

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

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday March 15, 2022
Sister Cities Conference Room, City Hall

Summary Minutes

Attending

Committee Members:

Deb Derrick, Janet Blair-Fleetwood, Chair, Christopher Ferrara, Amy Friedlander, Tom Gates, Karen Graf, H. Skip Maginniss, John Ruthinoski, Kathy Stenzel
Via Zoom Laurie MacNamara

City Staff:

Jim Parajon, City Manager; Julia Taylor, OMB Staff; Laura Triggs, City Manager's Office

Absent (excused): Rob Rapanut, Nicholas Lee

Call to Order

Chair Fleetwood called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, read the "notice language" and verified a quorum present.

Chair Fleetwood introduced new Committee member Deb Derrick.

Chair Fleetwood then introduced new City Manager Jim Parajon to the Committee. The Manager thoroughly addressed questions submitted in advance by Committee members; discussed his background and approach to city management; and offered some early thoughts for Alexandria. In addition to budget matters, he shared his perception that Alexandria is a balanced, global community with something to offer diverse interests; his commitment to lifelong learning; and his dedication to supporting an excellent staff. The Manager also noted that he meets with ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings regularly and together they have enhanced the Joint Capital Management Council to focus more on project collaboration.

Regarding budget matters, the Manager noted several areas where he will focus including diversifying the revenue base; alternative delivery methods; funds committed but not distributed; capital funding and project timelines; debt service; the approaching collective bargaining environment; and ongoing community engagement. Manager Parajon noted that in the future he will adopt a "business plan" approach to progress reporting.

Minutes

Fleetwood submitted minutes from the February 22, 2022 meeting for approval on behalf of Secretary Rapanut, noting that minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and

comments from Stenzel had been incorporated. Graf moved the minutes be approved, Ruthinoski seconded, and the minutes passed without further discussion.

BFAAC Workplan Items/Updates

Memo on the Proposed Budget and CIP – Chair Fleetwood began discussion of the draft memo in response to the City Managers proposed FY2023 budget assembled by Ferrara and distributed in advance of the meeting. Considering the Manager’s comments as well as opinions expressed by all Committee members, Maginniss, Gates, Friedlander and Stenzel agreed to aggregate comments in different areas and submit language to Ferrara for consolidation prior to the March 24, 2022 meeting (scheduled to finalize the memo).

Stormwater Committee Update – Maginniss reported that the Committee continues its arduous effort to ensure very large, long-term projects are implemented in a way that makes sense.

State Revenue Analysis Memo – Chair Fleetwood reported that she is working on the memo and will have a draft for BFAAC to review soon.

RPCA Revenues Analysis Memo – Chair Fleetwood submitted a memo addressing Council Member Chapman’s question about the Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) fee structure and whether fees fully supported its programs. Fleetwood noted that the memo had been distributed to Committee members in advance of the meeting and that all edits had been incorporated. The motion was seconded by Stenzel and the memo approved without further edits.

BFAAC Next Meeting Preparation

Following the special meeting to finalize the budget memo, BFAAC’s next regular meeting is April 19 when the committee will be briefed on the City’s efforts to prepare for collective bargaining. It was suggested that BFAAC consider social equity in a future meeting.

Staff also noted that the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) is working on a project to identify creative tools for economic development and may ask BFAAC for input on that effort.

OMB Report

Julia Taylor noted that OMB staff is consumed with budget meetings, work sessions and resulting questions. Thus far 69 questions have been submitted by Council members, which are being answered and posted on the City’s website in a searchable format with links to supporting materials.

Adjourn

Chair Fleetwood motioned the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 pm, seconded by Ruthinoski and unanimously approved.