

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 14, 2006
8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Olson, Fellows, and Hampton; Student Liaison Emily Guskin.

ABSENT: Councilmember Peña-Melnyk.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Bob Levan, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Supervisor.

Mayor Brayman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilmember Fellows led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Brayman announced that Councilmember Peña-Melnyk was absent because her daughter is sick.

Councilmember Perry moved to accept the Minutes from the January 24 Regular Meeting; seconded by Ms. Hampton. Councilmember Perry proposed changing the word "step" to "stand" on page 19, end of first sentence. Council approved the minutes with the amendment noted 7-0-0.

Councilmember Perry announced the BDCA will meet Thursday February 16 at 8:00 p.m. at Fealy Hall.

Mayor Brayman recognized Jerry Anzulovic in the audience.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Councilmember Perry proposed an addition to the Agenda: 06-G-23: Proposed No Parking on Pontiac Street from 48th Avenue to 49th Avenue.

Councilmember Krouse pulled 06-G-22 from the Consent Agenda.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Nagro gave an update of the APC's hearing of fire code violation appeals cases. Hearings are scheduled weekly through the end of March. He then gave an update on discussions between Public Services staff and certain property owners. Mr. Nagro then discussed the weekend snow storm, and trees and wires that were down as a result of the storm. There were 53 trees or large branches down across

roads and 25 areas where wires were down throughout the City. Public Works staff worked hard to clear roads and will be around to pick up the branches.

STUDENT LIAISON COMMENTS: Emily Guskin commented on the roundtable with the Center for Campus Fire Safety, the weekend basketball games, and on the upcoming Communiversy Clean Up.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mrs. Sarahan, Box E, College Park, MD 20741: Discussed the rat problem on Guilford Drive, the lack of street lights on Guilford Drive, and cars going the wrong way on Guilford Drive. Mr. Nagro explained that PEPCO will soon be installing new poles and lights on Guilford Drive.

Mr. Sarahan, Box E, College Park, MD 20741: Wished all the females in the audience a Happy Valentine's Day. He then commented on the pros and cons of facial hair.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Brayman recognized Amelia Murdoch, Acting Chairperson of the Tree and Landscape Board, and thanked her for her service to the City. Ms. Murdoch presented the new City plant list as a resource for gardeners, and recognized all the people who contributed to the effort. It is available for sale from the Planning Department for \$8.

Mayor Brayman commended Ms. Murdoch, her fellow Board members, and everyone else who contributed to the effort.

Councilmember Fellows thanked Ms. Murdoch for her service on this and other committees, and asked questions about a Tree Ordinance to protect old growth trees.

Councilmember Catlin said he was impressed with the thoroughness of the document, and opened a discussion about invasive plants.

Councilmember Krouse discussed English Ivy.

Mayor Brayman recognized Deidre Healy, president of the College Park Arts Exchange. Ms. Healy presented a mid-year report of CPAE activities. Attendance at 18 events was more than 1,100 people. Grants have been received from Councilmember Tom Dernoga, Prince George's Arts Council, Target, Kiwanis Club, and the Maryland State Humanities Council. She discussed CPAE's participation in the International Fall Festival, expansion of the Arts Drop-In Project, the growth of the College Park Youth Choir, and the establishment of the new College Park Youth Orchestra.

Ms. Healy then announced that she is stepping down from her role as President of the Arts Exchange. She introduced Eve Muller who will take over as President, and Melissa Sites, the new Program Director.

Mayor Brayman thanked Ms. Healy for her efforts and recognized the progress made by the Arts Exchange under her leadership.

Councilmember Olson thanked Ms. Healy for her leadership.

Councilmember Hampton thanked Ms. Healy for a job well done.

Councilmember Catlin thanked Ms. Healy and recognized the good attendance and wide audience at last night's event.

CONSENT AGENDA: Councilmember Perry moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Olson seconded. The Consent Agenda consists of:

06-G-12 Approval of a letter for the Mayor's signature to GSA regarding the City's Web Address

06-G-13 Approval of a letter for the Mayor's signature to request the County Executive to appoint Peggy Higgins to the County Commission for Children, Youth & Families (County's Local Management Board).

