CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

STATE CODE AND CITY CHARTER

State Code

Sec. 58.785.1: Requires that the local tax rate must be adopted by June 30, but after April 15.

City Charter

General Provisions

Sec. 3.04 (b): The City Council shall have the power to adopt the budget of the City.

Sec. 4.02 (c): The City Manager shall have the power and shall be required to prepare and submit the annual budget to the City Council as provided in the Charter, and shall be responsible for its administration.

Sec. 5.05 : Work programs, allotments. Before the beginning of the budget year, the head of each office, department or agency shall submit to the Director of Finance, at such time as may be set by him, a work program for the year, which program shall show the requested allotments of the appropriations for such office, department or agency, for such periods as may be designated by the City Manager, for the entire budget year. The City Manager shall review the requested allotments and may revise, alter or change such allotments Before approving the same. The aggregate of such allotments shall not exceed the total appropriation available to said office, department or agency for the budget year.

Sec. 5.06: Allotments constitute basis of expenditures and are subject to revision. The Director of Finance shall Authorize all expenditures for the offices, departments and agencies to be made from appropriations on the basis An approved allotments and not otherwise. An approved allotment may be revised during the budget year in the same manner as the original allotment was made. If, at any time during the budget year, the City Manager shall ascertain that the available income, plus balances, for the year will be less that the total appropriations, he shall Reconsider the work programs and allotments of the several offices, departments and agencies and revise the allotments so as to prevent the making of expenditures in excess of the said income.

Sec. 5.07: Transfer of appropriations. The City Manager may at any time transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance or portion thereof within the accounts of an office, department or agency. The Council when advised of The details by the City Manager may be duly docketed resolution transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance or portion thereof form one office, department or agency to another. (Acts 1968, ch. 510, Sec. 1)

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Legislative References

CITY CHARTER

Sec. 6.03: Each department head, the judges of the courts, each board or commission, and any other office or agency supported by the City, is required to file with the City Manager, at the prescribed time, all estimates of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing fiscal year. Such estimates shall be submitted on forms furnished by the finance director and all information required by the City Manager is to be submitted thereon. The City Manager shall hold staff hearings to review and revise these estimates as (s)he may deem advisable.

Sec. 6.05: In no event shall the expenditures recommended by the City Manager in the general budget exceed the receipts estimated, taking into account the estimated cash surplus or deficit at the end of the current fiscal year, unless property assessments have been raised or unless the City Manager shall recommend an increase in the rate of ad valorem taxes on real estate and tangible personal property or other new or increased taxes, licenses or other sources. Receipts from increased taxes, licenses or other sources shall be estimated on the basis of the average rate of increased collections during the preceding two fiscal years except in instances in which the City Manager submits, as a part of the budget, a written statement explaining any estimate that is made on some other basis. Receipts from new taxes, licenses or other sources shall be estimated on information available for other cities, the State of Virginia or other states, the federal government or other appropriate sources. If estimated receipts exceed estimated expenditures, the City Manager may recommend revisions in the tax, license or other ordinances of the City in order to bring the general fund budget into balance.

Sec. 6.08: The budget and budget message and all supporting schedules shall be a public record in the office of the City Manager, open to public inspection after the budget has been submitted to the Council and made public by it; provided, however, that no department or agency head, judge or board or commission, manager or director of finance shall divulge details of the proposed budget estimates until the budget has been submitted to the Council and made public by it.

Sec 6.08.1: The school board shall, prior to the time work has begun on the school budget, hold a public informational hearing to receive suggestions from the public concerning the school budget. The school board shall also hold a public hearing on its proposed budget prior to submitting it to the City Manager. The school board shall cause a notice of the time and place of each public hearing to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City at least seven days prior to the hearing. The school board shall also cause copies of the proposed budget to be available to the public at least seven days prior to the public hearing on the proposed budget. The school board may submit to the City Manager as its proposed budget the same proposed budget considered at the public hearing or it may, subsequent to said public hearing, submit a revised proposed budget.

Responsibility of the City Manager for the Budget:

Sec. 6.02: The City Manager is required to submit a general budget, a capital budget and an explanatory budget message in the form and with the contents provided by the Charter.

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Legislative References

CITY CHARTER

Sec. 6.04: The general budget shall contain:

(a) An estimate of that portion of surplus cash remaining at the end of the fiscal year which is to be used in meeting expenditures in the general budget;

(b) An estimate of receipts from current ad valorem taxes on real estate and personal property, and from all other sources;

(c) A statement of debt service requirements;

(d) An estimate of cash deficit, if any, at the end of the current fiscal year, and an estimate of obligations required by the Charter to be budgeted for the ensuing year; and,

(e) An estimate of expenditures for all other purposes to be met in the coming fiscal year.

Sec. 6.05: In no event shall the expenditures recommended by the City Manager in the general budget exceed the receipts estimated, taking into account the estimated cash surplus or deficit at the end of the current fiscal year, unless property assessments have been raised or unless the City Manager shall recommend an increase in the rate of ad valorem taxes on real estate and tangible personal property or other new or increased taxes, licenses or other sources.

Sec. 6.06: The explanatory budget message shall contain an outline of the proposed financial policies of the City for the budget year and a description of the important features of the budget plan. Major policy changes are to be explained and reasons for salient changes in cost and revenue items from the previous year are to be indicated. A statement of pending capital projects and proposed new projects, with proposed financing plans, shall be included.

Sec. 6.07: At the same time that the City Manager submits a general budget (s)he may also submit a general appropriation ordinance and those additional tax ordinances as may be required to balance the Proposed budget.

Sec. 6.14: The capital budget is a budget of the proposed capital improvements projects for the ensuing fiscal year and for five years thereafter, with recommendations for financing the proposed improvements for the coming year.

Responsibility of the City Council for the Budget:

Sec. 6.09: At the meeting of the City Council at which the budget and budget message are submitted, the council shall determine the place and time (at least sixty days prior to the beginning of the budget year) of a public hearing on the budget, and shall publish a notice of said place and time, which shall not be less than seven days after the date of publication.

Sec. 6.10: All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the public meeting for or against any of the estimates of any item of the budget.

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Legislative References

CITY CHARTER

Sec. 6.11: After the conclusion of the public hearing the City Council may insert new items of expenditure or may increase, decrease or strike out items of expenditure in the general fund budget, except that no items or expenditures for debt service or other provision of law shall be reduced or stricken out. The City Council shall adopt a balanced budget, or adopt measures for providing additional revenues in the case that expenditures exceed revenues.

Sec. 6.12: The budget shall be adopted by the votes of at least a majority of Council not later than the 27th day of June. If the City Council has not taken final action on or before this date, the budget as submitted shall be deemed to have been finally adopted by the Council.

