

City of Alexandria

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



Action Docket - Final

Monday, March 7, 2022

5:30 PM

**Council Chamber
Budget Public Hearing Meeting**

City Council Special Meeting

The March 7, 2022 Special Budget Public Hearing Meeting of the Alexandria City Council is being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 222314) and electronically. Members of City Council and staff are participating either in person or from a remote location through a video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed by the public in the City Council chamber, 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:

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_elh-t6tS4-aBA5tvUvx6Q
Webinar ID: 962 0990 9808
Webinar Passcode: 031432
Dial-in number: 301-715-8592

If you use the Zoom webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for best results. If you are unable to access Zoom, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting.

*****PLEASE LOG-IN EARLY IF POSSIBLE*****

Links:

Meeting Agenda and Live Webcast

The meeting will be webcast live and video and audio recordings will be available a few days after the meeting.

Zoom Registration Form

If you wish to use Zoom to watch the meeting or to address Council, you must register first. Those wishing to address Council should also submit a Speaker's Form using the link below.

Speaker's Form

<https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2020-VIRTUAL-City-Council-Speakers-Form>

Those wishing to address Council should submit a Speaker's Form (see above).

Submission of written statements is encouraged. Please sign up after the docket is created and posted and you are able to verify the meeting date on the City's website.

If the docket is not posted, you will have to return at a later date to complete the speaker's form in order to speak at a Council meeting.

Public Comment will be received at this meeting.

All persons wishing to speak before City Council must complete a Speaker's Form. If you have a prepared statement or written comments for the record, you may email it to the City Clerk at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov.

Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the City Clerk.

Individuals requiring translation services should contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov or at 703.746.4550. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. Please specify the language for translation when you make the request.

Las personas que requieran servicios de traducción deben comunicarse con el Secretario de la Ciudad y el Secretario del Consejo en gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov o al 703.746.4550. Le solicitamos que proporcione un aviso de 48 horas para que se puedan hacer los arreglos necesarios. Por favor, especifique el idioma de traducción cuando realice la solicitud.

1. Calling the Roll

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and the City Clerk called the roll. All members of Council were present with Vice Mayor Jackson attending from her home address via Zoom webinar. Vice Mayor Jackson was attending virtually for medical reasons.

2. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2023 (including Schools) and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2023 to FY 2032 (including the Schools CIP) and Proposed Tax Rate Recommendations.

Adoption is scheduled for May 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing on the ordinance establishing the Real Property Tax Rate will be held Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

The following persons participated in the budget public hearing:

1. *Kathie Hoekstra, Alexandria, representing the Environmental Policy Commission,*

spoke about addressing the Climate Emergency in the proposed budget and requested that climate issues and equity issues be integrated into all decisions that are made by the City. Ms. Hoekstra requested that all City staff integrate climate and equity considerations into every project, plan, or proposal going forward and that all new permitting for CDDs and DSUPs to meet an energy use intensity of 25 or below for monthly use buildings where developers are asking for increased density or height beginning one year from Council's decision.

2. Michael Schuster, Alexandria, representing the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of the Department of Community and Human Services proposal to increase funding for rent relief to help those struggling to pay the increasing rent in the City. Mr. Schuster noted that the provision for updating the asset limits in the property tax relief program has not been updated and requested that the limit be increased.

3. Jesse O'Connell, Alexandria, representing the Hopkins House, requested additional local funding to support childcare and childcare workers and providers in the City, noting the use of ARPA funding to address the inadequacies during the pandemic. Mr. O'Connell requested the City Council enhance funding for the Unified Early Childhood Workforce Stabilization Initiative to assist childcare providers support of new and existing employees and to direct the Alexandria Workforce Development Center to prioritize opportunities for those seeking employment in childcare.

4. Nathaly Zelaya, Alexandria, representing Tenants and Workers United, spoke about the impact of the pandemic and the upcoming development of corporations like Amazon on communities of color, particularly on their housing. Ms. Zelaya requested that Council prioritize the immigrant communities and the communities of color in the budget and to prioritize deeply affordable housing for working class families, including raising the meals tax to 6% and increasing the amount of property taxes dedicated to affordable housing to 1 cent. Ms. Zelaya requested that Council eliminate funding for School Resource Officers and funding holistic approaches including mental health to meet the needs of students in the community.

5. Jose Guerrero, Alexandria, requested that City Council prioritize affordable housing in the City for families making \$50,000 or less and help protect these residents from being displaced from the City.

6. Ayesha Amin, Alexandria, student at Alexandria City High School and member of Tenants and Workers United, spoke about policing and safety in the schools. Ms. Amin requested that Council not allocate funding for the School Resource Officers program in the middle and high schools and redirect the funding toward mental health services for students.

7. Bill Pugh, Alexandria, representing Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, spoke about the restoration of funding to the Energy and Climate Change Plan, the baseline budget not adding new resources for Climate Change programs in the City, and he noted that the budget does not address low and moderate income home weatherization assistance and the budget should prioritize the residents that are both vulnerable to the weather crisis.

8. Holly Carr, Alexandria, spoke about the need for the City to address the climate crisis in the City and the need to address greenhouse gases from City buildings and the need to address to shift from use of fossil fuels to clean energy sources. Ms. Carr noted the use of Federal funding through bipartisan infrastructure legislation to building electrification and weatherization for low to moderate income households. Ms. Carr

requested that the City fund two full-time staff positions, a Climate Mobilization Director and a Climate Mobilization Coordinator, along with full funding of the Climate/Energy Manager supplemental budget request and she supported the 2 cent tax option for funding these requests.

9. Scott Barstow, Alexandria, spoke about climate change and need to address emissions from building energy use in order to meet the target. Mr. Barstow stated that he was pleased with the addressing of climate adaptation and climate mitigation in the proposed budget. Mr. Barstow requested that Council support all of the climate mitigation provisions in the base budget as well as in option #1 and option #2, as well as the two positions to support climate mobilization.

10. David Peabody, Alexandria, spoke about impacts of climate change on future generations and support the recommendations of previous speakers for increased funding for addressing climate change issues. Mr. Peabody requested that Council support all of the measures in the budget that support climate mitigation provisions and the creation on staff positions to support climate mobilization.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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 of Council decisions made at the meeting.