



City of Annapolis

160 Duke Of Gloucester
Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council

Monday, April 14, 2025

7:00 PM

Mayor John T. Chambers, Jr.
City Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

Call To Order

Mayor Buckley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Invocation

Given by Alderwoman Pindell Charles.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Buckley.

Roll Call

Tonight's roll call began with Alderman Huntley.

Present: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Good evening and welcome to my final State of the City address as Mayor of this beautiful and historic City of Annapolis - the City we all love.

Tonight, I will introduce the Mayor's Budget for the 2026 Financial Year. For the seventh year in row, we are delivering a balanced budget with NO property tax increase. The strong financial position we find ourselves in doesn't just happen. It takes hard work, careful analysis, thoughtful decisions, and a commitment to accountability. It takes a team effort – as has everything we have achieved together over the past seven plus years.

And because we did the work to set our finances in order from day one, we have also been able to deliver a transformational agenda to ensure that our city doesn't just have a great history, but also a great future.

To achieve this, we focused on five broad policy areas:

1. Greater Financial Transparency and Accountability
2. A More Resilient and Sustainable Future
3. A More Inclusive and Engaged Community
4. Investment in Essential Infrastructure and the Local Economy, and
5. A Community-focused model for Public Health and Safety.

Tonight, I will report on all the ways we've worked to deliver on these goals, and – forgive me – I am going to take a bit of time and license to look back over the past eight years. Above all tonight, I want to give thanks and credit to the hundreds of people and partner organizations that have made it all possible – because no one ever achieves anything of lasting worth on their own.

Before becoming Mayor, I had a strong sense of what our community needed.

After listening to fellow business owners, neighbors, and friends, we aspired to "go big." I promised to be a Mayor for positive change and I tried to be very honest when I said: "If you don't want to see change, don't vote for me." The residents of Annapolis elected me with a majority – twice. And they elected a Council that also believes in transforming people's lives. We thank you for that endorsement of our vision.

One thing I quickly learned after being elected is that the pace of government can be painfully slow. But, in spite of setbacks, we continued to push and

persuade
and partner our way to some amazing outcomes - which I'm pleased to
report on
tonight.

But, like mayors around the globe, I also quickly learned that we don't
always get
to pick the day-to-day priorities.

That was the case when gun violence impacted our community in two,
shocking,
mass casualty events – the Capital Gazette shooting that killed five, and the
Paddington Place shooting that killed three and injured three. Alongside
these
horrific incidents, we also experienced individual incidents of gun violence
that
have killed or injured members of our community. These kinds of challenges
in
Public Health and Safety require focus.

Gun violence is not just an Annapolis problem. It is a uniquely American
problem
with limits to local solutions.

The big-picture reality of gun violence in our nation has not stopped us from
deploying a comprehensive approach to gun violence in our community. In
Annapolis, we have combined a strong law enforcement response alongside
community and neighborhood initiatives to prevent violence.

In 2019, we brought on a new police chief through an innovative community
process with resident advice and oversight. Annapolis Police Chief Edward
Jackson
has brought a “guardians not warriors” approach to policing in Annapolis,
which

combines community initiatives to deal with the drivers of crime, alongside
active
law enforcement and investigation.

Over the past six-plus years, Annapolis Police have worked with youth on
summer
camps and through the Positive Impact Program. They've launched a re-entry
program that provides job and skills training to individuals returning from
incarceration to help them reintegrate into society and reduce recidivism.
APD
regularly hosts movie nights, 'coffee with a cop' and other community events
to
give residents regular and ongoing positive interactions with Annapolis
Police.
Under the 'Annapolis United' public safety plan, they've established a boxing
program in collaboration with the United States Naval Academy's boxing
team.

Here, I must take a moment to acknowledge the leadership of Alderwoman

Rhonda Pindell Charles. She's not only chair of the Public Safety Committee, but she's also championed resources and funding through community programs like Annapolis United, which supports cross-departmental community outreach efforts and safety planning and reporting, with an emphasis on ensuring opportunities for our youth, especially undeserved and at-risk youth.

Thank you Rhonda for your leadership on these issues and for keeping our focus on the men and women who serve in public safety roles.

Alongside Mayor's office initiatives like the "No Harm," violence prevention team, who also worked with the County health department to bring the Cure Violence intervention program to the City, we are reaching deep into neighborhoods to detect and prevent violent crime. I have been deliberate and intentional in building a Mayor's Office that is focused on community issues because it sends a powerful message about what we stand for.

We have no illusions that those programs will totally eliminate crime, which has existed for as long as humans have lived together in societies. But they do reflect our commitment to meet people where they are, try new things, and build partnerships to make a difference.

Our community initiatives are completed by the excellent work of policing and detection undertaken by the Annapolis Police Department. Chief Jackson has hosted gun give-backs to get weapons off the street. Each year, they have executed numerous warrants, seized weapons, and even uncovered a local ghost gun factory. They work closely with the State's Attorney's office on prosecutions so that dangerous offenders are taken off the street.

In the past six years, APD has improved on the case closure rate for violent crime. This ensures accountability and justice for victims and families and sends a clear deterrent message: if you come here to commit crime, you will be held to account.