Sec. 6.13: An appropriation in addition to those contained in the general appropriation ordinance, except for the purpose of meeting a public emergency as provided for elsewhere in this charter, may be made by the Council, by not less than a majority affirmative vote of all members of Council, only if there is available in the general fund a sum unencumbered and unappropriated sufficient to meet such appropriation.

Sec. 6.14: The City Council shall hold at least one public hearing on the capital budget and shall take final action not later than twenty days after June 27, the date prescribed for the adoption of the general budget.

Sec. 6.15: The City Council may establish by ordinance a reserve fund for permanent public improvements and may appropriate thereto any portion of the general fund cash surplus not otherwise appropriated at the close of the fiscal year.

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Legislative References

ORDINANCE 4291: ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

Ordinance 4291 - Adopted February 22, 2003,[1]
Establishing the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, by adding thereto a new Article R (BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE).

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 4 of Title 2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding thereto a new Article R to read as follows:

ARTICLE R

Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Sec. 2-4-130 Creation, composition, organization and term.

(a) The Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee initially established by Resolution No. 1464, is hereby established by ordinance and designated as a standing committee known as the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee.

(b) The members of the committee shall be appointed by the City Council as follows:

(1) seven members, one each of whom shall be designated by the mayor and members of city council;

(2) three members appointed at-large in accordance with the provisions of section 2-4-7 of this code;

(3) one member designated by the Alexandria School Board; and

(4) two members designated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

(c) The members designated by the mayor and members of city council, the school board, or the chamber of commerce shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor, member of council, school board or chamber of commerce designating such person, and any vacancies in such positions shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Members appointed at large shall serve for a term of two years, and vacancies and reappointments shall be handled in the manner prescribed in section 2-4-7 of this code.

[1]The Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee was established July 2, 1985, by Resolution 1129. Resolution 1464 amended Resolution 1129 by adding two representative of the Chamber of Commerce to the committee. Resolution 1129 has been replaced by Ordinance 4291 as a result of Council action on February 22, 2003.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY ORDINANCE: ESTABLISHING BFAAC

(d) All members of the committee shall:

(1) by virtue of their education and employment in the public or private sector, have demonstrated competence in one or more of the following areas: accounting, financial analysis, budget and fiscal management, public finance, or urban economics;

(2) be residents of and residing in the City of Alexandria at the time of appointment and continue to do so during the term of their appointment. The provisions of section 2-4-7(d) notwithstanding, this provision may not be waived; and

(3) not be (i) a member of any other board or commission having one or more members appointed by the city council, or (ii) an employee of the city, the school board, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, or any agency of any such entity or organization.

(4) declare to the committee their position as an officer or director of any entity or organization, and abstain from discussing, participating or voting on any matter before the committee, that directly relates to any appropriation or grant made or awarded by or through the city to the entity or organization of which the member is an officer or director.

Sec. 2-4-131 Functions, powers and duties; staff assistance.

(a) The functions, powers and duties of the committee shall be to advise and support the city council as to:

(1) an examination of the city's budget procedures and process and ways of improving such procedures and process, including participation by the public therein;

(2) the forecasting of future revenue and expenditure requirements and the effect on the several taxes and fees levied by the city and burden of taxation imposed on Alexandria citizens and business organizations;

(3) an evaluation of the comparative tax, revenue and expenditure levels in Alexandria with those in neighboring jurisdictions and the effect of such differences on the ability of Alexandria to attract new residents and economic development; and

(4) such other tasks as may be requested by the city council.

(b) Except as expressly provided in this article, the committee may adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters for the conduct of its business, so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees through which it may carry on its functions, duties and purpose.

(c) Subject to the availability of funds and staff, and recognizing that the city manager must give priority attention to requests from the city council, the city manager is authorized to provide such staff or other assistance to the committee as requested, and to make such information available to the committee as is available to the public generally.

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Legislative References

CITY ORDINANCE: ESTABLISHING BFAAC

Section 2. That no provision of this ordinance shall be deemed to affect the appointments or terms of the members of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee in office on the effective date hereof.

Section 3. That Resolution No. 1464 be, and the same hereby is, rescinded.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3257: SETTING GUIDANCE FOR THE FY 2026 BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO.3257

Setting Guidance for FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2026 to FY 2035

WHEREAS, the City Council of Alexandria will pass a resolution establishing Council's process for formulating the Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and requires that City Council set budget guidance for the City Manager and the School Board for the FY 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, the City will seek input into the development of the FY 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council's budget deliberations and annual spending decisions should reflect a balancing of the Strategic Priorities adopted by the City Council in March of calendar year 2022 and updated in January 2024; and

WHEREAS, those services directly supporting the Adopted Strategic Priorities and the corresponding business plans are considered for funding support and evaluated and prioritized through the lens of equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget and the Racial Equity Office have adopted the use of a Budget Equity Tool to evaluate all departmental supplemental requests and reduction budget items using a scoring rubric; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to continuously improving the efficiency and effectiveness of City government and expects the City Manager, City staff and all organizations that receive City budget dollars to focus on achieving service outcomes and providing programs that benefit the community and its residents to advance equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to the goal of continuing to provide core services expected of a municipal government including the provision and maintenance of the City's facilities and capital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will make budgetary changes that support maintaining the City's 'AAA'/'Aaa' bond ratings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that the resources required to achieve the goals of their Adopted Strategic Priorities, various other adopted Strategic Plans and Master Plans, and other emerging priorities must be balanced with the tax responsibility placed upon residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to measure the impact of programs and against expected outcomes, to deemphasize or eliminate programs that do

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Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3257: SETTING GUIDANCE FOR THE FY 2026 BUDGET

not yield those outcomes desired, and to identify efficiencies wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to emphasize a multi-year perspective for budget decision making and for long-range fiscal planning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA THE FOLLOWING:

(a) **Operating Expenditures:** The City Manager shall propose for Council consideration a proposed operating base budget that limits the overall city general fund operating budget growth, exclusive of cash capital and debt service, to no more than two percent and the flexibility to increase the real estate tax rate if revenue growth does not support a two percent increase. Additionally, the City Manager shall include recommendations, to support both the needs of the City and ACPS, if revenue growth exceeds the two percent threshold without a tax rate increase. The City Manager may recommend a cost of living or market rate pay adjustment after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, and any such pay recommendation shall include the cost of providing the adjustment for both City and Schools employees.

(b) **Two-Year Presentation of Operating Revenue/Expenditures:** The City Manager's proposed Operating Budget shall include estimates of all operating revenues and expenditures for the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 and the subsequent Fiscal Year 2027.

