

Members Present: John Renner (Chair), Engin Artemel, David Baker, Margaret Gullen, Dak Hardwick, Jean Sun Kim, Benjamin Klein, Patrice Linehan, Laurie MacNamara, Brent Simer, Clarence Tong and Mike Wenk

Members Excused: Len Rubenstein

Staff: Alex Braden

The Chair, John Renner, called the meeting to order at 7:05.

OMB Report

- The staff reviewed the Budget Memos that were published and announced the Work Session Calendar

Final Draft Review/Adoption of FY 2015 Report

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- The participants recommended reorganizing and refining some of the CIP bullet points. If the CIP projects aren't grouped together, it is difficult for the public to follow.
- There is a list of projects outlined in the CIP budget book, but there is no strategic approach.
 - The City should be cautious about jumping on funding opportunities that come up without thinking about how the opportunities fit into the overall strategy/plan.
 - If there is a clear understanding of the priorities, the plan should follow the priorities instead of only considering funding.
- The project needs to consider the upkeep and impact on future budgets to maintain them.
- There is a general concern about choosing certain projects to highlight in the CIP report.
 - There is a need to think about facilities across the board more globally (What are the facilities that we have? Which facilities do we need to invest in?)
 - The major projects noted in the report are important because they were major considerations or investments.
 - The metro was always highlighted because it put us over our debt policy so it complements other parts of the report.
 - Metro, Storm water and waterfront were left in the report and stressed as major projects.
 - The waterfront projects are important but there are still many details to work out before we have a complete picture.
- Expanding the base is an important consideration and we are looking at those key projects.
 - Concentrate on the projects that increase revenue because the City needs to spend money where there is likely to be the highest return.
- Add the long-range facilities planning piece into the ACPS section and add a recommendation about it.
- Make sure there is text to support CIP Section A (i.e., second bullet) to support the recommendation (see overview section)
 - In the Overview section, make sure we say why we think it needs to be refined; Take out the bullet or enhance the language.
- The section that talks about comparing Alexandria to other jurisdictions is good language but it may have already been done. This is outside of the purview of BFAAC.

Revenues

- Consider a recommendation to make a comparative analysis on the debt ratio of Alexandria compared to other jurisdictions.

- The process section was added to the report for the first time so it will move to the beginning of the report.
- Budget Process appears second and someone asked how the presentation to City Council would be organized so a member of BFAAC reviewed the information (see meeting handout).
- Revenue will update the first year information.
- The new chart that staff distributed to the BFAAC members will replace the Table on page 9 (Table I).

Operations

After a brief review and a few clarifying points on the Operations section, the group returned to a few final decisions on CIP recommendations.

Discussion and Approval

- Discussion of all CIP projects receiving funds and the ones that are being proposed specifically for FY 15 funding.
- Those funded with FY 14 money have become part of the appropriation process.
- ADD to Section C, ACPS and the CIP Process, at the end of the first paragraph
 - The joint Long Range Educational Facilities Planning work group can play an important role in building consensus on CIP planning that accommodates rising student enrollment; evaluates the adequacy of existing buildings for delivering enriching educational programs and services; and augments public facilities in ways that contribute to the overall well-being of the City.
 - BFAAC encourages the City to review the Results Alexandria budget framework with ACPS in more detail and to urge the school division to adopt a well-defined process for evaluating program performance, demonstrating how the City's investment in ACPS contributes to improvements in student learning and the overall well-being of the City.

Patrice Linehan made a motion to accept the report with a note that (1) edits should reflect the discussion captured as part of the meeting minutes, (2) members understand that the subcommittee chairs have the authority to make any final edits and (3) staff will review the report to make sure there are no factual errors. Engin Artemel seconded the motion and the process for making edits was approved unanimously.

Dak Hardwick moved to accept the report and John Renner seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously.

Other Business

The members discussed the presentation of the report to City Council. The following decisions were made:

- Pull out the major slides of interest and have them there to guide the discussion.
- The slides will cover the four sections of the report with the five main themes highlighted from each section.
- John Renner, Margaret Gullen and the three subcommittee chairs will sit at the table with City Council and lead staff. Alex will reserve seats in the front row for other committee members.

Margaret Gullen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Laurie MacNamara. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm

Minutes submitted by Patrice Linehan.