Public safety is also about responding to unexpected emergencies. In 2020, when the George Floyd protestors arrived to denounce police violence, Chief Jackson and I marched alongside and we took a knee. The chief entered a respectful

dialogue with protestors and I believe that dialogue helped us avoid the unrest other communities experienced.

Other unexpected emergencies included the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March of 2020 and the Annapolis tornado, which tore through the Parole neighborhood in September of 2021 causing millions in economic damages. Our Office of Emergency Management expertly managed both of these crises under the leadership of Director Kevin Simmons. Thank you Kevin!

Covid was a particularly challenging time. Annapolis lost 104 people to the virus, which also sickened 10,000 people in our community. Our Annapolis Fire Department did an outstanding job not only caring for and transporting people who were very sick from corona virus, but also people who had regular medical challenges like strokes and heart attacks. Some of our paramedics and EMTs got sick too, but Fire department leadership under Fire Chief Doug Remaley kept staffing levels sufficient to maintain care for members of our community throughout the pandemic.

I also want to give a shout-out to our IT and TV studio who ensured we could continue the work of government virtually. Virtual meetings are routine now, but they were brand new to us just five years ago!

Huge thanks to Brian Paquin, Julien Jacques, and Mark Hildebrand. Within two weeks of the Covid emergency, they had technical solutions in place and today, thanks to these technologies, City government is more transparent and inclusive than ever before.

Throughout the shutdown, our City Council met virtually, and our essential employees carried on their missions. Police patrolled the streets; Public Works teams kept traffic operations running smoothly, and the trash got picked up on time; the permits office helped homeowners and contractors with plans and projects; and our office of Economic Development worked with small businesses, first through curbside chats and later through 'Recovery Zones' where we opened the streets and drastically expanded outdoor dining opportunities.

This last one was important not only for small businesses, but was also critical to a public who quickly grew weary of shutdowns.

The pandemic also required us to re center our focus on Community Engagement and Inclusivity.

During Covid we actually expanded community outreach - particularly through the Take Care program, which began as a way to help Spanish-speaking residents understand the dangers of corona virus. It morphed into a rigorous City of Annapolis effort that encompassed not only public information, but also testing, PPE distribution, and vaccinations.

Covid tested us, but it also showed us how strong we really are as a community. All over the city, people worked to support one another. In addition to health services, volunteers powered food and resource pantries and services. This has created a lasting legacy with our enhanced Food Friday program now serving 300 Annapolis families. I'd like to give a big shout-out and thanks to Alderwoman Karma O'Neill who stepped up for our community on these efforts and for her

organizational and volunteer recruitment expertise that has kept Food Fridays going for the benefit of needy families.

These efforts helped this job Council to recognize the importance of having permanent staff in place to guide residents to resources.

We established the Office of Community Services, which plays an everyday role assisting residents. They're our clutch players, quickly moving into action in a crisis. They might be called in the middle of the night to find housing for a displaced family impacted by flood or fire, or they may sit for hours with a family in crisis.

It is that kind of teamwork at the core of making City government function optimally to benefit residents. When the Substance Use Disorder team in the Office of Emergency Management wanted to track the availability of beds for residents seeking treatment, they turned to our Office of Information Technology who developed an app called "bed finder" that provides real-time information on the availability of treatment beds in the region.

That app won the prestigious SAG Award or "Special Achievement in GIS" from ESRI, the international organization that oversees Geographic Information Systems architecture.

This kind of teamwork extends into our work with residents challenged by substance use disorder or S.U.D.

Since 2018, our Naptown Antidope Movement, or NAM, has worked in neighborhoods on overdose response training, substance use prevention education, and distributing treatment and recovery information. They're on the ground proactively helping residents who might otherwise be left behind and the results of their work show in the data. Overdoses in Annapolis are down dramatically

Community engagement is also about coming together to have fun and celebrate all identities, voices, and stories. We are proud to have hosted events with community partners, including the Diaspora Festival and Day of the Dead. We have supported the Pride Parade and Festival and Juneteenth. We have enjoyed supporting the arts and youth through our annual poetry book. We've advocated for murals, including the Breonna Taylor mural in Parole, the Thurgood Marshall/ Ruth Bader Ginsburg mural on South Street, the Taxi Driver mural on the Department of Transportation building, and many more.

We were approved for a UNESCO Port Marker to identify Annapolis as an entry point in the Mid-Atlantic Slave Trade and we commemorated the victims of the Capital Gazette shooting with a First Amendment Memorial on Compromise Street, sponsored by the Caucus of African American Leaders. The caucus convener, Carl Snowden is with us tonight and has been a great partner on this and many other projects including the upcoming dedication of the new Parren J Mitchell Memorial in May. Thank you Carl!

Just before COVID, local cycling group MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts) cut more than a dozen miles of hiker-biker trails at Waterworks Park. There was no cost associated with the work, but during Covid, our parks got put to the test because people longed for sunshine and fresh air during the lengthy lockdown. Waterworks is an amazing amenity for Annapolis residents, and one that very few people knew about 8 years ago. We now have an opportunity to further open that site and have retained the services of Beatty Development Group to make it happen.

We came together each spring in the dark confines of makeshift movie theaters to enjoy the Annapolis Film Festival. For the past three years, we have seen

musicians from around the world descend on City Dock for the Singer-Songwriter Festival. We watched City Dock's transformation for a motocross-style stunt where X-gamer Travis Pastrana jumped over Ego Alley in a souped-up Subaru.

