

MINUTES
Special Session of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, December 5, 2006
10:55 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

ABSENT: Councilmember Hampton.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

During the regularly scheduled Worksession of the College Park City Council on December 5, 2006, a motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to enter Special Session. The motion passed 4-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

Action Items:

06-G-140 Approval of a letter to Delegate Darryl A. Kelley in support of MC/PG 119-07 (McMansion Legislation)

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to send a letter to Chairman Kelley in support of MC/PG 119-07 relating to mansionization. The bill would provide a tool to municipalities to effectively and specifically manage the changes created in neighborhoods by people who expand their homes to sizes that don't conform to the character of the neighborhood.

Mayor Brayman commented that we just learned that a local public hearing on this bill is scheduled for next Monday, necessitating this Special Session to take a formal position.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Catlin commented on a new house being built on 48th Avenue in Berwyn that is very large. It is a three story house with 2400 square feet per floor and has gotten the attention of the neighbors.

Councilmember Perry requested a copy of the bill. There is not a copy available yet, but it will be circulated when it becomes available. Councilmember Perry will not support this letter; he doesn't agree with this kind of interference by City government. He commented that houses like this are already being built.

Councilmember Krouse agrees that it is difficult to define an “oversize” house, but believes it is appropriate for the City to weigh-in on these projects.

Mayor Brayman stated this bill would not necessarily mean that the City would say “no” to anything. The Council would be a part of crafting what the message to potential builders would be. With a review process, it might be possible for neighbors to know what type of building is going in.

Councilmember Perry called for the vote. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Brayman believes it is prudent to establish a process for City neighborhoods to react and possibly comment on these types of buildings.

The motion carried 4-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to adjourn from Special Session. The motion carried 5-0-0 and the Special Session was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk