

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2025
Via Zoom

Summary Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Amy Friedlander (Chair), Michelle Millben (Vice Chair), John Ruthinoski (Secretary), Nancy Drane, David Millard, Lauren O'Brien, Antonio Tamariz, Mark Tonsetic, Randall Williams.

Excused/Absent:

Brant Snyder

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Staff:

Morgan Routt, Meghan McGrane

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order: Chair Friedlander** called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Discussion of Spring Revenue Memo: Chair Friedlander** asked members of the three subcommittees who worked on sections of the memo to review the drafts of their sections. **Tonsetic, Drane, Williams, and Ruthinoski** discussed the "locked in" revenue and potential revenue disrupters section. **Routt and McGrane** expressed concern that the table showing "locked in" revenue could be misinterpreted if taken out of context. **Tonsetic** replied that the point being conveyed was that the overall size of the "pie" is getting smaller, as is the proportion the City Council has control over. **O'Brien** stated that Councilman McPike is wanted suggestions for the Council's options if assessments are flat next year. **Chair Friedlander** responded that the memo addresses the current year's budget, but that it also lays the groundwork for future budget planning.

Millard and Chair Friedlander discussed the economic development section. Millard discussed recommendations to speed up the real estate development process and the importance of public private partnerships as a way to save the city money. **Chair Friedlander** focused on the tradeoff between having control over development versus the benefits of relinquishing control and allowing for unexpected possibilities which could generate economic development revenue.

Vice Chair Millben, Tamariz and O'Brien discussed the final sections of the memo, focusing on the idea for a revenue master plan, legislative advocacy, and equity. **Tamariz** reported the recommendation to develop a revenue master plan first came from BFAAC in 2017. He presented examples of a similar concepts from different jurisdictions. **Tonsetic** recommended adding language about why it is important to undertake this effort now, given the changes being made to the federal government and the potential impact to the city's revenue.

Chair Friedlander reminded the BFAAC the presentation to City Council would take place at the Work Session on March 26th. She asked for updates to the draft memo by March 19th. She

also asked that BFAAC put updating the bylaws on the April meeting agenda to incorporate the changes passed by the General Assembly last year into the virtual meeting policy.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2025, meeting:** A motion was made by **Tamariz** and seconded by **Williams** to approve the minutes of the February 18th meeting. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **OMB Report: Routt** reported that the Budget Work Sessions on ACPS and the CIP have already been held and the first Work Session on the operating budget will be held the following evening.
5. **Adjournment: Vice Chair Millben** moved the meeting to be adjourned. **O'Brien** seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.
6. **Upcoming Meetings/Significant Dates:**
 - BFAAC Presentation at Budget Work Session #4 – March 17, 2025 – 7:00 PM
 - BFAAC Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM
 - BFAAC Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 7:00 PM
 - *FY 2026 Budget Adoption – Wednesday, April 30, 2025 – 6:00 PM*
 - BFAAC Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 20, 20245 – 7:00 PM