

**City of Alexandria  
City Council Legislative Meeting  
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:00 PM  
Virtual 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. Seifeldein.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Ms. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Collins, Deputy City Manager; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Mr. Keeler, Deputy Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Landrum, Executive Director, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP); Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Greenlief, Acting Deputy Director, Finance; Ms. Talis, Manager, Health Department; Dr. Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department; Mr. Moritz, Director, Office of Planning and Zoning; Mr. Moss, Information Technology Services (ITS); Mr. Barre, ITS; and Mr. Bradford, ITS.

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

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1. Calling the Roll.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of Council were present via Zoom video conference.

Mayor Wilson stated that the May 12, 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.

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

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

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that Commission met and welcomed a new member, Matt de Ferranti from Arlington County, to the Commission. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that there were a number of items discussed including the commuter choice program, changes to the timeline for the I-66 project, received updates from DRPT and on the omnibus bill, and a discussion on the creation of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and there was a request for names for citizen members to serve on the authority.

Councilman Aguirre reported on the impact of COVID-19 on WMATA and its budget. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Virginia legislature has mandated a review of the 3% cap by the Authority and make a recommendation by the end of the year. Councilman Aguirre reported that yearly update on WMATA and the Commission will be providing that update by the end of the year.

### **ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Jinks, City Manager, reported that the Department of Emergency and Customer Communications was receiving national press coverage for the practices and procedures that the operators and call takers have been using during the pandemic, including providing space for employees to quarantine staff in shifts and using technology for employees to answer calls from home and provide coverage for peak hours.

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER CONSENT CALENDAR (2)**

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

2. Consideration of the Monthly Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2020.

( A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 6, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 2; 05/12/20, 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, item #2. The City Manager's recommendation was as follows:

2. 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.

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

3. COVID-19 Oral Update

City Council received an updated on the City's COVID-19 response and data from Dr. Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department, Dr. Kham, representing Neighborhood Health Clinic, Ms. Talis, Alexandria Health Department and Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services. City staff responded to questions from Council about testing, communication strategies for City residents about testing, wearing masks and ways to reach community members through messaging and signage. Staff also responded to questions about next steps and partnerships in the community to address the needs of high risk populations.

4. Consideration of the Proposed Plans for use of Federal CARES Act Funding for Residential Rental Assistance, Food Security and Small Business Assistance and COVID-19 Related Expenses of the City Government.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 7, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 05/12/20, 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.

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) affirmed that prime priorities of the City for the use of 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; (2) approved the proposed Residential Rent Assistance Program, Food Security Plan and Small Business Grant Program; (3) directed the City Manager to implement receipt of the above initiatives contingent upon the receipt of a Federal CARES allocation from the Commonwealth of Virginia; and (4) approved the allocation of the Federal CARES funds. 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.

- 4a. Consideration of REVISED Proposed plans for use of Federal CARES Act funding for Residential Rental Assistance, Food Security and Small Business Assistance and COVID-19 Related Expenses of the City Government.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 12, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4a; 05/12/20, 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) affirmed that the prime priorities of the City

for the use of 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; (2) approved the proposed Residential Rent Assistance Program, Food Security Plan and Small Business Grant Program as detailed in Attachments 2, 3, and 4; (3) directed the City Manager to implement receipt of the above initiatives contingent upon the receipt of a Federal CARES allocation from the Commonwealth of Virginia; and (4) approved the allocation of \$13.9 million in Federal CARES funds as displayed in the last column of the REVISED Attachment 1. 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**

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

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated May 6, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 5; 05/12/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received and adopted the City Council Schedule for May 2020 through July 2020; and (2) received and adopted the Proposed City Council Schedule for August 2020 through July 2021. 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 Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of May 12, 2020 at 10:23 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

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