We also presented Keys to the City to some of the favorite sons of Annapolis: filmmaker and author Rodney Barnes; fashion designer Christian Siriano; hair stylist Kendall Dorsey; young talent Dylan Gilmer; the family of author Alex Haley; and NFL coach and Navy lacrosse enthusiast Bill Belechick.

We do all this because making Annapolis work for our residents means providing meaningful opportunities for work and play.

Our Recreation and Parks team definitely has "PLAY" covered and I thank Director Roslyn Johnson for her leadership. They worked with DPW to renovate the Callahan Basketball Courts at Pip Moyer including court resurfacing and new scoreboards; the tennis and pickleball courts at Truxtun got a facelift and new lighting. They revamped, or should I say "reRamped," the skate park at Truxtun and we'll soon have a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate that project – nearly five years in the making.

Rec and Parks have also reworked their field permitting process to align with the county to ensure transparency and equity in field allocation and access. They've hosted Juneteenth celebrations at Carr's/Elktonia and have built up an impressive list of festivals and celebrations including Community Fun Day, The Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Harvest Festival, Trunk o'Treat, and special events for our kids and teens, to ensure fun for residents in all seasons.

We've also focused on being a more inclusive City by installing curb cuts in sidewalks for wheelchair accessibility, putting a chair lift at the new municipal pool, and creating a new entrance to City Hall so that there are no barriers to navigate. We've got adaptive sports programs at the Rec center and we serve our transit-riding public with kneeling buses and paratransit services. We also rebuilt our City website and revamped our permits portal to ensure that all residents can be digitally engaged.

I am also proud of the strong and diverse leadership team we have built. We have

such incredible talent! We have been very intentional about ensuring our team brings a broad perspective to the work of government and I want to particularly

thank City Manager Michael Mallinoff for his role in forging this strong team. We are very proud that we have City leaders and staff who look like, and share experience with, the residents we serve.

Throughout my tenure, we have leaned into the belief that we can walk and chew gum at the same time. We believed we could meet resident needs, navigate challenges, and press ahead with work on critical priorities. Big dreams have shaped our approach to Infrastructure Development and Resilience. We have worked hard to deliver them.

Our best infrastructure work begins with a good plan. City Dock has needed love for a long time. As the flooding at the site grows more frequent and more intense, plans for flood resilience have been developed, then shelved; developed, then shelved. Like many of you, I never understood why we turned the best City real estate into a parking lot.

In 2019, we brought together 100 people with broad experience and strong expertise to help us tackle the increasing challenge of flooding at historic City Dock. Those 100 people, working in 10 issue-specific groups, met regularly under the guiding hand of our lead consultant, Eileen Fogarty.

You all know Eileen. She is a nationally recognized, multi-award-winning City planner whose outstanding work over three-plus decades has shaped communities and cities across the country including Annapolis, Alexandria, Santa Cruz and Santa Monica. Her ability to listen, adapt, and find consensus is a rare talent. We are lucky to have her.

The City Dock Action Committee brought forward two amazing ideas. The first was for a local Resilience Authority. That idea required state enabling legislation and Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman and then-State Senator Sarah Elfreth worked the legislation through the Maryland General Assembly in 2020. In 2022, the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County was established. Since then we have partnered on critical public infrastructure projects

including Waterworks Park, Carr's Beach, and the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

The other idea was using a Public Private Partnership, or P3, to fund the work at City Dock. Our P3 was the Hillman Garage, which we razed in 2022 and reopened with more parking spaces. The new garage also has 125 percent stormwater capture to prevent pollution in local waterways; and gateless entry which cuts down on idle time inside the garage, reduces pollution, and saves users time. I would particularly like to acknowledge the leadership of former City Manager David Jarrell in the development of the Hillman P3. It brought a \$24 million concession payment for City Dock. I am proud that the resiliency work at City Dock is more than 90 percent funded, using the concession payment plus a mix of federal and state funds.

The new City Dock will protect downtown businesses and residents from flooding with a raised, earthen berm and deployable flood gates. It will transform the current sea of asphalt into a welcoming two-acre park at the water's edge that will be a community space with recreational features including a fountain and splash pad for families, a stage for local events, walkways that showcase beautiful views of the water and shaded seating areas where we can all gather.

The new park will also celebrate the rich and diverse history of Annapolis through a Cultural Legacy Walk.

We will create a new Harbor Master's Office, connected to the Visitor's Office with accessible and adaptable connections to Burtis House, so that it can finally be accessible to the public.

The community planning model worked so well on City Dock that we've applied it to other projects as well. When we had an opportunity to reimagine public housing at Harbour House and Eastport Terrace, we applied for \$400,000 in grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin a planning process called Choice Neighborhood Initiative, or CNI.

Over the course of two years, the Housing Authority and City planners worked together with residents to imagine and design a mixed-use, mixed-income community that will include popular amenities like parks and pools and childcare

facilities while still preserving housing options for low-income residents. We

are
now in the running for a \$50 million HUD down-payment to kick-start the next
stage of the process in what will be the biggest housing investment and
largest
infrastructure project in the city's history.

Housing access and equity is one of the biggest issues facing Annapolis. That
is
why we have prioritized our partnership with HACA and why we are working
with
other partners and communities to ensure that every resident can have safe,
dignified housing options. I want to thank Director of Planning and Zoning,
Chris
Jacubiak, for his leadership on this issue and for all his work to ensure we
are
responsive and service-focused.

