Overview of City Government Organization

Mark B. Jinks
City Manager
City’s Form of Government

- Council-Manager form of government
- City Council elected to 3-year term; all at-large
  - Mayor
    - Presides over Council meetings
    - Ceremonial head of government
    - May vote but may not make motions or veto
    - Represents City
    - Exercises Leadership
    - Undertakes Initiatives
    - Community Voice
  - Vice Mayor selected by Council at Organizational/First Meeting of Council term
Roles & Responsibilities

• City Council
  • Policy-making and legislative body for City government
  • Adopts annual budget and sets tax rates
  • Establishes land use policies and zoning; authorizes land acquisition, development and “special uses.”
  • Appoints City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk
  • Appoints members of Boards and Commissions
  • Authorizes issuance of bonds
Roles & Responsibilities

• Council-Manager Form of Government
  • Derived from Progressive, anti-corruption movements of the early 20th century
  • First established in Staunton, VA in 1908
  • Alexandria City Manager position created in 1922
  • Research has shown that cities with Council-Manager form of government are more prosperous and more efficient

• City Manager
  • Serves at Council’s pleasure
  • Non-partisan, non-political
  • Professionally educated, trained, and experienced
  • Operates under ICMA Code of Ethics
Roles & Responsibilities

• City Manager
  • Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the City
  • Responsible for day-to-day operations of City government
  • Appoints department heads and City employees
  • Establishes docket for Council meetings
  • Helps City Council translate vision into actions
  • Proposes policies and makes recommendations to Council
  • Proposes operating budget, tax rates and 10-year capital improvement program
  • Approves Administrative Regulations
City Departments

• 22 City departments and offices report to City Manager
• Sheriff’s Office, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Clerk of Courts elected
• Approximately 2,500 full-time and about 600 part-time/seasonal employees
• City works closely with other City related agencies
  • Alexandria City Public Schools
  • Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority
  • Alexandria Renew Enterprises
  • Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
  • Visit Alexandria
  • DASH (Alexandria Transit Company)
  • Libraries, Health, Courts, Registrar of Voters
Residents/Customers/Clients

- Front Line Employees
- Supervisors and Managers
- Department Heads
- City Manager

Responsiveness/Supportive

Responsibility/Accountability
In City government, our **MISSION** defines what we do for our community, our **VISION** is where we are headed as an organization, and our **VALUES** guide our actions and decisions.

- **Mission:** Working together to foster a thriving Alexandria.

- **Vision:** A culture that supports each of us and inspires excellence.

- **Values:** Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Continuous Improvement
Value Principles

- **Respect:** We are open minded and treat all people with dignity.
  - We embrace diversity and welcome individual perspectives, backgrounds and opinions.
  - We listen to each other and exhibit civility.
  - We are trusted to use judgement, take risks and make decisions.
  - We support well-being and life balance.
Value Principles

• **Integrity:** We are thoughtful stewards of the public’s trust.
  • We are honest and fair in all interactions.
  • We are strategic and transparent about how we make decisions.
  • We follow through on our commitments.
  • We hold ourselves accountable for decisions and actions.
Value Principles

• **Teamwork:** We do great things together.
  • We collaborate and actively seek different perspectives.
  • We view our community as a partner and respect its input.
  • We share information up, down and sideways.
  • We celebrate and recognize our collective and individual successes.
Value Principles

• **Continuous Improvement:** We challenge ourselves to learn and grow.
  • We encourage innovation and creativity.
  • We support professional and personal growth and development.
  • We question the status quo and constantly seek to improve organizational effectiveness.
  • We invest in people as our most valuable asset.
Questions?

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