe, is currently affecting all Virginians; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic's far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens' quality of life and the daily municipal management, and these effects include loss of human life, staggering economic depletion, and the cities of Norton and Alexandria are no exception to this national and worldwide distress, both being independent cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria stands firmly in support of our partner city, Norton, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Norton's first-responders, municipal leaders, service workers, educators, and citizens who employ the safest practices to help combat this scourge which has so deeply altered their way of life, bringing with it a season of grief; and

**WHEREAS**, this calamity is being met – and will continue to be met –with unwavering generosity of spirit, and the cities of Norton and Alexandria are no exception as partners on the front lines of this crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend our thoughts and support to the municipal leaders of Norton, its staff, and the great people of Norton.

**10.** Resolution of Support for Wise County, Virginia. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 10; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

The resolution reads as follows:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2933**

## **A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTY OF WISE**

**WHEREAS**, Wise County and its independent City of Norton, and the City of Alexandria, Virginia, have been formally paired by their governing officials and Governor Ralph Northam in the Local Government Exchange Program, through partnership with Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Municipal League, and Virginia Association of

Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, since the establishment of this partnership, officials from both cities have shared ideas to promote that relationship, through travel, technology, and written communication; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic of COVID-19, which has rapidly swept the globe, is currently affecting all Virginians; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic's far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens' quality of life and the daily municipal management, and these effects include loss of human life, staggering economic depletion, and the Wise County and the City of Alexandria are no exception to this national and worldwide distress, both being independent cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria stands firmly in support of our partner city, Norton, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Wise County's first-responders, municipal leaders, service workers, educators, and citizens who employ the safest practices to help combat this scourge which has so deeply altered their way of life, bringing with it a season of grief; and

**WHEREAS**, this calamity is being met – and will continue to be met –with unwavering generosity of spirit, and the Wise County and the City of Alexandria are no exception as partners on the front lines of this crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend our thoughts and support to the municipal leaders of Norton, its staff, and the great people of Wise County.

**11. Resolution of Support for the City of Helsingborg, Sweden.[ROLL-CALL VOTE]**

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 11; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2934**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN**

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria, Virginia and Helsingborg, Sweden have participated in shared cultural and educational exchanges under the auspices of the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, officials from both cities have shared communications and ideas to promote that relationship, through hosting the renowned Helsingborg Symphony and delegations of city officials, student exchanges; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic of COVID-19, which has rapidly swept the globe, is currently affecting all humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic's far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens' quality of life and the daily municipal management, and these effects include loss of human life, staggering economic depletion, and the cities of Helsingborg and Alexandria are no exception to this worldwide distress, as they are both cities near even larger urban and global centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria stands firmly in support of our Sister City, Helsingborg, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Helsingborg's first-responders, municipal leaders, service workers, educators, and citizens who employ the safest practices to help combat this scourge which has so deeply altered their way of life, bringing with it a season of grief; and

**WHEREAS**, this calamity is being met – and will continue to be met –with unwavering generosity of spirit, and the cities of Helsingborg and Alexandria are no exception as partners on the front lines of this crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend our thoughts and support to the municipal leaders of Helsingborg, its staff, and the great people of Helsingborg.

**12. Resolution of Support for the City of Caen, France. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]**

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 12; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2935**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF CAEN, FRANCE**

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria, Virginia and Caen, France have participated in shared cultural and educational exchanges since 1991 under the auspices of the Sister Cities International nonprofit organization; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, officials from both cities have shared communications and ideas to promote that relationship, through hosting delegations of city officials, an annual D-day commemorative event, lecture series, student exchanges, intern exchanges; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic of COVID-19, which has rapidly swept the globe, is currently affecting all humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic's far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens' quality of life and the daily municipal management, and these effects include loss of human life, staggering economic depletion, and the cities of Caen and Alexandria are no exception to this worldwide distress, as they are both cities near even larger urban and

global centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria stands firmly in support of our Sister City, Caen, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Caen’s first-responders, municipal leaders, service workers, educators, and citizens who employ the safest practices to help combat this scourge which has so deeply altered their way of life, bringing with it a season of grief; and

**WHEREAS**, this calamity is being met – and will continue to be met –with unwavering generosity of spirit, and the cities of Caen and Alexandria are no exception as partners on the front lines of this crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend our thoughts and support to the municipal leaders of Caen, its staff, and the great people of Caen.

**13. Resolution of Support for the City of Dundee, Scotland. [ROLL-CALL CALL]**

(A copy of the resolution is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 13; 04/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2936**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF DUNDEE, SCOTLAND**

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria, Virginia and Dundee, Scotland have participated in shared cultural and educational exchanges since 1993 under the auspices of the Dundee Alexandria Twinning Association; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, officials from both cities have shared communications and ideas to promote that relationship, through hosting delegations of city officials, schools, music groups, sports clubs, an annual Scottish Christmas Walk, fundraising and social events; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic of COVID-19, which has rapidly swept the globe, is currently affecting all humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic’s far-reaching inflictions have cut deep into all municipalities and their citizens’ quality of life and the daily municipal management, and these effects include loss of human life, staggering economic depletion, and the cities of Dundee and Alexandria are no exception to this worldwide distress, as the they are both cities near even larger urban and global centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria stands firmly in support of our Sister City, Dundee, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Dundee’s first-responders, municipal leaders, service workers, educators, and citizens who employ the safest practices to help combat this scourge which has so deeply altered their way of life, bringing with it a season of grief; and



**WHEREAS**, this calamity is being met – and will continue to be met –with unwavering generosity of spirit, and the cities of Dundee and Alexandria are no exception as partners on the front lines of this crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby extend our thoughts and support to the municipal leaders of Dundee, its staff, and the great people of Dundee.

14. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an ordinance to ensure the continuity of city government, implementing emergency procedures, modifying public meeting requirements and public practices and procedures in order to address continuity of operations associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic Disaster.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 14; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 2 of Item No. 14; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 3 of Item No. 14; 4/14/20, 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 passed the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading, and final passage on April 18, 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.

15. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to impose a moratorium on penalties and interest for Restaurant Meals Taxes, Transient Occupancy Taxes and BPOL taxes; and consideration of resolutions to change the filing deadline for Business Personal Property and Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Applications.

(A copy of the City Manager’s memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 15; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 2 of Item No. 15; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council

received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 3 of Item No. 15; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council passed the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading, and final passage on April 18, 2020. City Council also set the resolutions for public hearing and final passage on April 18, 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.

**16. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to Revise Transportation and Environmental Services Department Grading Plan Review Fees.**

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 16; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 2 of Item No. 16; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 3 of Item No. 16; 4/14/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council passed the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading, and final passage on April 18, 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.

**COVID-19 RELATED ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL**

- a. Resolution to the State and Federal Governments in regard to rents, mortgages and credit reporting. [ROLL-CALL VOTE](Councilman Aguirre)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the proposed resolution establishing the process to be used to adopt the FY 2021 Operating Budget and the FY 2021 to FY 2030 Capital Improvement Program. 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.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2937

**Resolution to call on the U.S. Congress and the Governor of Virginia to address the immediate crisis of rent and mortgage payments through a potential moratorium and to suspend the reporting of negative credit information by credit bureaus.**

**WHEREAS**, Our society, at every level, is facing extreme hardships caused by the unprecedented impact of the current public health crisis, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 first appeared in December 2019 and has spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 12, 2020, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency to help the Commonwealth prepare for broader spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 14, 2020, the City of Alexandria made a declaration of local emergency to ramp up the city's efforts to prepare for and respond to local cases of coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia are responding in strong and definitive ways to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives in our community and across the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order 55 on March 30, 2020, to instruct residents to stay at home and cease non-essential activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of these orders and the impact on our service industries and other sectors, thousands of Alexandria residents are facing unemployment and underemployment; with the increase in unemployment filings due to COVID-19 ranks Virginia third in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Those workers who are eligible for unemployment insurance are in some cases drawing only a fraction of what they would earn on the job and many workers are not eligible for any unemployment benefits at all; and

**WHEREAS**, 47 percent of renters spend more than a third of their income on rent, while 25 percent of renters give more than half of their income to their landlord; and 40 percent of Americans do not have cash on hand to cover an unexpected expense of \$400 and 78 percent of American workers said they live paycheck to paycheck; and

**WHEREAS**, The Virginia Supreme Court has declared a Judicial Emergency and ordered a moratorium on residential and commercial evictions as a result of COVID-19, but renters are still obligated to pay landlords, and mortgage-holders are still obligated to pay lenders; and

**WHEREAS**, Retaining the obligation to pay during this challenging economic time would mean that those who are forced to defer payments will accumulate significant personal debt

with months of back-payments and fees, as well as damaged credit; and

**WHEREAS**, It is critically important that Alexandria residents who currently have housing are not made homeless or destitute because of this public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, While Virginia Governor Ralph Northam proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020, opening the opportunity to use certain emergency powers; and Congress acted swiftly to pass legislation to stabilize the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, To date no mandatory rent relief program is in place; and mortgage forbearance remains subject to individual banks to decide how and if to implement; and

**WHEREAS**, The Alexandria City Council requests all banks, mortgage companies, as well as rental property owners and landlords to consider the financial impact that the COVID-19 outbreak has had on residents of our City; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alexandria City Council call on Governor Northam to address the rental crisis through whatever powers or influence he may have to ensure that no resident who has lost income should be required to pay rent during this public health emergency, nor should they accumulate debt for unpaid rent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alexandria City Council call on our Congressional delegation to take action on the rental and mortgage crisis, to ensure that no resident suffering from loss of income should be unable to pay rent or their mortgage, nor should they accumulate debt or adverse credit reporting, including missed or late payments, during this public health emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Alexandria City Council call on our Congressional delegation to ensure that those Alexandria residents ineligible for current Federal assistance, particularly our undocumented population, be made eligible for assistance to ensure housing stability during this unprecedented time; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, That the City Clerk shall transmit this Resolution to U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, Representative Don Beyer and Governor Ralph Northam.

## **OTHER**

### **17. Consideration of City Council Schedule.**

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 8, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 17; 04/14/20, 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 received and approved the City Council schedule from April 2020 through July 2020, noting: (1) the Special City Council Meeting/Public Hearing on July 7, 2020 is proposed to begin at 5:30 p.n., in the Council Chamber; (2) the Volunteer Appreciation Event (April 16), Days of Remembrance (April 21),

and Earth Day (May 2) have all been canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis; and (3) City Council meetings in April will be held electronically with one public hearing on April 18 being held electronically and with public testimony also being available in City Hall due to tax rate hearing noticing. 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.

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**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of April 14, 2020 at 10:25 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.

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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