City of Alexandria Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:00 PM Council Chamber City Council Regular 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.

Also Present: Mr. Jinks, City Manager; Ms. Anderson, City Attorney; Mr. McPike, Director, General Services; Mr. Farner, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Ms. Beach, Division Chief, P&Z; Mr. Ayala, Urban Planner, P&Z; Ms. McIlvaine, Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Garvey, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Ms. Gordon, Director, Emergency Communications; Ms. Kelleher, Director, Office of Human Rights; Ms. Gilbert, DCHS; Ms. Coleman, DCHS; Mr. Keeler, Deputy Director, Office of Housing; Ms. Jovovic, Office of Housing; Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES); Ms. Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES; Mr. Skrabak, Deputy Director, T&ES; Mr. Maines, Division Chief, T&ES; Ms. Mclean, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation; Ms. Wedeles, Special Assistant to the City Manager; Ms. Talis, Population Health Manager, Health Department; Ms. Wixson, DCHS; Acting Police Chief Hayes; Dr. Hencinski, ACORP, DCHS; Police Office Evans, ACORP; Mr. Miranda, Office of Performance Accountability; Police Captain Ballentine; Mr. Smith, Information Technology Services (ITS); Mr. Moss, ITS; and Ms. Demeke, 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 the members of Council were present, with Councilwoman Pepper attending via Zoom from her home at 4600 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 due to medical reasons.

2. Closed Meeting.

Closed Executive Session -- Discussion with legal counsel and staff pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council convened in closed executive session at 6:02 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; specifically, potential settlement of litigation involving development of property in the Old Town neighborhood of the City; pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia. 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council reconvened in open session at 7:01 p.m. The vote was as follows: 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council adopted the 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, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3020

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has this 28th day of September, 2021 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.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and carried unanimously, City Council moved to authorize the city attorney to enter into the settlement agreement to resolve the law suit titled MAL RE OH v. Alexandria City Council on the terms discussed in closed session. 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.

3. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council observed the moment of silence and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDRIA'S CENTENARIANS

City Council received a presentation recognizing 12 Alexandrians who are Centenarians.

PROCLAMATIONS

4a. Presentation of A Proclamation Recognizing Latino Heritage Month.

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the proclamation. 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 FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

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

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the Board discussion the primary budget for fiscal year 2023, noting that the budget maintains fares at their current level, currently assumes the return to pre-pandemic jurisdictional subsides, and that the first chance to increase service as part of the Transforming Rail in Virginia Plan will occur next fiscal year, including an additional roundtrip on the Fredericksburg line and potential roundtrip on the Manassas Line pending an agreement with Norfolk Southern.

*Library Board (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker congratulated Deputy Director Kimberley Knight on becoming the Vice President and President Elect of the Virginia Library Association. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker reported that the library has purchased 50 hotspots to be loaned to patrons to with high speed internet access and the library has also purchased 400 new titles in Amharic for patron use. Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker noted that the Library Board celebrated the opening of the Burke Library Community Art project over the past weekend. Vice Bennett-Parker noted that the outdoor programming with Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities will launch with a story walk on October 10 from 2 pm to 4 pm at Holmes Run Trail.

*Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group (Councilman Chapman)

Councilman Chapman reported that there will be an upcoming meeting on October 7 and invited the public to attend if they are interested. Councilman Chapman deferred the rest of the report until the update later on the docket.

*ARHA Redevelopment Work Group (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)

Mayor Wilson reported that the Work Group met and continued the work with HUD to change the financing structure of some of the public housing properties. Mayor Wilson noted that there should be an update on the development partner selected for Madden site soon and next conversation will be about the future of the Ladrey property. Mayor Wilson noted that

there preliminary plans for the joint work session scheduled for November.

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

Councilman Aguirre reported that Board celebrated Car Free Day on September 22. Councilman Aguirre reported that the Board received a report on transit within reach and COG Board Executive Director Chuck Bean came an gave an update on the retreat with emphasis on high capacity areas and equity emphasis areas. Councilman Aguirre reported that there was an update on the Climate Change mitigation study.

*Minnie Howard School Project (Councilman Aguirre)

Councilman Aguirre noted that the meeting for this project would be held at a later date.

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

Mayor Wilson reported that the Subcommittee had a discussion around the Minnie Howard project, including conversation around field alternatives during construction and he noted that the SUP for the project should be coming to Council for consideration early next year. Mayor Wilson reported that there was conversation about budget timing and process for the upcoming budget cycle. Mayor Wilson noted that the Subcommittee received an update on the ongoing early childhood initiatives and there would be another conversation at the next meeting about the funding from ARPA for early childhood staffing challenges. Mayor Wilson stated that there was a lengthy conversation about the SRO decision made during the budget process by the City Council.

Councilman Chapman reported that the Subcommittee had a discussion about the recent events that occurred at the high school and Alexandria Police Department's response to those occurrences. Councilman Chapman noted that School Board members stated their position and what they would like to see happen. Councilman Chapman stated that there needed to be a lot of discussion with Council members and School Board members.

City Staff responded to questions from Council about hiring of positions funded in the budget for mental health and healthcare workers and security alternatives for the schools and other concerns about SROs.

*Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group (PYMIG) (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Aguirre)

Mayor Wilson reported that PYMIG meet last night and received an update on various station components and there was discussion about the delay of the station and the timing of when the opening of the station will be and if the delay is related to other Metro projects.

Councilman Aguirre reported that four artists have been selected as the finalists to contribute the public art for the Metro station and the selection will be announced soon.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jinks reported the process for employee vaccination records has begun

for City employees with 82% of the workforce filing vaccination verification by the deadline last week. Mr. Jinks also noted that weekly testing will begin the week of October 25 for those who are not vaccinated. Mr. Jinks reported that booster shots will begin soon for essential workers including education staff and first responders and the City will be working with the Health Department to get those who received the Pfizer shot scheduled for receiving a booster soon. Mr. Jinks reported that a task force of employees have been reviewing hybrid work/workplace to begin bringing back those who have been working 100% from home, with implementation possibly beginning in November. Mr. Jinks noted that generally employees will be able to work up to 24 hours or three days a week from home. Mr. Jinks welcomed Dr. Daniel Medina, hired to serve as the Flood Action Alexandria Program Manager. Mr. Jinks announced that Wendell Bishop has been hired to serve as the City's Purchasing Agent. Mr. Jinks reported that the City received an award from the Northern Virginia Literacy Council Community Partner Award for the COVID-19 Community Response Advisory Community.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER CONSENT CALENDAR (5-7)

(Reports and Recommendations of the City Manager)

5. Consideration of a Joint City of Alexandria and Arlington County Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Project.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

6. Consideration for the Applications for the Annual Renewals of the Justice Assistance Grant for Part I Crimes Task Force and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for an Aggressive Driving/DUI Interdiction and Pedestrian Safety Grants for the Police Department.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 6; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

7. Consideration of the Alexandria Community Services Board FY 2022 Performance Contract with the State.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 7; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council approved the consent calendar, with the exception of docket item number 5, which was considered under a separate motion. The City Manager's recommendations were as follows:

- 6. City Council: (1) approved the two proposed grant applications; and (2) authorized the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.
- 7. City Council received and approved the Alexandria Community Services Board's (ACSB) Performance Contract with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Department Services (DBHDS).

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. Consideration of a Joint City of Alexandria and Arlington County Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Project.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 5; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the City of Alexandria's participation in the joint City of Alexandria and Arlington County Next Generation 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch System project. 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

8. Consideration of Increasing Staffing and Legal Resources for Eviction Prevention Activities.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 28, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 8; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilwoman Pepper, seconded Councilman Chapman and carried unanimously, City Council increased the capacity to support households in the eviction process by funding two Service Navigators and two Housing Relocator positions (\$307,000), storage assistance for household belongings (\$50,000), and additional legal services to assist those at risk for eviction (\$50,000). 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.

9. Discussion of Draft Arlandria-Chirilagua Plan Concepts.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 9; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received Arlandria-Chirilagua Plan update and gave staff feedback on the

draft recommendations of the Plan.

10. Introduction of the 2021 Community Health Improvement Plan.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 10; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council endorsed the Community Health Improvement Plan. 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.

11. Alexandria Co-Response Pilot Program Update.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 11; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

City Council received the update on the implementation of Alexandria's Co-Response Pilot Program (ACORP).

12. Stormwater Progress Oral Update.

City Council received the oral update on the Stormwater Progress from Mr. Lambert, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services and Ms. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation on recent events that has impacted the City and the Capital Improvement Projects that will address flooding in the City and welcomed the new Flood Action Alexandria Program Manager, Dr. Daniel Medina.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

13. Consideration of a Resolution to Support a Grant Application to the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund Program. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 13; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Chapman, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) approved the resolution to support a FY2021 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) grant application of \$144,000; and (2) authorized the City Manager to submit this resolution and enter into any agreements that may be required to receive these funds should the requested allocation be approved. 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3021

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Alexandria desires to apply for an allocation of funds from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) of up to \$144,000 for the FY 2021 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) grant; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria hereby supports this application for an allocation of \$144,000 through the DCR CFPF grant program.