(c) **Taxes, Fees, Fines and Service Charges:** In funding the proposed budget, the City Manager may consider changes to tax rates, tax designations/reservations, fees/fines/service charges that are equitable, fair and administratively feasible provided that these proposals are observant of the constraints imposed by the Code of Virginia. Such changes can only be considered where they advance the priorities of the Council as stipulated in this resolution, through Legislative Sessions, adopted master plans and policies, or the Council Retreat and Work Sessions. The City Manager may consider a tax rate increase in support of two percent operating budget growth, in which the real estate tax rate remains at its current level or includes recommendations for a real estate tax or other tax rate increases.

(d) **Cost Saving Measures**: The City Manager shall, in the proposed operating budget, continually identify and propose cost saving measures and efficiencies of at least one percent and consider reduction of service levels where the performance exceeds the level required by the community, where the current level of service is not a strategic priority, or where performance, over time, has not achieved the desired outcomes.

(e) **Use of Surplus:** The City Manager may recommend use of prior-year surplus funds first to ensure that the Capital Improvement Program includes sufficient cash capital funding, then to address one-time or manageable ongoing costs that positively impact expected goals.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3257: SETTING GUIDANCE FOR THE FY 2026 BUDGET

(f) **CIP:** The proposed FY 2026 through 2035 CIP shall incorporate the following:

1. Compliance with the City's adopted Debt Related Financial Policy Guidelines for any debt issuance planned for FY 2026 through FY 2035;
2. Consistency with the City's adopted cash capital investment policy of a General Fund cash capital transfer of no less than 2.0% with the goal of funding the FY 2026 General Fund cash capital reflected at least at the level in the current adopted CIP;
3. The optional use, as determined by the City Manager, of an additional General Fund operating budget surplus from FY 2025, if any, as commitment for capital projects in FY 2026 and beyond;
4. Specific descriptions of projects that can be funded within recommended levels of funding, their associated operating costs, estimated for all years of the CIP, and a description of the process used to prioritize which projects were included in the proposed CIP funding levels;
5. Continued funding for City and ACPS facility projects based in part on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force.
6. Identification of projects where the use of a project labor agreement may be practicable. The City will evaluate all capital projects with a construction budget of more than $35 million with the intent of using a project labor agreement.
   i. Proposed CIP shall include further analysis and considerations for the use of project labor agreements including evaluation of project labor agreement parameters such as including local preferences and Small Women-Owned and Minority (SWaM) contractors

(g) **ACPS Funding**: That (1) the City Manager shall recommend an Alexandria City Public Schools operating transfer increase of no more than two percent and debt service funding required to fund the FY 2026-FY 2035 CIP. (2) the Alexandria City Public Schools is requested by City Council to articulate in general categories and prioritize any City FY 2026 appropriation requests above the current amount, (3) the City Manager shall develop options for recommend funding of proposed public school capital needs for the FY 2026 – FY 2035 time period that does not exceed the levels of funding for school capital needs that was included in the previously approved FY 2025 – FY 2034 City Council capital improvement program. The City Manager may recommend reductions or deferrals to these

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Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3257: SETTING GUIDANCE FOR THE FY 2026 BUDGET

previously approved funding levels, in consultation with schools staff, that reflect the readiness of previously planned projects., and (4) the City Manager shall recommend ACPS capital project debt service in the FY 2026 proposed budget and include such amount as a separate element of the total recommended FY 2026 budget for the ACPS.

(h) **Partner Agencies:** Organizations outside the City government that receive funding support from the City should limit funding requests to no more than two percent over current funding levels. Partner Agencies should demonstrate an alignment of their efforts with accomplishments of the City's strategic priorities and evaluate existing base budgets to identify efficiencies and cost saving measures equivalent to one percent of base budgets. Partner Agencies should provide a level of base budget detail equivalent to that provided by internal city departments.

(i) **Civic Engagement:** As part of the proposed budget development process, staff should seek public input on the priorities used to formulate the budget through the collection of community comments via the budget website prior to the City Manager's final decision making for and presentation of the proposed budget and CIP.

(j) **Alignment with Council Priorities:** The City Manager shall provide the City Council with an overview of how the proposed budget prioritizes investments in equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service and include the scored results of the Budget Equity Tool process, in the budget document, for the transparent evaluation of equity impacts in our final decision.

ADOPTED: November 26, 2024

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria Sitton, CMC City Clerk

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

Resolution No. 3259

Budget Resolution Establishing the Process to be Used to Adopt the FY 2026 Operating Budget and the FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program

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

WHEREAS, resolution No. 3198 previously adopted by City Council has now expired, or will soon expire; 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, 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, 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, City Council is committed to achieving the vision and strategic goals, long term outcomes, objectives, and initiatives as outlined in the City Council's Adopted Strategic Priorities; 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:

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

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's Adopted Strategic Priorities.

(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 Council. Such budget shall meet any guidance for General Fund revenues and expenditures established by City Council.

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

(5) That the Alexandria City School System (ACPS) 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 9 years, (c) projected ACPS capital related debt service for the upcoming fiscal year, (d) the outlook for possible budget reductions and increases in fees, fines and charges for services, (e) 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 adopt a Capital Improvement Program no later than December 19, 2024 and an Operating Budget no later than February 20, 2025 so that any request may be considered by City Council in parallel with the City Manager's proposed operating budget and Capital Improvement Program. 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.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

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 or other public input opportunities.

(8) That the Council shall hold two budget public hearings 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 at a public hearing once the Preliminary Add/Delete list of City Council Budget Proposals and technical adjustments by the Office of Management and Budget 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. Council shall also hold a series of budget work sessions in which the public may attend in-person or virtually to listen as the body discusses topics and questions related to the budget. These work sessions will take place after the City Manager's proposed budget and prior to the adoption of the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. Finally, all budget questions from members of Council shall be submitted to staff for response as soon as feasible. These questions and answers shall be posted on the City of Alexandria's Management and Budget website along with existing budget resources.

(9) That Council directs City staff to organize at least one public meeting 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. The written budget comments should be submitted via the City of Alexandria's Management and Budget website.

(10) That Council directs City staff to prepare motions for adoption of the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program and a summary of decisions made in the Preliminary or Final Add/Delete work session following the work session. Those motions and the summary of final decisions shall be released for public review no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled adoption.

(11) That City Council shall consider these proposals 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

(13) 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.

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

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Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

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

(15) 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 the form of a City Council budget proposal submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) or an OMB technical adjustment at least 20 days prior to the adoption of the budget in accordance with the FY 2026 Rules of Engagement for the Add/Delete Process.

(16) 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.

Section (f) Actions of City Council Concerning the Add/Delete Process

(17) The City Council shall adhere to the following Add/Delete Rules of Engagement for amending and adopting the final budget. These Rules of Engagement were first adopted for use during the FY 2016 budget process and continued in each of the subsequent budget processes:

(i) Continue use of the add/delete spreadsheet that was produced by OMB prior to the FY 2016 budget process and reintroduced in the FY 2017 budget process.

