

**City of Alexandria
City Council Legislative Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:00 PM
Virtual 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. Triggs, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Collins, Deputy City Manager; Ms. Baker, Deputy City Manager;

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 virtually through video conference call on Zoom, with Councilman Chapman and Councilman Seifeldein joining virtually during the closed executive session.

Mayor Wilson stated that the June 23, 2020 Legislative Meeting of the City Council was being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 and/or Section 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All members of the City Council and staff are participating from remote locations through a video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website, and via Zoom.

2. Closed meeting.

6:00 p.m. - Consideration of a closed executive session to discuss a personnel matter, for consultation with legal counsel regarding actual or probable litigation, and discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried 5-0, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:03 p.m., to consult with Legal Counsel and Staff regarding actual or probable litigation where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating

posture of the public body, a personnel matter, and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; specifically, probable litigation regarding an employment matter in the Fire Department; the performance of the three public appointees of the City Council; and the potential acquisition of an office building on the west end of the City; pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A) (7), (A)(1) and (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennet-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilwoman Pepper; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilman Chapman and Councilman Seifeldein.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 6-0, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:29 p.m. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilwoman Pepper.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried 6-0 by roll-call vote, City Council adopted e resolution regarding the closed executive session previously circulated to Council. The vote was as follows: In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none; Absent, Councilwoman Pepper.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2952

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 23rd day of June, 2020 recessed into executive session pursuant to a motion made and adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the city council that such executive session was conducted in accordance with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters that were identified in the motion by which the executive session was convened, and that are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act from the Act's open meeting requirements, were heard, discussed or considered by council during the executive session.

3. Public Discussion Period.

The following person participated in the public discussion period:

1. Janice Grenadier, Alexandria, spoke about injustices and corruption in the court system and reported that she has started a website for people to post their complaints on the internet.

Mayor Wilson noted that longtime Alexandrian, Engin Artemel, passed away and he

offered condolences to his family.

Mayor Wilson also noted the retirement of Judge Nolan Dawkins after serving 26 years on the Circuit Court.

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

***Visit Alexandria Board of Governors (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that AEDP gave a report on the City's economic response to the pandemic and the grants being offered to small businesses. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker also reported that Historic Alexandria gave a report on the phased reopening of the City's museums, with the Lyceum opening first and the use of virtual programming. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported the Historic Alexandria has started collecting initiative on the pandemic and the response to the George Floyd tragedy. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that the visitor center has reopened.

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

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that ridership is still down 95% compared to last year this time. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that as ridership increases with the phased reopening, railcars will be added back to respond to the demand. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the board authorized a letter of intent for the design and funding of the new Crystal City station. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that they received an updated on the Transforming Rail in Virginia Plan.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that WMATA Board that Paul Smedberg was re-elected as chair along with other appointments. Councilman Aguirre reported that construction work continues along the blue and orange line through Labor Day to improve safety measures across the system. Councilman Aguirre noted that Metrorail ridership is down about 94% and Metrobus ridership is down 84% due to the pandemic. Councilman Aguirre noted that the board decided on a Statement of Racial Injustice and an equity workplan.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that Board discussed the number of transportation related deaths in the region, the causes for those deaths and the development of a regional safety program and the adoption of Vision Zero policies by the localities. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board was working on ways to apply an equity lens to transportation throughout the region.

***Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) (Mayor Wilson)**

Mayor Wilson reported that the Authority welcomed new General Assembly members to board, including Del. Danica Rome and Del. Vivian Watts and Senator Jennifer Boysko. Mayor Wilson reported that the Authority was close to adoption of the funding plan and he noted that

the Planning and Programming Committee has reviewed the recommendations. Mayor Wilson noted that City's request for funding for the Duke Street Transitway was approved for full funding.

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

Councilman Chapman reported that the subcommittee received an update on the Schools phased reopening plan and joint communications relating to playground usage during the pandemic and reopening phases. Councilman Chapman reported that there was a discussion about summer activities and how the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities can collaborate with schools to facilitate options for residents/students.