Council members also play a critical role in helping us focus on these
priorities and
here I want to thank Alderman DaJuan Gay for his work on programs such as
rental assistance, and repairs and maintenance grants, to keep up the
pressure on
behalf of underserved residents.

I also want to acknowledge Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier for his focus on
affordable housing and legislation designed to unlock opportunity including
childcare rezoning and his work on our Land Use Study. The Childcare
zoning
applies to all neighborhoods and is designed to increase availability to
support
working families. The Land Use Study lays the groundwork for the work we
will
need to do in the future to address housing affordability and infrastructure
needs.
It showed that the City is essentially running what amounts to a \$9 billion
corporation. It may be shocking to some that we manage all of the services
we
provide on a less than \$200 million annual operating budget. Thank you
Brooks!

Planning is critical to success when managing multiple, often urgent,
priorities.
We continue to work on resiliency planning with the US Naval Academy and
Department of Defense. I thank our partners at the Academy, especially Zoe
Johnson and Capt. Denius and Schwartz.

We have also introduced the 2040 Annapolis Ahead Comprehensive Plan, the
citizen-led Ward Boundaries Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Maritime
Resilience Initiative, and the Maritime Task Force report, which led to the
City's
first-ever Public Water Access Plan. I'd like to thank Chief Planner, Eric
Leshinsky,
for his work on these plans and his ability to ensure the community is part of
the

conversation.

Alderman Ross Arnett has also worked to keep this council focused on planning and good management. I also want to thank him for his focus on maritime issues.

Annapolis has a long and rich history as a sailing capital. We must work intentionally to ensure we are supporting maritime industries. Tonight, I would like to propose we dedicate the new 5th Street Park to Ald. Arnett for his 20 years of service. The proposed site name will be "Ross's Crossing."

The power to transform a community starts with an ability to imagine possibilities.

In the movie "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner heard a voice in the cornfield telling him over and over, "if you build it, he will come." We have seen, over and over, that if we create something of value, people come.

We've seen it with street end parks and new playgrounds at Pip Moyer and Annapolis Walk. We've seen our residents - by the thousands - spend their summer days at the new \$4.5 million municipal pool that opened at Truxtun Park in 2021 through the driving force of Alderwoman Sheila Finlayson, who after the sale of Eisenhower Golf Course, pushed to use those funds to build a fabulous municipal pool with splash pads, lap pools and a leisure pool with beach entry and curly slides.

The work of 'imaging the possible' also means learning from others. That is why we undertook Resilience Study Tours to the Netherlands and Sweden. These have helped inform our direction on flooding and alternative transportation. On our international tours, we saw, first-hand, how other countries use infrastructure to

handle flooding and ease transportation congestion, through public transit, bicycles, and rideshares. When we provide safe infrastructure and cheap, accessible transit options such as cycling and e-transit - we enhance quality of life.

Every walker or cyclist represents one less car on the road - a benefit to all. I thank Director Markus Moore for helping us implement some of the lessons we learned in our exchanges.

It is why we negotiated with BIRD e-bikes and scooters: to provide flexibility in short-hop journeys.

We sought and received state grant funding to study, conceive, conceptualize, design, and build bike trails including the College Creek Connector, the WEE, and along Bay Ridge Avenue.

We've also introduced 'Go Time' on-demand transit, two ten-minute all-electric trollies for downtown and Eastport, and two new 100 percent electric 22-seater buses to replace aging diesel vehicles.

While working on expanding transit options, we did not forget the basics. We doubled the number of miles of roads resurfaced from the previous administration. And we didn't just double or triple funding for road maintenance, we increased it six-fold! We have fully repaved 23 miles of Annapolis roadways in addition to regular maintenance and repairs, including nearly 13,000 potholes filled. We're also on track to replace 24,000 feet of water mains and replace or reline 14 miles of sewer mains.

Here I want to shout out our Director of Public Works Burr Vogel, who has stayed laser-focused on essential services while also making big progress on critical infrastructure projects.

But we aren't the only game in town focusing on infrastructure. We also supported CRAB, the accessible boating nonprofit, in a Project Open Space collaboration for their new facility on Bembe Beach Road. We are working with Preservation Maryland on historic Burtis House at City Dock, which will become

activated by the construction of the new Maritime Welcome Center, our harbormaster's headquarters on the water's edge.

The Cal Ripken Jr. Foundation funded two new STEAM initiatives - one at Pip Moyer and one at Stanton Center. And we worked with HACA to rebuild Newtowne Twenty into Wilbourne Estates.

All these projects are dreams realized for this City and for many of our neighbors. None of this would be possible without the hard work and service of staff from all across the City. I am very proud and very grateful to the dedicated men and women who work hard for residents every day and I thank Assistant City Manager Victoria Buckland and HR Manager Tricia Hopkins for their work on the class and comp study — ensuring Annapolis remains competitive and an

employer
of choice for years to come.

One example that exemplifies this service is Remi Sonnevile an inspector in DPW.