(ii) A City Council Budget Proposal form will be required in order to add or delete anything from the City Manager's Proposed Budget. The form will require the following prior to Council consideration:

1. Additional information related to how the change advances the Council's goals/priorities.

2. Additional information related to how the change impacts the performance of that program, service or goal.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

3. The support of at least 3 of 7 Council members (the original sponsor and two co-sponsors).

4. Must be accompanied by an add/delete spreadsheet prepared by the Council member or OMB in which the sum of the individual Council members adds and deletes, including the items originally sponsored by that member and those co-sponsored by that member, are in balance or produce a revenue surplus.

5. Any add/delete proposal requiring a change to a City Ordinance or requiring a new ordinance must be submitted to staff eight days prior to the first legislative meeting in April in order for the item to be introduced and docketed for the April public hearing [For FY 2026, March 31]

(iii) The completed City Council Budget Proposal form must be returned to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), with each of the steps from #2 above completed, at least 20 days prior to the adoption of the budget [for FY 2026, April 3].

(iv) City Council will hold a third budget public hearing to receive feedback on the preliminary add/delete items submitted by City Council Members [for FY 2026, April 8].

(v) A combined list of all City Council Budget Proposals that meet the criteria in #2, any technical adjustments from OMB, and any City Manager recommended changes, will be provided and discussed at the 2nd Legislative Meeting in April [for FY 2026, April 22].

(vi) Council will work with OMB to refine/develop funding figures based on the proposals submitted, to be completed no later than the Preliminary Add/Delete work session [for FY 2026, April 22].

(vii) If Council reaches a consensus during the preliminary add/delete work session, the final add/delete work session will become optional.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 3259: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO BE USED FOR FY 2026 BUDGET ADOPTION

(viii) Completed Council Budget Proposals, with funding, will be circulated to Council and the public the Friday prior to budget adoption [for FY 2026, April 25]

(ix) City Council will be required to keep the budget in balance once all decisions are made.

(x) Budget Adoption will occur on April 30, 2025 with all City Council Budget Proposals, those approved and those not approved, made public upon adoption of the budget.

Section (g) Expiration – The provisions of this resolution shall expire on June 30, 2025.

ADOPTED: November 26, 2024

Justin M. Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 2974: ALL ALEXANDRIA: COMMITTING TO RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2974

All Alexandria: Committing to Race and Social Equity

WHEREAS, Alexandria's history mirrors our country's past and is built upon a foundation of interpersonal and systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria acknowledges that the shoreline of the Potomac River where Alexandria is located today has been a lush and resourceful home for centuries to Indigenous Peoples of the Conoy paramount chiefdom and the nearby Powhatan paramount chiefdom, long before the modern community was founded; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples are the original victims of physical violence and oppression through forced removal and illegal confiscation of their native lands for the purposes of settlement and colonization by European settlers, which laid the foundation for the dehumanization and systemic discrimination of other human beings of color; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria acknowledges its part in the domestic slave trade, and as a place of refuge for thousands escaping the bondage of forced enslavement during the Civil War, and as a home of Jim Crow, where two known lynchings of African American teenagers Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas in 1897 and 1899 respectively occurred, and a City that resisted peaceful efforts by African Americans to open public facilities to *ALL Alexandrians*; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has continued to evolve into a diverse community of over 145 nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, this legacy of racial oppression and white supremacy resulted in unequitable practices and policies and created systemic marginalization, particularly of People of Color, that still impacts our community. Alexandria's Indigenous, Black, Latino, Asian, multi-racial, multi-ethnic and immigrant communities continue to experience disparate outcomes across all measures of wellbeing; and

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 2974: ALL ALEXANDRIA: COMMITTING TO RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY

WHEREAS, systemic and institutional racism are the conduit by which other forms of oppression, ableism, ageism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia take root; and

WHEREAS, people who live, work and visit in Alexandria today continue to experience bias, discrimination, and unequal outcomes and/or treatment in every field and sector including but not limited to government, housing, employment, environment, wealth, healthcare, education, transportation, the legal system; and

WHEREAS, today Alexandria recognizes, acknowledges and is atoning for its past actions and policies that excluded, targeted, or oppressed people due to their color, race, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity, age, ethnicity, religion, ability, culture, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language; and

WHEREAS, every Alexandrian must reckon with the City's historical past as well as our explicit and implicit involvement and contributions to the institution of American slavery and the subsequent and deeply rooted racial inequities of today; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria must act deliberately, thoughtfully and thoroughly to end racial injustices and structural inequities by frank examination and fair and just inclusion for *ALL Alexandrians*; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria recognizes that meaningful community involvement, input and investment is both desired and necessary to identify, explore, develop and implement policies, measures, and accountability in the pursuit of fair and equitable outcomes for *ALL Alexandria*; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria recognizes a shared community with the Alexandria City Public Schools and the urgent need to align our movements around race and social equity; and

WHEREAS, community-centered, community-driven strategies and solutions can provide valuable and innovative partnerships and create lasting change; and

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 2974: ALL ALEXANDRIA: COMMITTING TO RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY

WHEREAS, through engaging in holistic restorative justice work, *ALL Alexandria* can begin healing from generations of racial trauma; and

WHEREAS, we seek and embrace a multi-racial, anti-racist, intersectional, intergenerational, community where *ALL Alexandrians* truly thrive; and

WHEREAS, the emerging diversity of our community is our strength and is to be uplifted, while our inclusivity must be genuine and codified for the betterment of *ALL Alexandrians*.

WHEREAS, we recognize ourselves as one interconnected, interdependent human family that celebrates and honors the diversity of *ALL Alexandrians*; and

WHEREAS, we invite our entire community to work in collaboration with the City to achieve this vision for *ALL Alexandria*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA THAT:

1) Ensure that race and social equity is incorporated and centered in all planning, including:

a. Center race and equity throughout the forthcoming FY 2022-FY 2027 Strategic Plan and departmental strategic planning processes;

b. Establish specific, measurable, attainable, relevant time-based (SMART) goals race and social equity action plans for City departments;

c. Incorporate race and social equity into all staff and leadership talent management programs;

d. Establish, strengthen and maintain key partnerships with the Alexandria City Public Schools, other public entities serving our community, community-based, non-profit, and faith-based organizations, and businesses in Alexandria to advance racial equity;

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 2974: ALL ALEXANDRIA: COMMITTING TO RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY

2) Implement and sustain structures and systems to advance race and social equity, including:

a. Adopt and promote practices and policies centered on creating and ensuring racial and social equity through the use of a racial equity tool;

b. Conduct race and social equity trainings for City Council, City staff and City boards and commissions;

c. Create authentic community engagement best practices for use in evaluating City actions from creation to implementation;

d. Maintain membership and active participation in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Racial Equity Work Group and newly established Chief Equity Officers Committee;

