

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

Monthly Meeting
March 6, 2023, 7 p.m.
City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room

Summary Minutes

Committee Members:

Janet Blair-Fleetwood (Vice Chair), Deb Derrick, Chris Ferrara, Amy Friedlander (Chair), Tom Gates, Laurie MacNamara, Skip Maginniss, Rob Rapanut (Secretary), Julio Ramirez, John Ruthinoski, Kathy Stenzel

Excused/Absence: Karen Graf

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Staff:

Morgan Routt, Arthur Wicks

Other Attendees:

Nancy Drane

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Friedlander called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum present.
2. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 17, 2023 meeting:** Vice Chair Blair-Fleetwood moved to approve the minutes with minor editorial corrections; Stenzel seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Discussion of City Manager’s Proposed FY2024 Budget and FY2024-FY2033 Capital Improvement Program:** Chair Friedlander led the discussions on this year’s budget process in contrast to previous years.
 - Routt highlighted the City Manager collaborative approach after his one-year tenure by involving city manager deputies into the focus area teams.
 - The collaborative approach enabled broader interdepartmental visibility during budget formulation.
 - Wicks highlighted the significant Capital Improvement Program (CIP) increases and changes including George Mason Elementary design costs and doubling of Patrick Henry K-8 demolition costs; funds for Landmark Mall redevelopment infrastructure and site purchase ends in FY2025.
4. **BFAAC/BAC (Budget Advisory Committee - Alexandria City Public Schools)**

Joint Memo Discussion: Stenzel led discussion by introducing BAC chair Nancy Drane. Both shared the joint memo goal of encouraging communications and culture between Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and City Council elected officials leading to a common vision/strategic plans.

- Additionally, **Drane** mentioned that budgetary decisions effect on ACPS academics and programmatic decisions; she also identified need for linking ACPS budget planning into the City’s neighborhood (or Small Area) plans.
- The group ended the discussion on ideas for easing the budget process and addressing rising capital needs including establishing educational foundations as a commercial business funding conduit.

5. BFAAC Workplan: Chair Friedlander and the group discussed the prescriptive themes (proposed balanced budget and CIP policy drivers) for BFAAC to address in its annual response to the FY24 proposed budget. The group also addressed affordability including American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for maintaining current levels of city services and CIP projections.

6. OMB Report: Nothing further reported.

7. Adjournment: Stenzel moved the meeting be adjourned; **Ruthinoski** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

8. Next Meeting/Significant Dates:

- BFAAC Regular Meeting, March 21, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Budget Work Session #5: City Council/BFAAC, March 29, 2023, 7 p.m.
- “Add/Delete” Public Hearing, April 15, 2023, 7 p.m.
- BFAAC Regular Meeting, April 18, 2023, 7 p.m.
- Budget Work Session #6: Preliminary “Add/Delete” & Tax Rate Public Hearing, April 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m.