Here is what the Scudder family in Eastport wrote about him:

“We are new residents and...wanted to send a compliment to Remi. We have been in an endless renovation of an 81-year-old-house and since we met Remi, he has helped us with any situation pertaining to repairs. He follows through with all commitments and is a true asset to the City.” Separately, the Bohen family wrote in to say: “I wanted to let you know about a wonderful encounter I had today with Remi. He willingly and easily engages with the public, informs us on the upcoming paving schedule and has kept me and my neighbors well informed. In a time when most are quick to complain, I wanted you to know that Remi is a model employee for the City and has an obvious passion and dedicated commitment to the work he does!”

Remi is with us tonight and I would like to acknowledge him for his outstanding commitment to the residents

In the area of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, this council has an unparalleled record. We have passed legislation on styrofoam, leaf blowers, and plastic bags. We worked with Anne Arundel County to establish No Discharge Zones, which goes toward our goal of making Annapolis waterways swimmable and fishable.

We established the position of Deputy City Manager for Resilience and Sustainability Jackie Guild to maintain a focus on environmental initiatives across all City departments. That could include everything from electrifying our City fleet, which I spoke about earlier, but also helping low-income residents get reusable grocery bags and ensuring we have a good distribution of EV chargers in all wards of the City.

We set ambitious goals for stormwater capture to limit runoff and set up the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to fund stream and wetlands restoration, bioretention cells, rain gardens and living shorelines.

With the public’s help, we are expanding our tree canopy to 50 percent by 2050.

We’ve partnered with groups like Save Our Trees to rid public spaces of invasives and worked alongside gardening and environmental groups to beautify parks

with
native species and identify stormwater remediation projects on both public
and
private lands.

We established a waterways cabinet and worked to enhance public water
access
at locations including Wells Cove, Hawkins Cove, Tucker Street, Cheston
Avenue,
College Creek with Robert Eades Park and Gateway Park and Carrs-Elktonia
Beach
- including the acquisition of the Moore property on banks of the Chesapeake
Bay.

Increasing the acreage of water accessible parkland benefits us all!
Here I want to acknowledge the leadership and contribution of Alderman Rob
Savidge on all these efforts. He knows that environmental health is critical to

community health and has spearheaded legislation and big ideas to improve
outcomes in our community. Thank you Rob.

Lastly, I want to return to the theme I began with: Financial Transparency
and
Responsibility. When I came into office, the City's budget process was not
transparent. "Revolving Funds" accounts, without appropriation or
accountability
were not shown in the annual budget and hid the true cost of running City
government. In addition, the budget was not balanced, requiring our team -
in the
first year in office - to raise property taxes.

We've worked hard to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. As I said earlier,
there
has been only ONE property tax rate increase over eight years. If property
assessments have grown, that is a reflection of the increasing value of real
property within the City not because of a change in the tax rate. Property
values
increase when people want to move here and live here, which tells you
something
about what a great city we all live in.

The strong position we find ourselves in is due, in no small part to the work of
former City Manager Teresa Sutherland and former Finance Dir. Jodee
Dickinson.

They brought modern accounting practices to the City and avoided further
property tax hikes - all while meeting both the needs of our residents and the
goals of City departments.

Now, each expenditure gets a line item and each capital improvement
project
includes a forecast of future monies required. This isn't a practice unique to
Annapolis, but they didn't exist here until this administration. Jodee and her
team
also worked with online hotel booking agencies and short-term rental

agencies to ensure they contributed to hotel tax revenue - particularly important when you realize that about 20 percent of properties in Annapolis are not eligible to pay property taxes.

This year, our budget analyst team, Jake Trudeau Darren Johnson, Kapri Turner and Suzanne Flaherty, have taken things to a new level again. Under the

leadership of new Finance Director Brittany Moran, they have ensured all our priorities are funded, savings are identified, and emergencies are planned for.

These budget management improvements are a large part of why all three rating agencies upgraded our City bond rating and why we've maintained that improved rating with each successive budget.

I also want to thank Alderman Harry Huntley, who stepped in as Ward One representative and Finance Committee Chair when former Alderwoman Elly Tierney relocated to Cape Cod. (Hi Elly, if you're watching!) Harry is a quick study and with Alderwoman O'Neill and Alderwoman Finlayson at his side on the Finance Committee, we can be confident of being well-served as Harry helps guide us through the FY 26 budget process.

Our transformational agenda of the past eight years has also been made possible by finding other new sources of revenue. Last year I highlighted all of the grants that we have been able to draw down, including public safety, emerge

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emergency management, transportation, bike lanes and trails, flood mitigation and more.

Millions of dollars have flowed into the City allowing us to enhance and improve quality of life for residents without directly tapping taxpayers.

Thanks to the partnership of the late, great Speaker Mike Busch, and the subsequent efforts of then-State Senator Sarah Elfreth and our other state partners, we are now guaranteed PILOT funding, pegged to inflation, each year.

PILOT stands for Payment in Lieu of Taxes. These State monies help us offset the cost of the public safety services we provide to the state. After all, if someone at DNR requires an emergency trip to the hospital, it's a City ambulance that will get them there. We patrol, police and respond to emergencies at these locations frequently and it makes sense for them to chip in since they don't pay property taxes.

All these efforts are underpinned by a forward- thinking legislative agenda, driven by the City Council and underpinned by the work of our Law Office. Since late 2017, we have passed 528 bills and I thank our City Clerk Regina Watkins Eldridge, our legislative and policy analyst Cynthia Reuter, and our City Attorney Mike Lyles and all their teams for their legal and legislative advice and oversight.

