

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, April 9, 2013
7:15 p.m. – 7:21 p.m.

13-CR-01:

A Charter Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Article XI, § C11-6 “Special Taxing Districts” To Authorize A Special Taxing District To Finance The Capital And Operating Costs To Enhance Police, Fire Protection And Rescue Services

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Catlin, Dennis, Stulich, Day, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Josh Ratner, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the public hearing on Charter Amendment 13-CR-01 at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Ferguson provided an overview: This is a Charter Resolution to add one item in the authority for Special Taxing Districts. The City already has the right in the City Charter to create Special Taxing Districts. Since then, the state has added the purposes of “police, fire protection and rescue services” to the list of allowed purposes for a Special Taxing District. This Charter Amendment is a housekeeping matter that allows the City’s Charter to be updated to conform to state law.

Comments from the audience:

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: He requested Council to vote against this change. The bill does not explain what “enhance” means. There should be a demonstrated need by those people who would be taxed before this is done. It should be voted on by the property owners that would be required to pay the tax – not the registered voters. This blanket authority gives too much power to the City. If this has anything to do with security cameras in the City, remember that the citizens who live in that area did not request the cameras. The grant paid to purchase the cameras but not to maintain them. If the need is to maintain those existing cameras, have the University of Maryland pay for them, or use speed camera revenue, or parking fine revenue.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Fellows closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC

Date Approved