

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
7 p.m.
ZOOM call due to COVID 19 per City Guidelines

Summary Minutes

Commission Members:

Jesse O’Connell (Chair), Kathy Stenzel (Vice Chair), Janet Blair-Fleetwood (Secretary), Christopher Ferrara, Amy Friedlander, Nicholas Lee, Skip Maginniss, Kirk McPike, Robert Rapanut, Deb Roepke, Joe Valenti

Excused Absences: Paul Igasaki, Ben Klein

OMB Staff:

Morgan, Routt, Arthur Wicks

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order: Chair O’Connell** called the meeting to order at 7:04 with a quorum present.
2. **Approval of the Minutes from October 20, 2020 meeting: McPike** moved to approve the minutes, **Valenti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Recap of the BFAAC participation in City Council’s Budget Retreat: Chair O’Connell** highlighted the BFAAC portion of the retreat, in which **Vice Chair Stenzel** and **Secretary Blair-Fleetwood also participated**. The Council shared its appreciation for the efforts of BFAAC plus a regional action item was identified from Councilman Chapman. **Chair O’Connell** stated the regional assessment should be included in the upcoming BFAAC Budget Process and COVID-19 response reviews.
4. **BFAAC Workplans-**
 - a. **BFAAC Budget Process and COVID-19 Response Review: Chairman O’Connell** explained that this review document should be ready for review and approval at the February BFAAC meeting. **Vice Chair Stenzel** volunteered to lead the effort with **Valenti, McPike, Friedlander, Lee, and Blair-Fleetwood** volunteering to support the effort. Focus will be on:
 - i. areas of the City response impacted by COVID-19 and to identify lessons learned and recommendations for the way forward; and
 - ii. potential best practices that can be applied to future crises responses and non-crises City activities.
 - b. **Joint Task Force Recommendation: Vice Chair Stenzel** explained the continuing successful activities of the task force but noted that COVID-19 will curtail activities. The School Board has decided to keep their workplan focused on the Budget Process to better align with the City budget process as well as

identifying best practices by other jurisdictions. Task Force activities will resume once COVID-19 has run its course.

5. **OMB Report: Routh** explained that the City received \$27.8 million from the CARES legislation and will spend all of it before it expires. This is good news since not all other jurisdictions are able to do that. He also explained the City received FEMA reimbursement for food support. The City is still looking for more support from any new Stimulus package from the Federal Government. He also outlined the City Council's guidance to look at potential new taxes to cover a potential FY 2022 budget shortfall, but also identify service cuts if no such tax is approved. Currently there is a \$10 million revenue shortfall. Departments are considering reduction options for City Council consideration. The COVID recovery teams have presented the Council with a list of priority initiatives, but these have not been costed. Potential cuts to Metro are also being reviewed by the City since those could have fiscal and service impacts.
6. **Adjournment: Rapanut** moved that the meeting be adjourned, **Valenti** seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
7. **Next Meeting:**
 - a. Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, January 19, 2021.