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

That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

- 1. Endorses this application for an allocation of \$144,000 through the FY 2021 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) grant.
- 2. Grants authority for the City Manager to execute project administration agreements for any approved revenue sharing projects.
- Commits to fund its local share of design of the Spot Improvement project near Commonwealth Avenue & E. Glebe Road and Ashby Street and E. Glebe Road in accordance with the cost estimate.
- 14. Consideration of a Resolution for Submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Regional Transportation Funding in FY 2026 to FY 2027. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Councilman Aguirre, seconded by Councilwoman Pepper and carried unanimously by roll-call vote, City Council: (1) adopted the resolution to approve applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for 70% regional transportation funding for up to \$5 million for West End Transitway Phase II Design of South Van Dorn Street and up to \$5 million for the Holmes Run Trail Bridge at Morgan Street; and (2) authorized the City Manager to submit the proposal to the NVTA and enter into any necessary agreements with NVTA to accept the 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.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 3022

TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT APPLICATION FOR THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 70% REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS FOR THE FY 2026-2027 SIX YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT THE FUNDS.

- **WHEREAS**, in April, 2013 the General Assembly and Governor approved a new transportation funding bill (HB2313) with all taxes and fees imposed by the General Assembly; and
- **WHEREAS**, 70% of HB2313 revenues will be allocated by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for capital projects that increase capacity, and are included in the regional long range transportation plan (TransAction), and
- **WHEREAS**, the City's Transportation Master Plan has prioritized the development of three Transitways, including the Metroway service, which is operational, the West End Transitway, which is fully funded for Phase I, and the Duke Street Transitway, which is fully funded for Phase I; and
- WHEREAS, the City has received a total of \$4.6 million through the NVTA 70% program for the West End Transitway, which is being used to fund the design of Phase 1 Transportation Systems Management (TSM) of the transitway; and
- **WHEREAS**, in 2018, a portion of the Holmes Run Trail that connects to North Morgan Street was closed due to flooding and severe erosion, and in 2019, two bridge structures along the trail were severely damaged due to additional flooding; and
- **WHEREAS**, the City has committed \$6 million to repair these damaged sections of the Holmes Run Trail and stabilize the streambank north of North Morgan Street near Dora Kelly; and
- **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports an application to the NVTA for an allocation of up to \$5 million for the design of S. Van Dorn Street and the Van Dorn bridge between Metro Road and McConnell Avenue to accommodate the West End Transitway (TransAction Project #42) and improved non-motorized facilities/ This improvement would support both phase 1 and phase 2 of the West End Transitway; and

That the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby supports an application to the NVTA for an allocation up to \$5 million for the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge to replace the fair weather crossing of the Holmes Run Trail at Morgan Street (TransAction Project #94)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Alexandria hereby grants authority for the City Manager to apply for these grant funds and enter into any necessary agreements with the NVTA to accept this grant.

ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

- 1. Councilwoman Jackson announced that she will become the chair of the Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee for the remainder of the year.
- 2. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Councilman Chapman toured the Douglas Cemetery recently and he spoke about the state of disrepair the cemetery was in and

would like to have a conversation about restoration of the cemetery with the second tranche of ARPA money. Councilman Chapman noted that the community is forming a Friends of the Douglas Cemetery group to raise money for the upkeep of the cemetery and how the Commonwealth has funds available to focus on African American historic cemeteries.

- 3. Councilman Aguirre reported that DASH launched its new bus network with an opening celebration also attended by Mayor Wilson and Councilwoman Jackson. Councilman Aguirre noted that DASH has started using the new, bigger electric buses and he thanked all the groups for all their hard work on the launch.
- 4. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker has a chance to discuss with Senators Warner and Kaine the infrastructure package that will be upcoming and how it will impact the entire region once the package is approved.
- 5. Councilman Aguirre reported that he and Mayor Wilson attended the groundbreaking ceremony for St. Andrews United Methodist Church's new building this weekend.

OTHER

15. Consideration of City Council Schedule.

(A copy of the City Manager's memorandum dated September 21, 2021, and is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Item No. 15; 09/28/21, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

WHEREUPON, upon motion by Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson and carried unanimously, City Council: (1) received the updated City Council schedule which includes: the City Manager Candidate Interviews which are scheduled for Wednesday, November 3 and Thursday, November 4 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; moving the April 9, 2022 Public Hearing to April 23, 2022, which will allow more time for community input for the City Council's Add/Delete items; and (2) approved the City Council schedule. 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 Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, seconded by Councilman Seifeldein and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned the regular meeting of September 28, 2021 at 10:32 p.m. In favor, Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker, Councilman Aguirre, Councilman Chapman, Councilwoman Jackson, Councilwoman Pepper, and Councilman Seifeldein; Opposed, none.

APPROVED BY:

JUSTIN I	M. WILSON	MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Adopted: November 9, 2021