



Alexandria Transit Company



ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. The meeting was held pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020, to undertake essential business. Members of City Council, the ATC Board and staff are participating either in person or from a remote location through a video conference call on Zoom.

Board members present: David Kaplan, Steve Klejst, Kendel Taylor, Ajashu Thomas

Staff members present: Josh Baker, Beth Reveles

Stockholders present: Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Councilman Canek Aguirre, Councilmember Sarah Bagley, Councilman John Taylor Chapman, Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins, Councilman R. Kirk McPike

Others present: Bryan Smith, Shawn Lassiter, Ian Greaves, Abdi Barre, Diane Ruggiero, Yemisrach Demeke, Karl Bach, Laura Leussing, Leonard Kaplan, Alexandria Carroll, Corey Smedley, Laura Triggs, William Patterson, Angie Maniglia-Turner, Daria Johnson

Meeting Minutes

Mayor Justin Wilson explained that the ATC Stockholders meeting would commence, and he turned the meeting over to the ATC Chair David Kaplan.

Agenda Item #1 – Chair’s Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order and gave a brief background on the ATC and the purpose of the Stockholders meeting.

Agenda Item #2 – Slate of Directors (*Consideration of Approval*)

The Chair stated the first order of business was the slate of the Board of Directors, and that there is a minimum of nine members on the Board consisting of six citizen volunteers/riders and three City staff. He explained that the Board serves one-year renewable terms so each year the Stockholders must vote on the slate of directors. He continued that the Board currently has one vacancy and that the Board will be recruiting for the open position this spring. The Board will then be returning to Council for a brief Stockholders meeting once a candidate is selected to fill that seat.

The Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the Slate of Directors. Councilman Aguirre recused himself from the vote. A motion was made by Mayor Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Bagley. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed with six voting yes and one recusal.

Agenda Item #3 – Amendment to By-laws (*Consideration of Approval*)

The Chair requested an amendment to the ATC by-laws of the corporation concerning the composition of the Board. Currently, there is a requirement that one of the citizen members has financial experience. The Chair is requesting that requirement be removed, which was unanimously approved by the Board. He continued that there are two reasons for this request. Firstly, there is a requirement that the City’s Chief Financial Officer or designee

must hold a seat on the Board; therefore, the Board will already have a member with financial expertise. Secondly, the Board does not want to limit possible candidates by requiring a citizen member to have financial experience.

The Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the amendment. A motion was made by Councilman Aguirre and seconded by Councilman McPike. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed seven to zero.

Item #4 – Outside Auditor (*Consideration of Approval*)

The Chair introduced the final order of business which was consideration of approval of the outside auditor. He explained that the ATC uses the same auditor as the City. He asked if there was a motion to adopt the outside auditor. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Jackson and seconded by Mayor Wilson. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed seven to zero.

The Chairman then recognized the General Manager & CEO of the Alexandria Transit Company to present his report.

Item #5 – General Manager’s Annual Report

ATC General Manager Josh Baker began his report by explaining that DASH has had a successful and busy yet challenging year while operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. He outlined some of DASH’s accomplishments throughout the past year:

- COVID-19 Response: ~93% workforce vaccination rate
- New DASH Network Launched Sept 5, 2021
- Free Fares Launched Sept 5, 2021
 - TRIP Grant Award: \$7.1m
- Ridership: Increased ~50% Aug-Oct
 - Sept/Oct/Nov – highest ridership since start of pandemic
- King Street Trolley: Reinstated July 2021 following 18-month suspension

Mr. Baker continued that DASH had made progress on the following items:

- King Street Metro: New Bus Loop opened June 2021
- Fleet Electrification:
 - Eight (8) additional buses delivered (fleet of 14 in service)
 - Seeking funding for electrification of replacement buses
 - Existing funding for expansion buses (18) is pending facility project

Mr. Baker provided a list of upcoming goals and projects:

- Restoration of Full Service (*post COVID*)
- Continued implementation of the Alexandria Transit Vision Plan (ATV) - New DASH Network
- Continued implementation of 24/7/365 support of service operations
- Facility Expansion
(Parking and Charging Infrastructure)
- Potential Role in Duke Street and West End Transitways
- Pursuing Federal Grant opportunities for Capital Projects related to Electrification

Councilmember Bagley asked about DASH’s expected challenges with full electrification of the fleet and expansion of the facility. Mr. Baker explained that the technology is very new and although DASH has seen signs that the technology performs well, DASH has experienced charging issues and adverse effects from the cold weather; the heating demands during cooler weather significantly drains the battery power. There are fiscal challenges as well in that a diesel engine bus costs around \$575, 000 whereas an equivalent electric bus costs \$900,000. He stated that the cost for electric buses is coming down and feels that the increased implementation of electric buses throughout the country, along with the current administration’s priorities for electrification, will help with reducing costs. We need to see the technology continue to progress and we need to address the charging infrastructure. DASH is also looking at ways, throughout the City, to install equipment

that will allow buses to be charged enroute rather than having to return to the DASH facility for recharging. That is key to ensuring a fully sustainable electric fleet by the year 2035.

Councilman Aguirre asked if DASH was looking into an electrification infrastructure on a regional level, e.g., partnering with Arlington or Fairfax Counties. Mr. Baker agreed that regional coordination was important but has its challenges and continued dialogue will be necessary as different jurisdictions move at different paces.

Councilman Aguirre shared the following feedback he has received from City residents:

- Concern regarding inadequate lighting at some of the bus stops, e.g., the stop at the hospital with overgrown trees around the streetlamp.
- Recommendation for placing at least one bus stop on Line 35 at the far end of the loop near Reading and Rayburn.
- Recommendation for a bus route along Mount Vernon Avenue through the Chirilagua neighborhood.

Mr. Baker explained that the Board secretary was recording the comments. The ATC/DASH Board would be reviewing the Transit Development Plan in the next couple of Board meetings, and Councilman Aguirre's feedback would be taken into consideration.

Item #6 – Other Business

The Chair thanked Council for the opportunity to speak with them and welcomed new or existing Board members to tour the DASH facility.

The Chair asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mayor Wilson and seconded by Vice Mayor Jackson. A vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Beth Reveles
Secretary to the Board
Alexandria Transit Company