

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, October 8, 2013
7:15 p.m. – 7:28 p.m.

13-CR-02

**A Charter Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland,
Amending Article III “Mayor And Council”, §C3-4, “Compensation” Of The City Charter To
Increase The Mayor’s Annual Salary To \$10,500.00 And Each Council Members’ Annual Salary
To \$7,000.00, Effective January 1, 2014.**

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Dennis

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Groh, Acting City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works.

Mayor Fellows opened the public hearing on Ordinance 13-CR-02 at 7:15 and invited public comment.

Mary Cook, 4705 Kiernan Road: She is opposed to the amount of this increase. She knows how much work they do and believes a 10% increase is reasonable. She thinks that in the future, council salary increases should be put to referendum.

Margaret Kane, 9520 48th Avenue: She is in support of this salary increase. There is very little competition at election time – maybe this would encourage people to run. Based on the hours they work and compared to comparable jurisdictions, this council is at the bottom of the pay scale. It is time to bring the salary up to a competitive level.

Tim Miller, 5119 Niagara Place: He objects to increased property taxes, 40% pay increases, and allowing employees to join the underfunded state pension system at a cost of \$1.5 million. No one in College Park has ever received a 40% pay increase – why should council be allowed to vote themselves this increase. The council is leading the city straight into bankruptcy.

Douglas Schontz: He is in favor of this resolution. The amount of engagement he receives from his Councilmembers here far surpasses what he has experienced in the other places he’s lived. The City is on good fiscal footing and is well managed. Please use this increase wisely and take steps to empower us as a community.

Jane Hopkins, 9209 48th Avenue: As the daughter of a former Mayor and Councilmember, she knows how many hours are involved in this job. Raising the salaries as proposed is not nearly enough for the time they put into the job. You are still not making nearly enough. Being a City with a University just adds more challenges.

There being no further comment, Mayor Fellows closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.