Mayor Wilson presented a proclamation and video tribute to Councilwoman Pepper, who will be celebrating 35 years as member of the Alexandria City Council in July.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager's Oral Report

COVID-19 Update (Oral Report)

Ms. Suehr, Director of Project Implementation, gave a presentation of the plan for the reopening of the City government offices and facilities, highlighting the work the planning committee has been doing over the past few months to address potential concerns of employees as they move toward returning to the "new normal" for City government operations.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER
CONSENT CALENDAR (4-10)**

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

4. Consideration of Receipt of Fiscal Year 2020 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status Report Related to City Council Approved Capital Projects.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

5. Introduction of an Amendment to a Five-Year Agreement dated December 1, 2018, between the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Zayo Group LLC, to Permit Zayo to Install a 66-Foot Conduit and Fiber Optic Cables in the City of Alexandria's Public Rights-of-Ways.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration of the Submission of a Grant Application for a Reimbursement Grant

through the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 6; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

7. Consideration for the City Membership in the PJM Cities Coalition.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 7; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

(Ordinances for Introduction)

8. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Potomac Yard/Potomac Greens Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2020-00001 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment (Implementation Ordinance for Master Plan Amendment No. 2020-00001 associated with Silverstone approved by City Council on June 20, 2020).

(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. 1 of Item No. 8; 06/23/20, 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. 2 of Item No. 8; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

9. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-602 (Coordinated development districts created, consistency with master plan, required approvals) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-00004 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2020-0004 associated with Silverstone approved by City Council on June 20, 2020).

(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. 1 of Item No. 9; 06/23/20, 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. 2 of Item No. 2; 06/23/30, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

10. Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-602 (Coordinated development districts created, consistency with master plan, required approvals) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-00001 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2020-0001 associated with North Potomac Yard approved by City Council on June 20, 2020).

(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. of Item No. 10; 06/23/20, 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. 2 of Item No. 10; 06/23/20, 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, with the exception of item #4, which was considered under a separate motion. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

5. City Council: (1) considered the proposed amendment to the existing License Agreement with Zayo and set it for public hearing on Tuesday, July 7, 2020; and (2) after the public hearing, authorize the City Manager to execute the Amendment and to take other actions that are necessary to implement the Amendment.

6. City Council: (1) approved a grant application, submitted June 8, 2020, to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The exact amount awarded will be determined by the Bulletproof Best Partnership Program; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

7. City Council: (1) adopted the PJM Cities Charter; and (2) authorized the City Manager to sign a letter joining the PJM Cities Coalition as member in the Participating Cities Tier.

8. City Council passed the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

9. City Council passed the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

10. City Council passed the ordinance on first reading and scheduled it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Tuesday, July 7, 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. Consideration of Receipt of Fiscal Year 2020 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status Report Related to City Council Approved Capital Projects.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 4; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously, City Council received as information the FY 2020 Third Quarter Capital Projects Status 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.

ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR (11-12)

11. Consideration of a Resolution to Establish the 2020 Personal Property Tax Relief Rates. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 11; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

12. Consideration of a resolution to support the County of Arlington's Mount Vernon Trail Enhancement Project Grant Application for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) SMART SCALE funding.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 12; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF ROLL-CALL CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council approved the roll-call consent calendar. The approvals were as follows:

11. City Council adopted the resolution to establish the personal property tax relief rates for calendar year 2020.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2953

RESOLUTION TO SET THE RELIEF RATES UNDER THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 58.1-3524 of the Code of Virginia and Section 3-2-224 of the City Code, City Council has the authority to establish the relief rates assessed for vehicles; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3-2-224(e)(v) of the City Code, the City is required to set the relief rates annually by resolution; and

WHEREAS, City Council has now determined that it is necessary and desirable to set the relief rates as follows.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

1. That the relief rate for vehicles under City Code Section 3-2-224(e)(v)(A) is 53%; and
2. That the relief rate for vehicles under City Code Section 3-2-224(e)(v)(B) is 43%; and
3. That the relief rate for vehicles under City Code Section 3-2-224(e)(v)(C) is 33%; and
4. That the rates set forth above may vary due to changes related to the vehicles subject to the tax that occur before the tax bills are issued; and
5. That this Resolution shall be effective for Calendar Year 2020.

