

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

October 16, 2025 IT Commission Meeting Minutes
7:00 – 8:30 PM

In attendance: Rhonda Syler, Timothy Casey, Brandon Mosoriak, Daniel Rodriguez (virtual), Emily Dillard, Heather Barrows, Francisco Ortiz, Tom VanAntwerp, Benjamin McGinniss (virtual), Kathlene Houghtalen

City IT Staff: Vanetta Pledger, Tammie Wilson, Patrick Eze, Muhammad Mansour

Public/Other: Samuel Nixon Jr.

1. Call to Order

2. Minutes

(a) Approval of the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes

- Minutes approved unanimously with several minor edits.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Updates

- 2026 Legislative Package for the Virginia General Assembly proposal for Privacy Legislation – Proposal submitted Wednesday, October 1.
- Annual Report and Priorities 2024-2025 Memo – Final Report submitted Wednesday, October 1.
- Cybersecurity Awareness Month proclamation was read at City Council meeting, Steve Davidson was in attendance.

5. City Information Technology Services Updates (Vanetta Pledger)

- CIP planning meeting is ongoing for FY27.
- Vanetta suggests we familiarize ourselves with the CIP and think of any items that we'd like to see added or confirmed.
- The City Manager's budget presentation will be in February, Council approval of budget will be in April.
- RS: What are your biggest needs right now? VP: Anything in the CIP budget that has zero in out years. Also looking at innovation: ideas of what we want to see in our communities.
- BM: Is there any open-source software that could save the city money? VP: City currently uses Drupal for the website.
- BM: How large is current development staff? VP: Approximately 13.
- BM: Does the city ride off of other jurisdictions' contracts? VP: VITA (state) Fairfax County and other COG jurisdictions as well sometimes.

6. AI Discussion

- TC: Does the city have an AI policy? VP: The current policy focuses on making sure city staff don't input sensitive data into LLMs.
- TC: Would it be beneficial for the commission to research possible use cases? VP: Yes, that would be helpful.
- VP: Something to consider is how we try to avoid a digital divide as it pertains to AI.

7. Cybersecurity Community Event Update

- Event is on track for Saturday, October 25.
- Jas Easterly will be a speaker.

8. Open Data Discussion and Next Steps

- Tim Casey shared a rubric that was created for this purpose.
- VP: It would be a good idea to reach out to the other commissions to see what they think is important in this space.
- BM: Could this be used to go through FOIA requests to see which data sets are frequently asked for?
- TV: The data around the arena study in Potomac Yard would have been good to have.
- VP: If you know of any other jurisdictions that have good datasets available please let us know.
- TC: Budget data could possibly be a big win.
- BM: data.gov is a good place to research.
- Next steps: The City can use the rubric to inventory and run data sets through.

9. Meeting Dates for the Remainder of 2025-2026

- Thursday, November 20
- Thursday, January 15
- Thursday, February 19
- Thursday, March 19
- Thursday, April 16
- Thursday, May 21
- Thursday, June 18

10. Other Business

- None.

11. Adjournment at 8:30 pm. Next meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025.