3) Align and implement policy efforts designed to advance race and social equity goals, including:

a. Incorporate greatly expanded language access into more City of Alexandria communications and platforms;

b. Reduce and eliminate racial and social inequities in the allocation of City resources through the use of a budget equity tool which may entail the adjustment of budgets and funding reallocation;

c. Present City Council with a Racial and Social Equity Action Plan, consisting of specific policy initiatives to advance the City's racial equity goals, informed by additional community engagement;

4) Ensure accountability mechanisms related to the progression and transparency of work to advance race and social equity, including:

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

RESOLUTION 2974: ALL ALEXANDRIA: COMMITTING TO RACE AND SOCIAL EQUITY

a. Develop equity data mechanisms, including equity indicators, equity mapping, and dashboards to transparently monitor, share, view and inform policy decisions that purposefully work toward reducing and eliminating disparities;

b. Develop quarterly listen and learn sessions, under the direction of the Race and Social Equity Officer, to establish ongoing conversation with the community to understand their most pressing issues and to normalize the key concepts of race, social equity and government through collective learning opportunities.

Adopted: January 23, 2021

JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

Debt Related Financial Policies—Debt Ratios

City Council passed a set of debt-related financial policies on June 9, 1987. During FY 1998, the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC), a City Council appointed citizen committee, analyzed these debt-related financial policies, and examined the City's financial condition in comparison to other jurisdictions with superior credit ratings (other double-triple A rated jurisdictions). The BFAAC and the City Manager recommended that City Council reaffirm the updated debt-related financial policies, incorporating BFAAC's recommended updates to the policies to establish a consistent set of appropriate relationships between debt targets and limits. Because three of the six debt indicators measure the debt capacity of the City in relation to the size of the City and its economy, BFAAC recommended that these indicators should not produce debt capacity limits that vary greatly from each other. Note the terminology has been updated to reflect required changes to government accounting rules.

City Council reaffirmed its commitment to sound financial management and adopted the updated debt-related financial policies on December 9, 1997. City Council amended the policies on October 26, 1999, to allow priority consideration for an increase in the assignment of fund balance for capital project funding. On June 24, 2008, City Council revised the target and limit upward reflecting the ratio of debt as a percentage of total personal income.

On May 4, 2017, City Council amended the Debt Related Financial Policies to recognize the self-supporting nature of the City's sewer-related debt and to increase ratios to better balance the City's ability to pay for increased capital investment needs with the need to maintain the City's top AAA/Aaa bond ratings.

These updated polices are as follows:

Debt as a Percentage of Fair Market Real Property Value	
Target	**Limit**
Set by CIP	2.50%

This ratio indicates the relationship between the City's debt and the full value of real property in the City as assessed annually at fair market value. It is an important indicator of the City's ability to repay debt because real property taxes are the primary source of the City's revenues used to repay debt. A small ratio is an indication that the City will be better able to withstand possible future economic downturns and continue to meet its debt obligations.

Debt Service as a Percentage of General Government Expenditures	
Target	**Limit**
Set by CIP	12.00%

This ratio is a measure of the City's ability to repay debt without hampering other City services. A small ratio indicates a lesser burden on the City's operating budget.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

Payout Ratio for Outstanding Debt

10-Year Debt Payout Ratio	
Target	**Limit**
65.00%	50.00%

The repayment structure for the City's tax supported, General Fund debt will reflect a strategy of paying off outstanding debt at a rate of 50 percent in the first 10 years, with a target repayment rate of 65 percent. Excluded from this measure would be major capital projects where the life span of the project will likely substantially exceed a 20-year repayment time period.

Spendable General Fund Balance as a Percentage of General Fund Revenue	
Target	**Limit**
15.0%	Undefined
Unrestricted Net Assets as a Percentage of General Revenues	
Target	**Limit**
5.5%	4.0%

These ratios indicate the ability of the City to cope with unexpected financial problems or emergencies. The Spendable General Fund Balance represents the funds legally available to the City. It is desirable that the City maintain a Spendable General Fund Balance target of 15 percent. The Spendable Fund Balance includes Commitments that are established by City Council and Assignments that are established by the City Manager. Uses of Fund Balance in either classification can be changed to address unexpected, one-time needs. Net assets correspond to stockholders' equity for publicly traded companies. The larger the Spendable General Fund Balance or unrestricted net assets, the greater the City's ability to cope with financial emergencies and fluctuations in revenue cycles.

The ratio for unrestricted net assets is calculated after adjusting for the effect of subsequent year's expenditures, and funding for future equipment replacement and capital projects, grants and contributions restricted to specific programs, and extraordinary and special items.

The City will not issue tax or revenue anticipation notes to fund ongoing governmental operations. The City of Alexandria will manage its cash in a fashion that will prevent any borrowing to meet working capital needs.

The City will not issue bond anticipation notes (BAN's) for a period of longer than two years. If the City issues a BAN for a capital project, the BAN will be converted to a long-term bond or redeemed at its expiration, but will not be rolled over.

The City will continue to rely on current revenue, including its fund balance, to finance its short-lived and maintenance-oriented capital improvements. The City believes in funding a significant portion of capital improvements on a pay as you go basis; therefore, the City will continue to finance short-lived and maintenance-oriented capital improvements with current revenues, and its fund balance. The priority to consider when additional General Fund revenues become available at the end of the fiscal year would be a Commitment within the General Fund fund balance for pay as you go capital.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

The City will not establish a trend of using General Fund equity to finance current recurring operations. The City's General Fund equity has been built over the years to provide the City with sufficient working capital and to enable it to finance equipment replacement, capital projects, and unforeseen emergencies without borrowing. To conserve the General Fund equity balance and to avoid reliance on this balance, the City will not finance recurring operations from the General Fund equity balance for periods longer than two years as confirmed by the audited financial statements. If the audited financial statements confirm that recurring operations have been funded from the General Fund equity balance for a period longer than two consecutive fiscal years, then the City will adopt in its next ensuing budget a balanced budget in which the operating revenues meet the operating expenditures without any consideration of the General Fund equity balance.

In the event that unforeseen and severe economic conditions result in a draw down of fund balance to finance current operations, replenishment of fund balance will be given priority over discretionary funding decisions to ensure that the target of 15 percent of Spendable Fund Balance as a proportion of General Fund Revenues is reached within three fiscal years.

The City will annually prepare a ten-year capital improvement program. In accordance with the City Charter and in order to meet the debt ratio targets, to schedule debt issuance, and to systematically improve the capital structure, each year the City will prepare and adopt a ten-year capital improvement program. This capital improvement program will identify the source of funding for all capital projects. The debt issuances that are a part of the capital improvement program will be structured to meet the City's debt policies and debt ratio targets.

