

City of Alexandria
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting
City Council Special Meeting (Budget Presentation)
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; Mr. Routt, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Ms. K. Taylor, Director, Finance; Mr. Greenlief, Assistant Director, Finance; Ms. Coley, Pension Administrator, Finance; Ms. Howard, Chief Human Resources Officer; Ms. Davidson, Benefits Manager, Human Resources; Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services (ITS); and Mr. Smith, ITS.

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 via Zoom webinar.

Mayor Wilson stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the February 16, 2021 Special Meeting of the Alexandria City Council is 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 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 can be accessed via Zoom.

2. Public Discussion Period.

There were no speakers for the public discussion period.

3. Presentation of the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2022 (including Schools), the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2022 to FY 2031 (including the Schools CIP) and Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

(A copy of the City Manager's proposed budget is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council; 02/16/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Manager Jinks presented his proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY2022 (including Schools), the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2022 to FY 2031 (including Schools CIP), and the proposed Tax Rate recommendations. Some of the highlights of Mr. Jinks' presentation included:

*\$11.8 million expenditure savings;

*38 unfunded vacant positions;

*\$767.6 million operating budget which equals a 1.9% increase in the operating budget;

*City operations increase equals \$3.3 million or 0.9%; and

*a real estate tax rate proposed to be reduced from \$1.13 to \$1.11.

Mr. Jinks also presented alternative budgets as requested by City Council, including a budget for \$780.6 million if the real estate tax rate remains unchanged and allows the City to increase its operating and capital investments and a budget for \$741.7 million if the real estate tax rate is reduced by 6 cents (no change in average residential tax bill) and the City noticeably reduced programs and services.

City Council began the budget work session at 7:43 p.m.

At the conclusion of the Special Meeting, City Council will go into a Work Session to discuss the following:

FY 2021 Work Session: FY 2020 Proposed Operating Revenues

Please note: Councilman Seifeldein left the meeting at 7:53 p.m. for a family emergency.

City Council held the first budget work session on FY 2020 proposed operating revenues following the City Manager's budget presentation. Office of Management and Budget staff, Finance staff and Human Resources staff gave a presentation and responded to questions from Council about revenues and compensation in the City of Alexandria.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried 6-0, the special meeting of February 16, 2021 was adjourned at 8.28 p.m. 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.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved: May 11, 2021
Ratified: