

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)**

**Monthly Meeting**  
January 17, 2023, 7 p.m.  
City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room

**Summary Minutes**

**Committee Members:**

Deb Derrick, Chris Ferrara, Janet Blair-Fleetwood (Vice Chair), Amy Friedlander (Chair), Karen Graf, Laurie MacNamara, Skip Maginniss, Rob Rapanut (Secretary), Kathy Stenzel

Excused/Absence: Tom Gates, Julio Ramirez, John Ruthinoski

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Staff:**

Morgan Routt, Arthur Wicks

**Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order: Chair Friedlander** called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present.
2. **Approval of the Minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting: Derrick** moved to approve the minutes; **Maginniss** seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Discussion with City and DASH Staff on City Transit Programs: Chair Friedlander** introduced Mr. Joshua Baker, DASH General Manager and Ms. Hillary Orr, City Transportation & Environment Services (or T&ES) Deputy Director to start a budget implication discussion from DASH's fare-free program implemented in FY22.
  - Mr. Baker covered the monthly ridership numbers that resulted in exceeding pre-pandemic ridership levels and service costs/improvements projected through future years until FY28. The major recurring costs included wages and fuel.
  - The discussion shifted to limited opportunities to apply for state, regional or federal grants, and the identification of service/infrastructure efficiencies including future electrified bus integration.
  - The discussion concluded with Ms. Orr opining on the fare-free program's effect on traffic, commuting times and trip reductions.

**4. BFAAC FY2024 Budget Cycle Workplan:**

- **Chair Friedlander** covered updates to planned memo in advance of February 28, 2023 release of the city manager's FY24 proposed budget.
- **Chair Friedlander** turned over discussion to **Stenzel** for an outline of a Joint BFAAC and BAC (Budget Advisory Committee - Alexandria City Public Schools) Working Group memorandum on communications and engagement strategy. The memorandum would facilitate work toward a City Council and School Board shared (budgetary and funding) vision.

**5. OMB Report:** Routt reported that the City Council approved the police collective bargaining agreement with the police union and articulated its FY24 Priorities as guidance for the development of the city manager's proposed budget.

**6. Adjournment:** **Graf** moved the meeting be adjourned; **Derrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**7. Next Meeting/Significant Dates:**

- Rescheduled Regular Monthly Meeting, March 6, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Budget Public Hearing #1, March 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
- Budget Public Hearing #2, March 18, 2023, 9 a.m.