The City Manager will prepare each year and submit a set of ten-year scenarios of possible future revenues and expenditures that match the ten-year Capital Improvement Program time horizon with the proposed budget to be considered by the City Council. Those scenarios will be updated to reflect the decisions of the City Council and issued with the approved budget. In order to improve financial planning and decisions, the City Manager also will annually prepare with the approved budget a set of ten-year scenarios of possible future General Fund revenues and expenditures and their effects on the debt-related financial policy ratios outlined above, including the effect of planned borrowing under the approved CIP.

General Fund Cash Capital Related Policies

On January 13,2015, through Resolution #2660, City Council provided specific guidance regarding the amount of recurring General Fund Cash Capital applied to the CIP. The minimum or floor was set at 2.0% and the target was set at 2.5%. This percentage provides a minimum and a target to ensure that cash capital will be maintained at an acceptable level, but at the same time providing flexibility in setting budget priorities between the annual General Fund Operating Budget and annual cash capital transfer from the General Fund to the CIP.

Recurring General Fund Cash Capital Transfer as a Percentage of General Fund Expenditures	
Target	**Minimum**
2.5%	2.0%

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

In accordance with the Government Finance Officers Association budget review requirements, this table, taken from the City's FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, is repeated here:

City of Alexandria, Virginia Computation of Legal Debt Margin as of June 30, 2024	
Assessed Value of Real property, January 1, 2024	$48,490,380,311
Debt Limit: 10 Percent of Assessed Value	$4,849,038,031
Amount of Debt Applicable to Debt Limit:	
General Obligation Bonds	$1,134,925,000
Less Total General Obligation Debt	($1,134,925,000)
LEGAL DEBT MARGIN REMAINING	$3,714,113,031

Limitations on the Incurrence of General Obligation Debt

There is no requirement in the Virginia Constitution, the Virginia Statutes or in the Charter of the City of Alexandria that the issuance of general obligation bonds of the City be subject to approval of the electors of the City at referendum.

Under the City Charter, the City Council has full authority to authorize and issue general obligation bonds. The authorizing procedure consists of the passage on first reading of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of the bonds followed by a notice of public hearing at a subsequent meeting and the final passage on second reading following the public hearing.

The only constitutional limitation on the issuance of general obligation bonds is contained in Article VII, Section 10 of the Virginia Constitution, which states that: No city or town shall issue any bonds or other interest-bearing obligations which, including existing indebtedness, shall at any time exceed ten percent of the assessed valuation of real estate in the city or town subject to taxation, as shown by the last preceding assessment for taxes.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Investment Policy
Revised December 17, 2014

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the City of Alexandria (City) that the administration of deposits of cash and cash equivalents, and their investment, shall be handled as its highest public trust. Investments shall be made in a manner that provides maximum security of principal invested and conforms to all applicable statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia governing the investment of public funds. The portfolio may consist of obligations of the Commonwealth of Virginia, obligations of the United States and certain Agencies thereof, obligations of Virginia municipalities, "prime quality" commercial paper, Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS), Insured Cash Sweep Service (ICS), the Virginia Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and the Virginia Investment Pool (VIP). The portfolio shall have an average maturity of up to three years, while remaining liquid to meet the daily cash flow needs of the City. The receipt of a market rate of return will be secondary to safety and liquidity requirements.

Scope

This investment policy applies to all deposits of cash and cash equivalents, defined in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) , excluding retirement funds. The City commingles its funds into one pooled investment fund for efficiency and maximum investment opportunity. Any new deposits of cash and cash equivalents will also be commingled unless specifically exempted by City Council and this policy. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Objective and Strategy

It is the policy of the City that all deposits of cash and cash equivalents shall be managed and invested with three primary objectives, listed in order of their priority: safety, liquidity and yield.

a. Safety of Principal. Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the City. Investments of the City shall be made in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to mitigate credit risk and interest rate risk.

The City will minimize credit risk, the risk of realizing a loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by:

- Limiting investments to the safest types of securities.
- Pre-qualifying the financial institutions, brokers/dealers, intermediaries and advisers with which the City will do business.
- Diversifying the investment portfolio so that potential losses on individual securities will be minimized.

The City will minimize interest rate risk, the risk of realizing a loss due to the market value of securities in the portfolio falling as a result of changes in general interest rates, by:

- Structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity.
- Investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities.

b. Liquidity. The City's investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable it to meet all operating requirements that might be reasonably anticipated. This will be accomplished by structuring the portfolio so that securities mature concurrent with cash needs to meet anticipated demands. Furthermore, since all possible cash demands cannot be anticipated, the portfolio will maintain a cushion of liquid securities with active secondary or resale markets.

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Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

Cash flow forecasting is designed to ensure adequate liquid funds to meet the City's cash flow requirements. Supplemental to the financial and budgetary systems, the Assistant Director/Treasury will maintain a cash flow forecasting process designed to monitor and forecast cash positions for investment purposes.

c. Yield. The City's investment portfolio shall be structured with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the City's investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. "Market rate of return" is defined as the 2-year Treasury constant maturity as reported in H.15 Selected Interest Rates on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Systems' website. Return on investment is of secondary importance compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above. The core of investments is limited to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed. Securities may be sold prior to maturity in the following situations:

- A security with declining credit may be sold early to minimize loss of principal.
- Liquidity needs of the portfolio require that the security be sold.
- The sale realizes gains that can be reinvested for additional yield.

Legal Authority
The legal authority and limitations for the investment of public funds in Virginia are found in the Investment of Public Funds Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-4500 et seq. (as amended)) and in the Local Government Investment Pool Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-4600 et seq. (as amended)).

City's Investment Committee
The Director of Finance; the Assistant Director, Revenue; and the Assistant Director, Treasury are designated as the City's Investment Committee and are responsible for investment management decisions and activities. The Investment Committee is responsible for considering the ability of City staff and brokers/dealers involved with investment management and procedures. All participants in the investment process shall act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. The Investment Committee shall review the City's investment portfolio and cash flow forecast at least monthly.

The Investment Committee shall be responsible for all investment transactions and shall implement sufficient controls to protect City funds. City staff and brokers/dealers shall not engage in any investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the written procedures.

Standard of Care and Limitation of Liability
Public funds held by the City shall be held in trust for the citizens of Alexandria. Any investment of such funds pursuant to this policy shall be made solely in the interest of the citizens of Alexandria and with the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4514.

When investments are made in accordance with this policy, the Investment Committee shall not be liable for any loss therefrom in the absence of negligence, malfeasance, or nonfeasance on their part or on the part of City staff performing investment and cash management functions. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4516.

