

City of Alexandria
Tuesday, April 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. Seifeldin.

Absent: None.

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; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Dr. Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department; Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation; Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services; Ms. Taylor, Director, Finance; Ms. Landrum, Executive Director, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership; and Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services.

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 at the meeting via Zoom video conference call.

Mayor Wilson stated that the April 28, 2020 Legislative 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 April 18, 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.

Mayor Wilson noted the passing of Erik Gutshall, member of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors, Fred Parker, local businessman and owner of Hard Times Café, and Brian Miller, former chair of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities and offered condolences on behalf of the Council.

ORAL REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES (COVID-19 Related topics)

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

Councilman Chapman)

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the Commission met and passed a resolution introduced by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and Councilman Chapman, calling on the Governor and Congress to address the rent and mortgage crisis. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker also reported that there are biweekly calls with the regional mayors and chairs to discuss actions being taken to combat the virus and there are conversations with international communities to discuss how they are dealing with the virus.

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

Councilman Chapman reported that the AEDP has begun discussions about how the City starts to recover as City and business community from the affects the pandemic, including what changes will be expected to see during and following the pandemic, particularly in commercial and office spaces in the area.

***Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee (Councilwoman Jackson)**

Councilwoman Jackson reported she met with the Region Forward Coalition call discussing how the region can work together to recovery and manage the pandemic, particularly as it relates to food insecurity and housing crisis caused by this pandemic. The group discussed ways to help those in the region in the coming months and years and what resources are available.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the subcommittee thanked the school community how they have worked to make sure the students have not been left behind and to ensure that they address food needs for the students and their families. Mayor Wilson also noted that there was a conversation about what the upcoming school year would look like in the pandemic environment. Mayor Wilson stated that the subcommittee recognized that there have been increased expenses for the Schools due to addressing issues from COVID-19.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the Board held a special meeting and adopted a resolution that defined a framework for what the regions reopening would look like and had briefings from regional public health experts. Mayor Wilson noted that the resolution will use public health guidance to guide the standards for reopening.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION

2. COVID-19 Update (Oral Report)

City Council received on the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic from Dr. Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department and Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services and they responded to questions from Council.

3. Review of Versions 2.0 of the FY 2021 Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2021 to FY

2030 Proposed Capital Improvement Program (Oral Report).

Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget, gave a presentation reviewing the Versions 2.0 of the FY 2021 Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2021 to FY 2030 Proposed Capital Improvement Program and noted that budget adoption would occur tomorrow, April 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

4. Consideration of Planning Direction for Use of Forthcoming Federal CARES Act Funding.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 22, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 04/28/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

Councilman Chapman made a disclosure that due to his ownership of a small business in the City of Alexandria and possible interest in the transaction of this item and after discussing with the City Attorney, he will be participating in the consideration of this item under the law and to participate, fairly, objectively and in the public interest, has made the disclosure to the City Clerk and the community.

City staff from the Office of Housing, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, and Department of Community and Human Services to address the programs that will use the forthcoming Federal CARES Act funding on programs for the community related to housing, social services needs and small business relief.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) affirmed the prime priorities of the City for the use of the CARES Act funding are for funding the City's direct response expenses to the COVID-19 crisis, the funding of the expansion of the Alexandria Health Department's epidemiological staffing, the funding of expanded residential rental assistance, food assistance to needy individuals and families, and the provision of assistance to small businesses; and (2) directed the City Manager to return to Council at its May 12 Legislative Meeting with a plan for implementation of the above initiatives. 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.

5. Discussion of Proposed Plan for Docket Items for Virtual Meetings of City Council and Boards and Commissions during the COVID-19 Emergency.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 24, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 5; 04/28/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) adopted the plan for limiting City Council's docket in May as outlined in the report; (2) provided guidance to City Boards and Commissions as outlined in the report; and (3) will reassess the plan for June and July meetings near the end of May. The recommendations were as follows:

The City Council dockets for May will be focused only on matters to address the emergency or to continue government. City Council will not be hearing any of its normal docket items in May. In June, the City Council will resume regular docket items focusing only on those docket items that are current requests and deferring those items that are long term policy decisions, city wide initiatives, or major changes to city codes or ordinances. The City Council will hold at least one July meeting with more meetings to be considered if necessary. The City Council will strive to have partial in person meetings June and July where at least 4 members of the City Council will be present but electronic participation by the public will still be encouraged. Generally, most boards and commissions are encouraged to cancel meetings through July, only resuming items that are time sensitive or necessary for another board to continue its work, items that will address COVID-19 pandemic emergency, or items needed for the continuity of government. 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

None.

OTHER

6. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated April 22, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 6; 04/28/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried unanimously, City Council received and approved the City Council schedule for April 2020 through July 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, City Council adjourned the regular legislative meeting of April 28, 2020 at 9:45 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:

Attest:

Gloria A. Sitton CMC City Clerk

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