Looking back on our time serving Annapolis, and all these achievements I am so proud of our team and so grateful for all the work. I have seen, up close, the commitment of the City Council, the dedication of our managers, and the hard work of all our staff who work to serve the community at all hours, all days of the week, in all kinds of circumstances.

They show up when people are at their most vulnerable, after a fire, crime, car accident, or medical incident, and conduct their work with professionalism, compassion and care.

I want to thank each and every staff member for what you do daily to serve our residents. I am incredibly privileged to serve alongside you. I also thank the residents and businesses who have supported - and sometimes criticized - what we do, because support helps us to keep going and the

criticism
spurs us to improve.

I thank the many partners, supporters and friends who also believed big dreams are possible and who worked tirelessly to support our campaign and our efforts in office. Many of you are here tonight, or possibly watching online from afar. Please know how grateful I am. Your support has been critical to our many successes because, as I said at the beginning, nobody achieves anything without help. Finally, I must take time out to thank the most important people in my life: My wife Jules and our children. Their patience and support over these past eight years has never failed. No one can serve in political office without this kind of strong personal support. Jules, Dash and Millie - I love you and thank you from the bottom of my heart!

To conclude this long address (and thank you if you've stayed with us throughout): this journey began nine years ago with a dream. It was a dream of what our city could be: forward-thinking, strong, and inclusive; a city that is more sustainable, more accessible and better connected; a city that is family and community-oriented and where every resident knows they are valued and have a voice.

I believe we have delivered on this transformational agenda in all the ways I've outlined tonight and many, many more. And we're not done yet! We have a very busy seven months to go and we will work up to the very last minute! I have been honored to be the Mayor of this great American Capital City and to serve our community alongside so many committed and dedicated people. Thank you for the opportunity you have all given me to dream, work, and deliver for the City I love.

Thank you!

Approval of Agenda

Alderman Huntley moved to approve the AGENDA as AMENDED TO REMOVE R-13-25 City Dock Holiday Market and Itinerant Merchant Sales in the Historic District on FIRST READER FROM TONIGHT'S AGENDA. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

PETITIONS, REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Reports by Committees

Standing Committee Dates:

Economic Matters Committee Regular Meeting - Wednesday, April 16, 2025

06:30 PM

Finance Committee Special Meeting - BUDGET - Monday, April 21, 2025

09:00 AM

Finance Committee Special Meeting - BUDGET - Tuesday, April 22, 2025

09:00 AM

Finance Committee Special Meeting - BUDGET - Wednesday, April 23, 2025

09:00 AM

Finance Committee Special Meeting - BUDGET - Thursday, April 24, 2025

09:00 AM

Comments by the General Public

Comments:

Jane ,Harbor Road, Annapolis MD, 21401.(This is what Kalyn had)

Matt Schatzl 312 Severn Ave, Annapolis, Md 21403.

Steven Brown, 706 Giddens Avenue, Annapolis Maryland 21401.

Mayor Buckley declared comments from the general public closed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Calendar

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve the consent calendar.

Seconded.The motion carried by the following vote:

Approval of Journal Proceedings

[CCM 3.10.25](#) Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve CCM 3.10.25.

Seconded.The motion carried by the following vote:

[CCM 3.24.25](#) Special Meeting Minutes

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve CCM 3.24.25.

Seconded.The motion carried by the following vote:

Appointments

[AP-7-25](#) Appointment - Mr. Todd Trapnell - Heritage Commission

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve AP-7-25. Seconded.The motion carried by the following vote:

[AP-8-25](#)

Appointment - Ms. Heather Ersts - Heritage Commission

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve AP-8-25. Seconded. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Absent: 1 - Alderman Gay

[AP-9-25](#)

Appointment - Mr. Tom Weaver - Maritime Advisory Board

Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier moved to approve AP-9-25. Seconded. The motion carried by the following vote:

End of Consent Calendar

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances

[O-30-24](#)

Fence Permit Requirements Related to Use and Development

Standards in the City Zoning Code Title 21 - For the purpose of creating additional standards related to home fencing along forests and open spaces; clarifying undue obstructions related to fencing; stating Council preference for extra consideration regarding fences on an up-slope; and generally related to fence regulation in Title 21.

Sponsors: Savidge

Speakers:

Matt Schatzle, 312 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Mayor Buckley accepted into the record the Planning Commission Findings & Recommendations dated March 6, 2025.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-30-24 CLOSED.

[O-1-25](#)

Expansion of Child Care Options in Annapolis - For the purpose of allowing large family child care homes pending zoning approval; removing City restrictions on hiring home-operated child care service employees who live outside the home; combining sections dealing with child care centers; updating the related City Code sections to align with state child care standards; and address the requirements of Title 21 concerning child care in Annapolis.

Sponsors: Schandelmeier

Speakers:

Janet Norman, 1320 Harbor Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Mayor Buckley accepted into the record the Planning Commission Findings & Recommendations dated April 3, 2025.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-1-25 CLOSED.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

FIRST READERS

Ordinances

[O-9-25](#)

Expanding Waterfront Uses in R4 General Residence (Zoning) Districts

For the purpose of changing the residential table of uses to allow for limited commercial waterfront activities, such as boat rentals, charters, and charter services, in R4 General Residence Districts; and requiring a special exception use reviewed and approved by the city's Board of Appeals.

Sponsors: Arnett and Savidge

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-9-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred O-9-25 to the Maritime Advisory Board.

Mayor Buckley referred O-9-25 to the Rules & City Government Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred O-9-25 to Planning Commission.

O-10-25

Annual Budget and Appropriation and Property Tax Levy - For the purpose of adopting the City Budget, comprising the Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Capital Improvement Program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2027, June 30, 2028, June 30, 2029, June 30, 2030, and June 30, 2031; appropriating funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026; levying and imposing a property tax for the use of the City of Annapolis for the taxable year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; and fixing the rate of the City property tax for the taxable year.

Sponsors: Buckley

Alderwoman Pindell Charles moved to adopt O-10-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred O-10-25 to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Buckley referred O-10-25 to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred O-10-25 to the Financial Advisory Commission.

Resolutions**R-12-25****Street-end Park on Annapolis Street**

For the purpose of designating certain City of Annapolis-owned property as a street-end park; naming the street-end park at the northwest end of Annapolis Street on Weems Creek the “Annapolis Street Park”; and generally relating to park amenities.

Sponsors: O'Neill and Savidge

Alderman Schandelman moved to adopt R-12-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred R-12-25 to the Finance Committee.

R-17-25**2025 Transit Development Plan for the City of Annapolis**

For the purpose of approving the City of Annapolis Transit Development Plan that is updated every five years.

Sponsors: Buckley

Alderman O'Neill moved to adopt R-17-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred R-17-25 to the Transportation Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred R-17-25 to the Housing and Human Welfare Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred R-17-25 to Public Hearing.

[R-19-25](#)**Memorial Honoring the Life and Legacy of the Late U.S.**

Representative Parren J. Mitchell For the purpose of dedicating a memorial at the City of Annapolis Pip Moyer Recreation Center in honor of the late U.S. Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD), the first African-American elected to Congress from Maryland.

Sponsors: Buckley, Schandelmeier, Finlayson and Huntley

Alderman Gay moved to adopt R-19-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Finlayson - Cosponsor Added.

Alderman Huntley - Cosponsor added

[R-20-25](#)

FY 2026 Annual Fees Schedule - For the purpose of specifying fees that will be charged for the use of City services for Fiscal Year 2026; and providing an effective date.

Sponsors: Buckley

Alderman Gay moved to adopt R-20-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred R-20-25 to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred R-20-25 to the Financial Advisory Commission.

[R-21-25](#)

FY 2026 Fines Schedule - For the purpose of specifying fines that will be charged for Fiscal Year 2026; and providing an effective date.

Sponsors: Buckley

Alderman O'Neill moved to adopt R-21-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Mayor Buckley referred R-21-25 to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Buckley referred R-21-25 to the Financial Advisory Commission.

[R-23-25](#)**Emergency Management & Public Safety During Flood Awareness Month**

For the purpose of recognizing April as Maryland Flood Awareness Month and the City of Annapolis public safety experts' efforts each year, both personally and professionally, to protect our residents from flooding and other natural emergencies.

Sponsors: Pindell Charles and O'Neill

Alderman Pindell Charles moved to adopt R-23-25 on first reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Huntley moved to suspend the rules to allow passage of the resolution at the meeting of its introduction. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Pindell Charles moved to adopt R-23-25 on second reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Alderwoman O'Neill - Cosponsor Added.

SECOND READERS

Ordinances

O-5-25

Speed Monitoring Cameras - For the purpose of authorizing speed monitoring systems in the City of Annapolis to comply with changes in the State law changes; and generally related to traffic monitoring systems in the City.

Sponsors: Schandelmeier, Huntley and Savidge

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-5-25 on second reader. Seconded.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-5-25 as follows:

Amendment #1:

On page 3, in line 21, after "shall be" insert "placed into the Sustainable Mobility Service Fund to be ".

4. Use of Fines. Pursuant to § 7-302 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, any remaining balance after allocating fines collected from speed monitoring systems shall be placed into the Sustainable Mobility Services Fund to be used solely for the costs of implementing and administering pedestrian safety, road redesign, and public transit. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-5-25 as amended on second reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-5-25 on third reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

[O-10-24](#)

Outdoor Dining Requirements in Annapolis - For the purpose of codifying and consolidating the City's outdoor dining programs; defining outdoor dining and its different types; requiring permits for outdoor dining; setting common standards for outdoor dining; creating a fund for outdoor dining permit fees to be used for alternative transportation options when restaurants use their parking lot for outdoor dining; making technical corrections to the various code sections to conform with the outdoor dining section; and generally dealing with restaurant standards for outdoor dining.

Sponsors: Arnett, Savidge and O'Neill

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-10-24 on second reader. Seconded.

Alderman Arnett moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #1:

1) On page 3, in line 6, before the semicolon insert, "as defined in § 7.35.020"

2. Outdoor Dining:

a. Includes Seasonal Parking Lot Dining, Sidewalk Cafés, and Street Cafés as defined in § 7.35.020;

2) On page 4, in line 11, before "restaurants" insert "the"; strike "such as" and after the comma insert "including but not limited to"; strike "etc." and insert "or other suitable areas".

