

**FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ARLINGTON COUNTY TECH COMMISSION (ITAC)**

February 26, 2025

The **TECH COMMISSION** convened its meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

The meeting was hybrid with the following Commissioners in attendance:

John Burke
James Smith
Jonathan Adelstein
Biran Zhang
Prescott Burden
Gary Thayer
Frank Jazzo
Michael Cornfield
Laura Gross

Staff members in attendance:

Holly Hartel, DTS
Tracey Jewell, DTS

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- **Meeting Minutes:** John apologized for not sending the January minutes out for review ahead of the meeting and mentioned those would be approved next month.
- **Chair's Update:**
 - John reminded the commissioners that although there is a lot going on in the world right now and in the news, the purpose of the Commission is to advise the County Board on policy, and he asked the commissioners to remain focused on that purpose.
- **Budget Recommendations:** John discussed the budget recommendations for the year, mentioning a draft based on last year's letter with a few minor changes - some administrative updates and the removal of the Arlington Independent Media item.
 - **Audit Briefing:** John noted that the audit on Arlington Independent Media has been made public, and they will request a briefing on it at a future date.
 - **Budget Shortfall:** John highlighted the difficult budget situation with a projected shortfall, like last year, and the need for recommendations on efficiencies and critical priorities.
 - **Cybersecurity Priority:** John mentioned the issue raised during the cybersecurity briefing on post-quantum cryptography and suggested it as a potential CIP and operational priority to be raised during the budget work session.
 - **Review of Priorities:** John shared the draft of the budget priorities letter to the Board and went around the room to each commissioner to see if there were any changes. The commissioners all agreed with the content of the letter and proposed no changes.
 - **Budget Adjustments:** Holly confirmed that there have been some adjustments to the budget and those can be seen in the Manager's budget presentation. Holly then shared the link to that presentation on the web.

- **Strategic Priorities:** John emphasized the need for strategic priorities to guide budget decisions, especially given the constraints and the need for clear policy planning documents. He also talked about the need for transparency around technology spending, noting that a significant portion of IT spend is outside the Department of Technology Services.
- **Legislative Update:** Frank provided a legislative update.
 - **Data Centers Legislation:** Frank mentioned that only a few bills remain alive in the General Assembly to regulate data centers, focusing on noise and environmental impacts, and fair cost allocation by utilities.
 - **Federal Regulations:** Frank discussed the executive order giving the president control over independent federal agencies, including the FCC, and its potential litigation.
 - **State Regulations:** Frank highlighted state regulations inspired by New York's law requiring ISPs to offer low-cost broadband services, and the potential for similar bills in other states.
 - **Public Safety Communications:** Frank mentioned T-Mobile's deal with New York City to be the sole public safety wireless communications provider, competing with AT&T and Verizon.
- **DTS Update:** Holly encouraged everyone to listen to the budget-focused DTS update tomorrow at 1:00 PM, where they will discuss operating and CIP matters.
- **Close:** John mentioned that future meetings would include topics such as the performance parking pilot, the county's AI strategy, and a cybersecurity update from Connie Utah. He requested input on specific questions and topics to address in these meetings.
 - John asked for a motion to adjourn that was moved and seconded.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

No formal actions/votes were taken.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.