Ethics and Conflicts of Interest
Investment Committee members and City staff involved in the investment process and brokers/dealers shall refrain from activity that could conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Investment Committee members and City staff involved in the investment process and brokers/dealers shall disclose any interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business, and shall refrain from entering into personal investment transactions with the same individual with whom business is conducted on behalf of the City. In addition to the foregoing, Investment Committee members and City staff shall comply with, as applicable, the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3100 et seq. (as amended)) and City Code Article I (Ethics in Public Contracting), Chapter 3, Title 3 (as amended).

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

Internal Controls

In addition to this Policy, the Investment Committee shall develop written procedures that specifically identify the responsibilities of the City, broker/dealer and custodian for each investment transaction. Annually, the City's independent auditors will review the written procedures, which are designed to prevent loss of public funds due to fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties or imprudent actions by City staff involved in the investment process. The process shall be structured to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgements by management. The procedures shall include separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping, independent third party custodial safe keeping, clear delegation of authority and responsibility, written confirmation of purchase/sale approval, written transaction receipts and explicit wire transfer instructions.

Authorized Financial Dealers and Institutions

All investment transactions undertaken on behalf of the City must be restricted to approved brokers/dealers. The Investment Committee shall maintain a list of brokers/dealers, which are approved for investment purposes. Investment Committee members and City staff involved in the investment process shall not conduct business with any securities dealer with whom or through whom public entities have paid excessive prices or have sustained losses on investments through mismanagement by the securities dealer. The Investment Committee must periodically (at least annually) assess the financial strength and integrity of the brokers/dealers and the individual account representatives with whom it does business. The following criteria must be met by those firms on the list:

a. Provide an audited financial statement for the most recent period.
b. Proof of certification by the National Association of Securities Dealers.
c. Proof of current registration with the State Securities Commission.
d. Completion of the City's broker/dealer questionnaire.

In addition, the supervising officers at the custodial bank and each broker/dealer shall submit certifications that they have reviewed this investment policy and agree to disclose potential conflicts or risks to public funds that might arise out of business transactions between the broker/dealer, custodial bank and the City. Each broker/dealer will implement sufficient controls and procedures to prevent unauthorized investment of City funds.

The supervising officer of the broker/dealer and custodial bank shall agree to exercise due diligence in monitoring the activities of other officers and subordinate staff members engaged in transactions with the City. Employees of any firm or financial institution offering securities or investments to the City shall be trained in the precautions appropriate to public sector investments and shall be required to familiarize themselves with the City's investment objectives, policies and constraints.

Authorized Investments

Under this policy, investments shall be limited to the instruments listed below. The investments are to be chosen in a manner that promotes diversity of issuer and maturity. The choice of high-grade government instruments is designed to ensure the marketability of those investments should liquidity needs arise.

a. Obligations of the Commonwealth of Virginia
   Stocks, bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the Commonwealth and those unconditionally guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest by the Commonwealth. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4501(A)(1).

   Requirement for Direct City Purchases (Not Applicable to LGIP and VIP)– Rated AA+ or better by Standard & Poor's Rating Services or Aa1 or better by Moody's Investors Service.

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

b. Obligations of the United States and certain Agencies thereof
Bonds, notes and other obligations of the United States, and securities unconditionally guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest by the United States, or any agency thereof. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4501(A)(2).

Requirement for Direct City Purchases (Not Applicable to LGIP and VIP) – No asset backed paper. Purely straight forward "vanilla" direct debt from the United States Treasury, Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) and Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB), which has a liquid market and a readily determinable market value. No investment in Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) until authorized by this Investment Policy.

c. Obligations of Virginia Municipalities
Stocks, bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness of any county, city, town, district, authority or other public body in the Commonwealth upon which there is no default; provided, that if the principal and interest be payable from revenues or tolls and the project has not been completed, or if completed, has not established an operating record of net earnings available for payment of principal and interest equal to estimated requirements for that purpose according to the terms of the issue, the standards of judgment and care required in Article 9 (§ 64.2-780 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 64.2, without reference to this section, shall apply. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4501(A)(4).

Requirement for Direct City Purchases (Not Applicable to LGIP and VIP)– Rated AA+ or better by Standard & Poor's Rating Services or Aa1 or better by Moody's Investors Service.

d. "Prime Quality" Commercial Paper
"Prime quality" commercial paper, with a maturity of 270 days or less, of issuing corporations organized under the laws of the United States, or of any state thereof including paper issued by banks and bank holding companies. "Prime quality" shall be as rated by at least two of the following: Moody's Investors Service, Inc., within its NCO/Moody's rating of prime 1, by Standard & Poor's, Inc., within its rating of A-1, by Fitch Investor's Services, Inc., within its rating of F-1, by Duff and Phelps, Inc., within its rating of D-1, or by their corporate successors, provided that at the time of any such investment:

1. The issuing corporation, or its guarantor, has a net worth of at least fifty million dollars; and
2. The net income of the issuing corporation, or its guarantor, has averaged three million dollars per year for the previous five years; and
3. All existing senior bonded indebtedness of the issuer, or its guarantor, is rated "A" or better or the equivalent rating by at least two of the following: Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Standard & Poor's, Inc., Fitch Investor's Services, Inc., or Duff and Phelps, Inc.

Not more than thirty-five percent of the total funds available for investment may be invested in commercial paper, and not more than five percent of the total funds available for investment may be invested in commercial paper of any one issuing corporation. See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4502(A).

Requirement for Direct City Purchases (Not Applicable to LGIP and VIP) – No asset backed paper. Purely straight forward "vanilla" direct debt of the issuer. Commercial paper must be rated A1/P1 (or better) and on City's approved list of commercial paper issuers. Committee will discuss approved issuers with negative outlook on debt.

e. CDARS and ICS
For investments in CDARS and ICS, the investment must be made in accordance with the following conditions:

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

CITY FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. The moneys are initially invested through any federally insured bank or savings institution selected by the public entity that is qualified by the Virginia Treasury Board to accept public deposits;
2. The selected bank or savings institution arranges for the deposit of the moneys in one or more federally insured banks or savings institutions wherever located, for the account of the public entity;
3. The full amount of principal and any accrued interest of each such deposit is covered by federal deposit insurance;
4. The selected bank or savings institution acts as custodian for the public entity with respect to each deposit issued for the public entity's account; and
5. At the same time that the public entity's moneys are deposited, the selected bank or savings institution receives an amount of deposits from customers of other financial institutions wherever located equal to or greater than the amount of moneys invested by the public entity through the selected bank or savings institution.
6. After deposits are made in accordance with the conditions prescribed in subsection e, 1 – 5, such deposits shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 44 (§ 2.2-4400 et seq.), § 2.2-4515, or any security or collateral requirements that may otherwise be applicable to the investment or deposit of public moneys by government investors.

