

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

AGENDA
September 16, 2021
IT Commission Meeting
ZOOM CALL
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

1. Introductions & welcome
2. Approval of May 17 Minutes (below)
3. **Update on City's Fiber Backbone project** - (IT Staff, City of Alexandria)
Coverage:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CS7ksU3FCRj/>
<https://www.alxnow.com/2021/08/23/city-breaks-ground-on-new-broadband-network/>
4. **Digital Equity Plan Committee** (Co-Chairs: Michelle Rief/Catharine Rice/)
-Update on City's Digital Equity Plan (Catharine Rice)
-FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund – extends deadline window:
[A Second ECF Application Window Will Open on Sept 28 and Run Until October 13](#)
5. **Legislative Committee** (Chair: Sara Crifasi)
 - State & federal legislation/Regulatory
VA ARPA Broadband Funds Announcement:
<https://www.vaco.org/700-million-in-american-rescue-plan-act-arpa-funds-to-go-to-virginia-telecommunications-initiative-vati-and-other-broadband-updates/>
 - American Rescue Act: See Treasury Dept. [website](#)
 - Federal Infrastructure Bill includes \$65billion for broadband (as of August 23):
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/28/politics/infrastructure-bill-explained/index.html>
 - FCC Seeks Comment on Broadband Access to Multi-Tenant Buildings:
https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-broadband-access-multi-tenant-buildings-0?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_source=sendgrid
id
6. City Manager's Request for Budget Comment (attached)
7. Other business?
8. Next meeting – October or November?

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

May 17, 2021 IT Commission **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Catharine Rice (CR), Chris Soghoian (CS), Brandon Mosoriak (BM), Ricardo Alfaro (RA), Sara Crifasi (SC), Marcus Washington (MW), J.D. Maddox (JM), Chris Lewis (CL), Darrlynn Franklin (DF), Michelle Rief (MR), Lynda Bennett (LB)

Staff: Steve Chozick, Smail Farid, Tori Butler, Patrick Eze

Absent: Sundar Kanagarajan, John Szczech, Marcus Washington

Guests: None

1. Welcome/Introductions

- 2. Approval/Amendment of April 19, 2021 minutes** – Motion by CL, seconded by RA, minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Amendments

- City's backbone consists of two 2 in. conduits, two 3 in. conduits in Potomac Yard sidewalks to the buildings, then two 4 in. conduits in the buildings
- T&ES is who to contact regarding 'one dig', not TS&E

3. Update on City's fiber backbone project (Steve Chozick, Patrick Eze and Smail Farid)

- All of the money is approved to complete the project
- Jones Utility is currently working through the schedule and plan
- Hiring of construction and inspection contractors is underway
- RFQ was used for this project
- CS: Are we extending our contract with Comcast? We are due to timing of construction.
- CS: Is City using E-Rate funding for any of this work? DPI will take over after construction begins, this is a question for them.
- CS: Will the City be the ISP for the schools and library after this project is complete? The schools are currently on the same Comcast I-Net (Institutional Network) that the City currently leases. The schools will be connected to the City's new fiber backbone via fiber laterals. The library is also on the city-leased I-Net but has their own ISP. There is flexibility being built into the system. There are options to share ISP, to share network resources, or for status quo.
- CR: If the project is done early, will we move ahead with pulling fiber earlier? All conduit will be built before any fiber is pulled. We can start removing Comcast sites earlier if possible.
- CS: Are we physically connected to Arlington County? We are connected at Potomac Yard. We currently share 911 and CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) with Arlington Co. We are also connected via the Washington-Virginia-Maryland regional fiber public safety network

4. Digital Equity Plan Committee

- CR: Talked with Vanetta Pledger to see if money is available for this initiative through ARPA

- Vanetta is going to talk to the City's equity officer to see who will be in charge of this initiative.

5. Legislative Committee

- Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is live from last Wednesday.
- SC will add a list of providers in VA to her spreadsheet.
- CR is looking into if Verizon and AT&T are making customers sign up for a different service if using EBB.

6. Adjourn by unanimous vote at 8:30pm. (Next meeting is via Zoom September 16, 2021).



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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MARK B. JINKS
City Manager

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August 31, 2021

Dear City Board, Committee, and Commission Chairs,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your leadership of one of our City boards, committees and commissions. Your commitment helps represent the voices of our community throughout the budget process. Your expertise, knowledge and interest identify areas for the City to continue to grow as we strive to meet the expectations of the residents we serve.

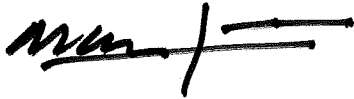
The FY 2022 budget and CIP adopted in May funded items that would assist Alexandria in becoming a **smart, equitable** and **green** City. These three pillars represent important and emerging issues identified by City Council, many of the boards, committees and commissions, and departments. Examples of the FY 2022 budget's investments in these key areas include establishing an independent community policing review board, early childhood education expansion, stormwater management investments, and municipal fiber. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding plan adopted by City Council in July included \$29.8 million in funding to help businesses thrive, support residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and to make long-term investments in the City's future.

FY 2023 looks to be a challenging fiscal year as (1) an increasingly tight job market is creating pay competitiveness issues, (2) a significant update to the 10-year Capital Improvement Program is planned including a detailed review and updated of cost estimates, timing of projects, and city and school facility needs and priorities, and (3) a projected increase in debt service due to recent and planned investments in School and City projects.

I would appreciate input on the priorities of your board, committee, or commission to help inform my budget priorities and decision making. Specifically, it would be helpful to know the policy and programmatic areas under your respective purview that are (1) the highest priorities and (2) areas where additional resources (if available) should be applied. As was the case in FY 2022, beyond the debt service pressure, I see ongoing budget focus on making further **smart, equitable**, and **green** program progress in FY 2023, as well as focusing on improving the City's competitive position in attracting and retaining employees. Your feedback will assist City staff in developing budget proposals that support the priorities of our community at large.

Please provide feedback to me (mark.jinks@alexandriava.gov), coordinated through your staff liaison, by **Friday, November 5, 2021**. There will be additional opportunities to provide input in the budget process through the department for which you provide advice and counsel and at the budget public hearing in March. Thank you in advance for thoughts on your board, committee, or commission's priorities as the City begins the development of the FY 2023 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Jinks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark B. Jinks
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
Morgan Routt, Director, Office of Management & Budget
Department Heads
Staff Liaisons to Boards, Committees and Commissions