2. Location. Outdoor Dining areas shall be located within outdoor areas adjacent to the restaurants, such as including but not limited to private sidewalks, walkways, off street parking, patios, etc or other suitable areas.

3) On page 6, in lines 19-through 20, strike "Where a permitted Outdoor Dining area remains unused for outdoor dining for 30 consecutive days or more" and insert "If the designated Outdoor Dining area remains unused for 30 consecutive days or more during the permit or lease period". Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #2:

1) On page 7, in line 27, and page 11 in lines 24 and 25: strike "between April 15 and November 1 each year" and after "six months" insert "from January 1 to December 31 and the months do not need to be contiguous."

2) On page 7, in line 23, after "c." insert, "Special exception approvals do not require annual renewal provided the applicant is compliant with the issued approval."; and renumber the subsection accordingly.

3) On page 8, in line 34, strike "Board of Appeals" and after "the" insert "Director"

4) On page 8, in line 1, strike "noise mitigation devices,"; and on page 15, strike lines 16 through 18. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Legislative and Policy Analysis Reuter was present and answered questions from the council

Alderwoman O'Neill moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #3:

1) On page 7, strike line 27, and insert the following, "three, six, or nine months between the start of February 1 and end of November 31."

2) On page 11 strike in lines 25 and 25, strike "three months or six months between April 15 and November 1 each year" and after "for" insert "three, six, or nine months between the start of February 1 and end of November 31." Seconded. DEFEATED on voice vote.

Alderman Huntley moved to reconsider Amendment #3. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Huntley moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

New Amendment #3:

On page 7, in line 26, after the word "for" strike "either three months or six months between April 15 and November 1 each year and insert " up to 9 months from January 31 to December 13 and the months do not need to be continuous but need to be specified."

and

On page 11, in line 24, after the word "for" strike "either three months or six months between April 15 and November 1 each year and insert " up to 9 months from January 31 to December 13 and the months do not need to be continuous but need to be specified.". Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Aldерwoman O'Neill moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #4:

On Page 4, strike lines 13 through 21, and insert the following:

"a. Generally. Outdoor dining is permitted from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, unless further restricted by the establishment's liquor license or expanded pursuant to section b below.

b. Exceptions.

i. Market House Plaza. Outdoor dining is permitted from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week, in the following locations:

a) Streets and sidewalks adjacent to Annapolis Market House at 25 Market Space;

b) Pinkney Street, from 25 Market Space to 12 Market Space; and

c) Dock Street, from Market Space to Susan Campbell Park; and

ii. Other Outdoor Dining Venues.

Upon approval of the required special exception, the Board of Appeals may permit outdoor dining venues to operate until 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday, as well as Sundays when the following holiday weekends fall on a Sunday or Monday:

- 1) New Year's Day;
- 2) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- 3) President's Day;
- 4) Maryland Day;
- 5) Easter;
- 6) Memorial Day;
- 7) Juneteenth;
- 8) Independence Day;
- 9) Labor Day;
- 10) Veterans Day;
- 11) Thanksgiving; and
- 12) Christmas." Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Gay requested that the record reflect his abstention from voting on Amendment #4.

Alderman Huntley moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #5:

On Page 10, line 25, strike the comma after insert or
Line 26, strike "or allow consumption of"; and
Lines 30 and 32, strike "30 minutes before". Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Gay requested that the record reflect his abstention from voting on Amendment #5.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #6:

On page 8, lines 10 and 11, strike "Fees in lieu of off-street parking requirements must be paid with the original permit application and the request for a permit renewal."; reinsert that subparagraph as a new "a."; insert in a separate paragraph, "b." followed by "Fees shall be assessed for each month allocated in the permit, but may be paid annually."; and "c. The fee criteria is set by annual resolution of the City Council in the Fees Schedule." Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Huntley moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #7:

To strike "Fleet Street" and Replace it with "Main Street". Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Huntley moved to amend O-10-24 as follows:

Amendment #8:

On page 4, in line 18 strike "Streets and sidewalks contiguous to Annapolis Market House (25 Market Space); ii. Pinkney Street, from 25 Market Space to 12 Market Space;" and REPLACE with " The Streets between Main Street and Pinkney Street and Pinkney Street and Randall Street". Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderwoman O'Neill moved to adopt O-10-24 as amended on second reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-10-24 on third reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

O-23-24

Parking and Towing Regulations - For the purpose of eliminating the requirement that towing companies be within one mile of the City; allowing City contractors to oversee towing; and generally updating parking and towing regulations in Titles 7 and 12.

Sponsors: Schandelmeier, Pindell Charles and Huntley

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-23-24 on second reader. Seconded.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-23-24 as follows:

Amendment #1:

On page 3, in line 15, strike "reasonably convenient to and"; in Line 16, unstrike "within one mile of"; and strike the comma.

On page 4, strike lines 19 through 25 and after subparagraph 1, insert subparagraph 2 and the following:

"2. The City Manager through the Police Department or Department of Transportation is hereby authorized to utilize, on a rotating basis, city-licensed towing services beyond a one-mile radius of the City but which are otherwise reasonably convenient to the city limits, after first determining that city-based services are unavailable."
Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Gay moved to adopt O-23-24 as amended on second reader.
Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-23-24 on third reader.
Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Regina C. Watkins-Eldridge, MMC
City Clerk