12. City Council adopted the resolution in support of Arlington's grant application for Mt. Vernon Trail Enhancement to include safety and capacity improvements to the trail within the City of Alexandria; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2954

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING "SMART SCALE" FOR FY 2026 to FY 2027

WHEREAS, in 2014, HB2 was signed into law, and in June 2016, the program was renamed SMART SCALE. SMART stands for System Management Allocation of Resources for Transportation and SCALE stands for Safety, Congestion mitigation, Accessibility, Land use, Environmental and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SMART SCALE is to fund the right transportation projects through a prioritization process that evaluates each project's merits using key factors, including: improvements to safety, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, economic development and the environment. The evaluation focuses on the degree to which a project addresses a problem or need relative to the requested funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, the City's Transportation Master Plan recommends improvements to the Mount Vernon Trail to address safety and capacity issues; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has released a corridor study in May 2020 outlining additional deficiencies in the Mount Vernon Trail; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County has worked with the National Park Service, the City of Alexandria, and VDOT to add the portion of the trail within Alexandria to the County's existing SMART SCALE pre-application; and

WHEREAS, by extending the project boundaries and unifying the Alexandria and Arlington portions of the project, the National Park Service will be able to address the needs along the corridor more quickly and cost-effectively; and

WHEREAS, this application will not count against the maximum number of SMART SCALE applications that the City of Alexandria can submit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will coordinate with the National Park Service and Arlington County on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and design of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports Arlington's application for up to \$20 million for safety and capacity enhancements to the Mount Vernon Trail, of which about half of the funding would improve the portion of the trail within the City of Alexandria, through the Virginia Department of Transportation SMART SCALE Program; and
2. The City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby grants authority for the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required as a result of this application.

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

13. Consideration of the 2020 Alexandria Resident Survey Results.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 13; 06/23/20, 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 received the results of the 2020 Alexandria

Resident Survey. 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.

14. Drafting of Public Employee Collective Bargaining Ordinance.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 14; 06/23/20, 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 directed the City Manager and the City Attorney to draft a proposed City ordinance that would authorize public employee collective bargaining for the City of Alexandria government, and bring the draft ordinance forward for City Council consideration and adoption by December 31, 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.

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilwoman Pepper thanked everyone for the recognition of her 35 years of service on City Council.

2. Councilman Seifeldein presented a memorandum that requested that the City Manager and staff return to Council within 120 days with preliminary findings of new approaches to community safety practices that prioritize unarmed professional's intervention in non-criminal, non-emergency, and non-life threatening 911 calls and service calls. Councilman Seifeldein's request also noted that the approaches should explore creative and innovative public safety models and engage various and diverse community stakeholders. Councilman Seifeldein thanked Councilman Chapman and Councilwoman Jackson for collaborating with him on this memo.

3. Councilman Aguirre recognized World Central Kitchen for providing meals in Alexandria at various sites over the past several weeks.

4. Councilman Aguirre reminded everyone to complete their 2020 Census form.

OTHER

15. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated June 17, 2020, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 15; 06/23/20, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilman Aguirre and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received and adopted the City Council Schedule for June 2020 through July 2020; (2) received and adopted the FY 2021 City Council Schedule for August 2020 through July 2021; and (3) confirmed the electronic meeting format

for the City Council July 7 Public Hearing. 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 Councilman Seifeldein and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of June 23, 2020 at 9:25 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.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: February 9, 2021
Ratified: