RESOLUTION NO. 2587

Budget Resolution Establishing The Process To Be Used To Adopt Operating Budgets and Capital Improvement Programs

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council wishes to establish policies to guide upcoming budget deliberations to ensure responsible actions with current economic resources; and

WHEREAS, resolutions No. 2088, 2150, 2166, and 2256, and 2368 previously adopted by City Council have now expired; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that flexibility is needed for both the preparation and evaluation of expense items as well as with regard to diversifying the sources of revenue available to fund the General Fund Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, City Council's deliberations on the budget each year reflect a balancing of the needs of the community with the community's ability to afford services to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to provide the core services expected of a municipal government and to continue to provide quality services and facilities for the residents and businesses of Alexandria, but understands that economic reality will require significant trade-offs between services and revenues; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to managing the cost of City General Fund operating and capital expenditures in order to properly balance the tax burden placed on the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to achieving the vision and strategic goals, long term outcomes, objectives, and initiatives as outlined in the City Council's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to allow for a thoughtful and deliberate budget process given the budget's complexity and importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that the Council shall, for the purposes of consideration of the Budget for the City of Alexandria, adopt this resolution and adhere to the following rules of procedure:

Section (a) The City Manager's Budget Submission to City Council and the Setting of Budget Guidance by City Council

(1) That the City Manager shall plan and prepare the proposed Operating Budget and proposed ten-year Capital Improvement Program and that such preparations shall include those programs and resources necessary to achieve the City Council Strategic Plan.

(2) That the City Manager shall present to City Council a preliminary forecast and outlook for (a) revenues and (b) expenditures necessary to maintain existing services and policies (including the City Manager's forecast of cash capital and debt service costs related to the most recently approved Capital Improvement Program).

(3) That City Council shall direct that the City Manager prepare a budget resolution to be adopted by City Council to guide the preparation of the upcoming Operating Budget and next Capital Improvement Program.

(4) That the City Manager shall submit a proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program to the City. Such budget shall meet any guidance for General Fund revenues and expenditures established by City Council and should include no more than one percent of unreserved fund balance.

Section (b) The Budget Submission to City Council by the Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS)

(5) That the Alexandria City School System shall separately present to City Council, but in a format coordinated with the City Manager, its preliminary forecast and outlook for (a) expenditures necessary to maintain appropriate services and policies, (b) the outlook for additional requests for Schools operating in the upcoming fiscal year and capital needs through the upcoming fiscal year and the succeeding 5 to 10 years, (c) the outlook for possible budget reductions and increases in fees, fines and charges for services, (d) the outlook for Federal and State grants, and the costs of meeting unfunded Federal and State mandates, both current mandates and projected new mandates.

(6) That the Board of the Alexandria City Public Schools is requested to propose an Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program prior to the City Manager's submission so that any request may be considered, and as appropriate, incorporated into the City Manager's proposed budget to City Council. If the ACPS budget request exceeds or otherwise does not comply with any guidance regarding fiscal limitation provided by City Council to ACPS, then ACPS shall clearly identify what operating programs and activities would be funded if additional funding were provided.

Section (c) Actions of City Council Concerning The Budget Submissions of the City Manager and the Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS)

(7) That as part of a preliminary forecast of assessments and expenditures provided by the City Manager, City Council will consider this information and any other relevant information available to it at that time including the comments of residents provided via a public hearing.

(8) That the Council shall hold a budget public hearing on the City Manager's proposed budget in the month following the budget submission by the City Manager and should reserve time for public comment once the Preliminary Add/Delete list has become available and distributed to the community. Any additional public hearing shall not conflict with or serve in place of a public hearing regarding the establishment of an effective tax rate as required by the Code of Virginia.

(9) That Council directs City staff to organize at least one public meeting outside of City Hall to present the budget to interested residents, and solicit input. Additionally, City staff shall provide an opportunity for residents and organizations to submit written budget comments to the Council in lieu of or in addition to participation in public meetings.

(10) That Council directs City staff to prepare motions for adoption of the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program following the Final Add/Delete worksession. Those motions shall be released for public review no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled adoption.

(11) That City Council shall consider these recommendations and endeavor to enact an Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program that balance the needs of the community with the community's desire and ability to pay for services to meet those needs.

(12) That City Council plans to adopt such a budget resolution.

Section (d) Proposed Budget for the City of Alexandria

(12) For purposes of this resolution, the proposed budget of revenue rates and expenditure levels for the fiscal year shall be that proposed by the City Manager.

(13) For purposes of this resolution, the Chief Financial Officer shall provide revenue and/or expenditure projections for any motion or amendment that could affect the proposed budget specified in Section (a) (2).

Section (e) Maximum Expenditure Levels May Not Exceed Sum of Projected Revenue and Appropriation from Fund Balance in Proposed Budget

(14) It shall not be in order in the Alexandria City Council to consider any motion or amendment to the proposed budget of the City of Alexandria if:

(i) there has not been a Budget Memo or formal information request submitted that relates to the specific item proposed for consideration or a Council discussion of the proposal during a budget work-session or public hearing has not occurred; and

(ii) any such motion or amendment that has the effect of increasing any specific budget expenditures proposed by the City Manager or would have the effect of reducing any specific revenue proposed by the City Manager unless such motion or amendment provides for a specific offset of either expenditure or revenue and ensures the maintenance of the fiscal balance of the proposed budget; and

(iii) such motion or amendment is not provided in writing electronically or in hard copy to all members of Council and the City Manager or Chief Financial Officer at least 7 days before the first budget work session to consider such motions or amendments (the preliminary add-delete work session), or discussed at the preliminary add-delete work session to be considered at the final add-delete work session.

(15) In the Alexandria City Council, any appropriation from the Fund Balance or any like account beyond that proposed in the Manager's proposed budget shall require an affirmative vote of five Council Members.

(16) In the event that the City Manager recommends final revenue technical adjustments that result in a net increase or net decrease from the revenue estimates specified in section (b) of this resolution, the net change in the revenue estimate shall be reflected as a change in the proposed appropriation from the Fund Balance insofar as such a change does not affect the minimum limits established by the debt policy guidelines or other budgetary draw-down commitments. As specified in Section c (2), any appropriation from the Fund Balance beyond that proposed in the Manager's proposed budget, including the net effect of final revenue adjustments shall require an affirmative vote of five Council Members.

Section (f) Expiration – The provision of this resolution shall expire with the expiration of the term of this City Council.

Adopted: November 26, 2013

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk