

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto, Wojahn, Catlin, Stullich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook; Student Liaison Dan Hartinger.

ABSENT: Councilmember Perry.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Steve Groh, Director of Finance.

A quorum being present, Mayor Brayman called the Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Councilmember Catlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 3 Special Session and the March 10 Regular Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Wojahn announced there would be a spring clean up and planting on April 18 for Earth Day beginning at 9:00 a.m. in north College Park.

Councilmember Stullich announced that the Old Town College Park Citizens Association would meet on Tuesday, March 31 at 8:00 p.m. at the Old Parish House.

Acknowledgement of Dignitaries: Mayor Brayman acknowledged Larry Bleau, President of the North College Park Citizens Association; and Jonah Schumann, Gazette reporter, whose last meeting covering the City is tonight. Two Prince George's County Police "Community Response" Officers, Officer Taylor and Officer Rich, were also present.

Acknowledgement Of Newly Appointed Board And Committee Members: None.

Proclamations: Mayor Brayman read the Proclamation for "National Student Employment Week" into the record.

Amendments To The Agenda: None.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro told the Council that the budget will be available to the public and on the web site on Tuesday 3/31. The Public Works yard will be open every Saturday in April from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for April Clean-up month. Shred Day is scheduled for April 18. There will be no Council meeting next Tuesday, March 31, as it is the 5th Tuesday of the month.

Student Liaison Comments: Mr. Hartinger informed the Council that the process to select the new Student Liaison is underway.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:

Officer Taylor, Community Response Team officer, Prince George's County Police:

Introduced herself and Officer Rich to the Council. They are the new community oriented police officers from District 1.

Larry Bleau, 4901 Niagara Road, President, North College Park Citizens Association:

Mr. Bleau re-capped the NCPCA March meeting: They heard a presentation from WSSC on an upcoming water main repair project; voted to support the City's application for a grant for lighting on Lackawanna Street; voted to support HB 27 a bill to de-fund the Inter County Connector; and discussed ways to improve the NCPCA. The next meeting will be held on April 23.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Mary Cook and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to adopt the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- 09-G-32 Approval Of Spring And Summer Field Use Requests By The College Park Boys And Girls Club For The Calvert Hills Playground Field And Duvall Field, And Request For Use Of The Concession Stand Through July 2009**
- 09-G-33 Approval Of A Spring Field Use Request By The Maryland Stingers Women's Rugby Club For Duvall Field**
- 09-G-34 Approval of a Letter to Prince George's County Police Chief Roberto Hylton Requesting That The City Be Redistricted Entirely In Police District 1**

The motion passed 7-0-0.

Action Items:

- 09-O-01 Adoption Of Ordinance 09-O-01, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 175 "Taxation" To Add Article III, "Homeowners' Property Tax Credit", Section 175-4, "Supplement To State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit" To Enact A Supplement Of 15% To The State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit For Homeowners In The City**

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Molinatto to adopt Ordinance 09-O-01, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 175 "Taxation" To Add Article III, "Homeowners' Property Tax Credit", Section 175-4, "Supplement To State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit" To Enact A Supplement Of 15% To The State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit For Homeowners In The City.

Councilmember Catlin explained this Ordinance would supplement the State's homeowners' property tax credit program and would benefit low and moderate income residents. There is an annual application process with a filing deadline of September 1 each year. The amount of the credit is determined on a sliding scale: the tax credit diminishes as the person's income increases. The City's supplement is 15% for residents, and the State will administer the program.

Mayor Brayman stated there would be no public comment taken at this time because of the earlier Public Hearing.

Councilmember Catlin estimated that 150-200 people may be eligible to apply for the tax credit, and the program would help people with an income of up to about \$60,000 per year. The City estimates it may cost about \$30,000 in the first year.

Mayor Brayman clarified the tax credit only benefits owner-occupied, taxpaying residents. Rental property owners are not eligible.

Councilmember Wojahn supports this proposal especially in these hard economic times because it should help people stay in their homes and in our City. We don't want to have more vacant properties.

The motion passed 7-0-0.

09-G-35 Appointments To Boards And Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to reappoint Blaine Davis to the Veterans Memorial Improvement Committee, Doris Davis to the Veterans Memorial Improvement Committee, and Joan Sicher to the Education Advisory Committee. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Mary Cook announced the Committee for a Better Environment will be partnering with the Al-Huda Community and residents of North College Park on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the REI Shopping Center for a spring clean up. It was mentioned that the University's Greek community through the Pan Hellenic Association and Intra Fraternity Council has been helpful in coordinating this event.

Comments From The Audience:

Jonah Schumann, Gazette Reporter: Announced this is his final meeting working for the Gazette covering the City and discussed his future plans.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to adjourn the Regular Meeting and to reconvene in Executive Session. The motion passed 7-0-0, and Mayor Brayman adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date Approved

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, at 7:12 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to enter into an Executive Session, citing the following authority:

C: Consider the acquisition or sale of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to such acquisition or sale;

N: Before a contract is awarded, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Present: Mayor Brayman, Councilmembers Molinatto (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Wojahn, Catlin, Stullich, Hampton and Mary Cook.

Absent: Councilmembers Jack Perry and Mark Cook.

Also Present: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

Topic Discussed: To discuss a negotiating strategy and the sale or lease of City property regarding the downtown redevelopment plan.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adjourn the Executive Session. Mayor Brayman adjourned the Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. by a vote of 6-0-0.

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, at 8:38 p.m. on March 24, 2009, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to enter into an Executive Session, citing the following authority:

C: Consider the acquisition or sale of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to such acquisition or sale;

G: Consult With Counsel

N: Before a contract is awarded, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy.

The motion passed 7-0-0.

Present: Mayor Brayman, Councilmembers Molinatto, Wojahn, Catlin, Stullich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook. Student Liaison Dan Hartinger.

Absent: Councilmember Jack Perry.

Also Present: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

Topics Discussed:

- 1) To discuss a negotiating strategy and the sale or lease of City property regarding the downtown redevelopment plan.
- 2) To discuss a negotiating strategy and the sale or lease of City property regarding a proposal for use of the Calvert Road school.
- 3) To consult with counsel regarding a County Use and Occupancy Permit issue in College Park.
- 4) To discuss a negotiating strategy and the sale or lease of City property regarding a possible tenant for the Downtown Parking Garage.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to adjourn the Executive Session. Mayor Brayman adjourned the Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.