See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4518.
Requirement for Direct City Purchases (Not Applicable to LGIP and VIP) – Deposit bank must be rated performing or better by Bankrate.com at time of purchase

f. LGIP
Established by Code of Virginia § 2.2-4602.
See Code of Virginia § 2.2-4600 et seq.

g. VIP
Established by Trust Fund Agreement. Authorized by City Council on January 25, 2014.

The Investment Committee must review the portfolio at least monthly to ensure compliance with the City's investment policy and to review the credit ratings of all securities in the investment portfolio. The Investment Committee and dealer/broker will review any investment that no longer meets the original purchase requirements and will discuss available alternatives to arrive at an agreed upon course of action.
Relative Value Requirement. Securities will only be purchased after comparing prices with two similar securities to ensure that the City is receiving fair market value/price for the investment. Records of the comparisons will be kept to justify each investment decision.

Delivery Versus Payment. All security transactions, entered into by, or on behalf of, the City, shall be conducted on a delivery versus payment (DVP) basis. The Assistant Director/Treasury must receive written trade confirmation tickets within three business days of all trades. An Accounting Division reporting manager who is not authorized to buy or sell securities for this portfolio must receive copies and review the written trade confirmation tickets. The written trade confirmation ticket must provide the trade date, par value, maturity, interest rate, price, yield, settlement date, description of security purchased, issuer's name, amount due, third-party custodial information and show the City as owner of the security.

Unauthorized Investments

a. The City will not "sell short," i.e., sell something it does not own in anticipation of buying it later at a lower price.
b. The City will not buy on margin.
c. The City will not contract for future delivery
d. The City will not deal in futures or options of any kind.
e. The City will not purchase derivatives.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Legislative References

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f. The City will not purchase asset-backed securities.
g. The City will not purchase collateralized mortgage obligations.
h. The City will not purchase pass-through securities.
i. The City will not purchase inverse floaters.
j. The City will not purchase principal only or interest only strips.
k. The City will not purchase range bonds.

Diversity and Maturity Limitations
The investment portfolio shall be diversified by:

- limiting investments to avoid overconcentration in securities from a specific issuer or business sector (excluding U.S. Treasury securities, CDARS and ICS),
- limiting the number of securities in the portfolio that have a higher risk of credit default,
- investing in securities with varying maturities, and
- continuously investing a portion of the portfolio in the Virginia Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) or the Insured Cash Sweep Service (ICS) to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained in order to meet on-going obligations.

Diversification strategies shall be established and periodically reviewed. At a minimum, diversification standards by security type and issuer shall be:

	Security Type	Maximum Percentage of the Total Funds Available for Investment
A.	Obligations of the Commonwealth of Virginia	40%
B.	Obligations of the United States and certain Agencies thereof	75%
C.	Obligations of Virginia Municipalities	40%
D.	“Prime Quality” Commercial Paper (in total)	25%
E.	Commercial Paper of any one Issuing Corporation	5%
F.	CDARS	75%
G.	ICS	40%
H.	LGIP	75%
I.	VIP	75%

The Assistant Director/Treasury shall diversify maturities, and to the extent possible, match investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Matching maturities with cash flow dates will reduce the need to sell securities prior to maturity, thus reducing market risk.

The average maturity of the City's investment portfolio at the end of any given month shall be up to three years. No less than $15 million will be invested in securities with maturities of 14 days or less. Excluding LGIP and VIP, securities with more than 60 months to maturity are not authorized for the City’s investment portfolio.

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Safekeeping (for securities other than LGIP, CDARS, ICS and VIP)
All trades where applicable will be executed by delivery versus payment (DVP) to ensure that all securities are deposited in an independent third party custodial bank prior to the release of funds. Securities will be held by a custodial bank that is not otherwise a counterparty to the investment transaction, in the City's name and subject to the City's order of withdrawal. The custodial bank may not be within the same holding company as the bank from which the securities are pledged. At no time will the City's securities be commingled with those of other investors. The custodial bank shall deliver securities to the City in the event of default by a counterparty to the investment transaction.

All safekeeping arrangements shall be approved by the Investment Committee and an agreement of the terms executed in writing. The third-party custodian shall issue original safekeeping receipts to the Assistant Director/Treasury, listing each specific security, rate, description, maturity and CUSIP number (9-digit alphanumeric code that identifies a North American financial security). Each safekeeping receipt will clearly state that the security is held in the City's name, subject to the City's order of withdrawal.

Perfected Security Interest
To ensure the City has a perfected security interest, the Investment Committee must issue written authorization before selling any security from the City's investment portfolio. Prior to making a purchase on behalf of the City, the broker/dealer must notify the City's Investment Committee of the par value, maturity range and type of security to be purchased.

Performance Evaluation and Reporting
At least quarterly, the Assistant Director/Treasury shall submit monthly reports to the Investment Committee containing sufficient information to permit an informed outside reader to evaluate the performance of the investment program. The reports will be prepared and reviewed by individuals who are not responsible for buying and selling securities. In addition, the market value of the portfolio shall be calculated and reported at least monthly. The reports will summarize investment activity and may include the following information:

Monthly Investment Portfolio Inventory Reports. Securities will be grouped by type, and may include the following information:

- Name of issuer
- Par amount
- Coupon Rate
- Contractual maturity date
- Call date, if applicable
- Amortized cost (book value)
- Fair value (market value)
- Expected yield
- Unrealized gain or loss
- Credit rating
- CUSIP number
- Purchase price
- Original dollar amount of premium or discount
- Yield to maturity or total return if held to maturity
- Yield to call, or total return if held to call, if applicable
- Interest received
- Accrued interest
- Amortized/Accretion Premium/Discount
- Percentage of total portfolio that specific security comprises

Monthly Investment Portfolio Activity Reports. Listing of purchases, sales, calls, maturities, interest received, rating upgrades and rating downgrades, and beginning and ending par, book and market values.

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Monthly Investment Portfolio Liquidity Reports. Listing of investments by maturity date, and a maturity breakdown of the portfolio by type of investment and by time period.

Monthly Investment Portfolio Earnings Summary Reports. Listing of interest earnings accrued, amortization/accretion and total earnings for the month and fiscal year-to-date.

Monthly Investment Portfolio Unrealized Gains and Losses Report.

Monthly Investment Portfolio Performance Reports. Listing of average weighted yield-to-maturity and yield-at-cost for current month and fiscal year-to-date, with comparison to the two year Treasury reported by the Federal Reserve.

Monthly Investment Policy Compliance Report. Report shows that portfolio meets policy requirements regarding investment types, maturities and diversification.

Policy Considerations

This policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis. The City's Investment Committee must approve any change.