

City of Alexandria
Monday, March 8, 2021 – 5:30 PM
City Council Budget Public Hearing
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. Collins, Deputy City Manager, Mr. Routt, Director of Management and Budget (OMB); Mr. Wicks, Capital Improvement Manager, OMB; Ms. Taylor, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Kurbanov, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. McGrane, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Hetland, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. Poly, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. Kelley, Budget Analyst, OMB; Ms. Lawson, Budget Analyst, OMB; Mr. Barre, Information Technology Services; and Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services.

Recorded by: Keia Waters, Deputy City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

OPENING

1. Calling the Roll.

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

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2022(including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2022 to FY 2031 (including the Schools CIP) and Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

Adoption is scheduled for May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing on the ordinance establishing the Real Property Tax Rate will be held Saturday, April 17,2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The following persons participated in the budget public hearing:

1. Barbara Waters, 325 Cameron Station Blvd, spoke on behalf of the Commission for Aging, and voiced concerns about staffing and the need for funding to upgrade the Senior Work Force Development Training Specialist position.

Mayor Wilson requested a budget memo on the upgraded position.

2. Charles Ziegler, 309 N. Langley Street, spoke on behalf of the Friends of Beatley Library, and voiced concerns about the many funding needs in the city libraries.

3. Abenaa Buabeng, 101 S. Whiting Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

4. Sindy Carballo Garcia, 3634 Edison Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

5. Karen Adu-Poku, 200 Yoakum Parkway, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

6. Alessandra Guevara, 3515 Mount Vernon Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

7. Fatimah Hameed, 4381 King Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

8. Ingrid Pavon, 3917 Elbert Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

9. Jamie Conrad, 107 W. Maple Street, voiced concerns about the cost of the Taylor Run project.

10. Ingris Moran, Executive Avenue, representing Tenants and Workers United and voiced concerns regarding affordable housing for everyone.

11. Olga Moncado, Four Mile Road, voiced concerns about development near her home and need for funding provide affordable housing.

12. Teofila Gomez, Commonwealth Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position and the funds should be used for affordable housing.

13. Jonathan Krall, 6a E. Mason Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position and the funds should be use for affordable housing. He also suggested council increase the half penny to a full penny for the Personal Property Tax contributions.

Councilman Seifeldein requested a budget memo on the increase from half penny to whole.

14. Shira Eller, 200 E. Spring Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

15. Luis Velez Torres, 4520 King Street, voiced concerns about collective bargaining ordinance.

16. Ann Shack, 501 Tobacco Quay, voiced concerns about tax increase and the funding for several projects.

17. LaDonna Sanders, 25 E. Reed Avenue, spoke in opposition to the proposed

funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

18. Susan Keightley, 3700 Wheeler Avenue, spoke in support of budget funding to expand early childhood education and childcare programs.

19. Ashley Moore, 6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 520, spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for schools Student Resource Officer position.

. **WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council closed the budget 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 Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the budget public hearing meeting of March 8, 2021 at 6:36 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:

Keia Waters, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: May 11, 2021

Ratified: