

City of Alexandria

*301 King St., Room 2400
Alexandria, VA 22314*



Action Docket - Final

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

City Council Legislative Meeting

The May 26, 2020 Legislative Meeting of the 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 April 18, 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 can be accessed via Zoom by the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_87LytfUS3yAhOD9QNsZvQ
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 978-9842-3830
Password: 782925

This Council Legislative meeting does not have a public comment component so public comments will not be taken.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703-746-4550 (TTY/TDD 703-838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

City Council meetings are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

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 via video conference.

Mayor Wilson stated that the May 26, 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 April 18, 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 can be accessed via Zoom.

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

- *Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)(Mayor Wilson)**
- *City/Schools Subcommittee (Mayor Wilson and Councilman Chapman)**
- *Virginia Railway Express (VRE) (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**
- *Visit Alexandria Board of Governors (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker)**
- *Citizen Corps Council (Councilwoman Jackson and Councilman Seifeldein)**
- *Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources (COG) (Councilwoman Jackson)**
- *MacArthur Design Advisory Committee (Councilwoman Jackson)**
- *Alexandria Works! Coalition (Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Pepper)**

City Council gave the reports.

ORAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

None.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER FOR DISCUSSION (60 min.)

2. [20-0868](#) COVID-19 Oral Update

(1) Dr. Stephen Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department

(2) Mark Jinks, City Manager

(3) James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

(4) Karl Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning

Mayor Wilson noted that the City conducted almost 3000 COVID-19 tests at two sites over the Memorial Day weekend and he highlighted the partnerships between City and State agencies, nonprofits, and others, led by the Alexandria Health Department, to help this be a successful event.

Dr. Haering, Director, Alexandria Health Department, gave an update to Council on the data and statistics for the COVID-19 cases in the City of Alexandria, including the number of cases, deaths and racial/ethnic breakdown of cases. Dr. Haering also

noted that the Health Department is preparing for the reopening of Northern Virginia with the Governor's allowing the beginning of Phase 1.

Ms. Talis, Health Department, updated Council the major initiatives launched by the Health Department in response to COVID-19, including ALX Promise, the community testing effort, and the ongoing community outreach work. Ms. Talis stated that the Health Department working with Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP), Visit Alexandria, and numerous business and restaurant associations throughout the community, launched the program to help train businesses how safely reopen for staff and customers. Ms. Talis gave an updated on the community testing event that was held on Saturday in the Chirilagua neighborhood conducted by Neighborhood Health and she noted that the Health Department provided coordination, logistics, and communication support for the event. Ms. Talis noted that there were 238 people tested at the event and the Health Department has contacted all those with results and connected them with Neighborhood Health. Ms. Talis also discussed the testing events at Landmark Mall and Cora Kelly and how this opportunity gave access to those without traditional health care access and there were 2980 people tested in total. Ms. Talis stated that department undertook promotional efforts in the community to get the word out about the events and get the information to those who could benefit from service. Ms. Talis also stated that there were billboard trucks and yard signs to spread the message and the participants were provided with a packet of information on safety precautions and assistance programs available to the community. Ms. Talis also reported that the Health Department has been participating with ARHA staff and residents town hall web events. Ms. Talis noted that they are participating in the Equity Advisory group and other groups and providing support and information on the pandemic response for the community.

Dr. Haering and Ms. Talis responded to questions from Council about the response and other resources available to the community to address the pandemic crisis.

Mr. Jinks, City Manager, gave City Council an overview of governmental operations during the pandemic. Mr. Jinks noted that the City operations have been accessible to the community the entire time and the organization will begin to focus on phased reopening of government, focusing on standards for personal protective equipment, space standards for employees, and reviewing the use of alternate shifts for employees and continued use of telework and video conferencing. Mr. Jinks noted that the Governor addressed the use of face coverings for government facilities and the City will be exploring whether to implement additional requirements for those entering City buildings.

Mr. Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA), stated the there has been a published plan for reopening recreation facilities for the City. Mr. Spengler noted that the specific challenges for reopening were likely to come from reopening swimming pools and daycare/summer camps. Mr. Spengler noted that there were a diminished number of sites and less students available for service and the staff was working the DCHS to determine if there were need-based services needed. Mr. Spengler stated that swimming pools in neighboring jurisdictions will not be opening and he pointed out that if City pools are opened, there will be limited days and hours for operating and there will be some type of timed ticketed entry to give everyone a chance to use the pools. Mr. Spengler responded to questions from Council about availability of school facilities, scaling summer camp programs for use by residents returning to work, and the reopening of playgrounds. Mr. Spengler also responded to adequate equipment for employees who would be returning to work in the recreational facilities.

Mr. Moritz, Director, Planning and Zoning, and Ms. Landrum, President/CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP), gave a presentation on the plan for businesses and public spaces reopening. Mr. Moritz noted that there was a request Old Town Business and local business to close the entire 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic and to allow for proper social distancing and outdoor dining in the area. Mr. Moritz gave an overview of the proposed program for outdoor dining and the temporary program was announced last week and the applications will be reviewed quickly to allow restaurants to open. Mr. Moritz stated that there has been a series of webinar to explain the requirements for businesses to reopen. Mr. Moritz responded to questions from Council about safety vehicular access, spacing for the dining seating and social distancing. Ms. Landrum gave an overview of the business grants available to community businesses and the process for applying for the grants. Ms. Landrum responded to question from Council about the grant program and the criteria for applying.

Mr. Fifer, Director, Office of Communications and Public Information, responded to questions from Councilman Aguirre, about the communication of information about the pandemic and the response to the pandemic. Mr. Fifer reviewed the strategies used by OCPI to distribute information to the community through collaboration with community and regional partners. Mr. Fifer also gave an update of the videos for information on COVID-19, participation and information from the Equity Advisory group, and the implementation of a text line for information distribution. Councilman Aguirre requested a memo on the feasibility of implementing a language access unit in the City.

3. [20-0885](#) Review and Confirmation of the Suspension of Enforcement of Certain City Codes and Ordinances Taken by the City Manager Pursuant to the City's Continuity of Government Ordinance to Allow Restaurants to Have Outdoor Dining in Compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders Easing the Restrictions on Businesses.

City Council confirmed that the suspension of enforcement of the codes and ordinances required to allow flexibility for outdoor dining as described in the attached document shall remain in place for ninety (90) days from the date that the City enters into Phase 1, unless the City Manager determines the suspension should be lifted for any reason before that time.

4. [20-0890](#) City Council, Board and Commission Meetings Format During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

City Council: (1) hold its June 9 Legislative Meeting and June 20 Public Hearing meeting in an electronic format with a widening of docket subject matters to be considered; (2) determine at a later date in June in what form to hold Council's June 23 Legislative Meeting and July 7 Public Hearing meeting; and (3) provide continued guidance to City Boards and Commissions that they not meet until September 2020 unless considering COVID-19 matters or matters that relate to the continuity of government.

COVID-19 RELATED ORAL REPORTS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

1. *Councilman Aguirre requested information on the implementation of the hand washing stations for the City. Mr. Jinks stated that the stations have been ordered*

and staff is working on plan for appropriate placement of the stations.

2. Councilman Aguirre requested that staff investigate best practices used by communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis to share with Council and the community.

OTHER

5. [20-0869](#) Consideration of City Council Schedule.

City Council: (1) received and adopted the updated City Council Schedule for May 2020 through July 2020; and (2) received and adopted the FY2021 City Council Schedule for August 2020 through July 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Note: The action docket is a summary of Council's meeting deliberations prepared largely for staff follow-up. Formal minutes of the meeting, when approved by Council become the official record of the meeting and of Council decisions made at the meeting.