06-G-14 Approval of a letter to County Executive Jack Johnson regarding CTP 2006 Priority List.

06-G-15 Approval of a letter to SHA Administrator Neil J. Pedersen regarding directing University traffic to Kenilworth Avenue via additional signage.

06-G-21 Approval of a letter of support for HB 638 Residential Property - Municipalities - Authority to Establish Condominium Regimes and its Senate crossfiling of SB 544

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

06-G-16 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTED PERMIT PARKING ZONE TO INCLUDE LACKAWANNA STREET FROM 50TH AVENUE TO NARRAGANSETT PARKWAY (ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET); NARRAGANSETT PARKWAY FROM LACKAWANNA STREET TO 52ND AVENUE (ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE STREET); AND 52ND AVENUE FROM KENESAW STREET TO NARRAGANSETT PARKWAY (ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET).

Councilman Krouse moved to establish a new Residential Restricted Parking Zone in the East Hollywood neighborhood. Councilmember Milligan seconded.

Councilmember Krouse discussed the parking survey, the survey results, the petition, and Staff observations that led to this proposal. He reviewed the proposed new Residential Restricted Parking Zone.

Mayor Brayman explained that because a Public Hearing was held earlier in the evening on this item, no further public comments were heard.

Councilmember Milligan discussed his own observations of the area where the new restricted parking zone is recommended.

Councilmember Perry asked Staff how this new zone might impact surrounding areas by pushing traffic out to those streets, and about the types of stickers that are being used.

Mayor Brayman stated that an overall discussion of parking in neighborhoods throughout the City might be in order.

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

Councilmember Krouse asked about the timing of the project. Mr. Miller stated it would likely be completed in 3-4 weeks, depending on the signage. Notices will be mailed to residents by week's end.

06-G-17 APPROVAL OF A DRIVEWAY VARIANCE AT 8102 ASH AVENUE:

Councilmember Perry moved to grant a Driveway Apron Variance for a doublewide driveway apron at 8102 Ash Avenue. Councilmember Catlin seconded.

Councilmember Perry stated the owner of the property at 8102 Ash Avenue, submitted a request for a non-standard driveway apron. Staff reviewed the request based on the City's Concrete Maintenance policy - "Second Driveway Curb Cuts and Non-Standard Driveway Aprons" and recommends that the owner be granted a Driveway Apron Variance for a doublewide Driveway Apron. Furthermore, the owner agrees to enter into a Declaration of Covenant for this property.

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

06-G-19 APPROVAL OF CITY LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

Councilmember Catlin moved to voice no objection to the renewal of the alcoholic beverage licenses held by City establishments for the 2006-2007 year. Councilmember Fellows seconded.

Councilmember Catlin reviewed the Board of License Commissioners timetable for renewals, the number of licenses held by City businesses, and discussed the Staff report.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Perry commented that there is a March 1 deadline to voice objections, although different classes of licenses have different expiration dates.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0-1 WITH COUNCILMEMBER OLSON ABSTAINING.

06-G-22 APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HB 659 – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK – CAMPUS TRAFFIC STUDY

Councilmember Krouse moved that this letter be sent, with the changes noted, per his discussions with Councilmember Peña-Melnyk. Councilmember Milligan seconded. Councilmember Krouse read the revised letter.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Perry asked if this had anything to do with polling places on campus? The answer was no, they were two different matters.

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

06-G-23 INSTALLATION OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF PONTIAC STREET BETWEEN 48TH AND 49TH AVENUE

Councilmember Perry moved that the City Manager install No Parking signs on the North side of Pontiac Street from 48th Avenue to 49th Avenue. Councilmember Catlin seconded.

Councilmember Perry discussed the problems with this block: it is not a wide street, and when cars are parked on both sides, vehicles can not always get up or down the street. This has generated a high level of concern in the neighborhood. He believes the parking is overflow from University View. He discussed the impact this is having on the neighborhood. There is a safety concern because emergency response vehicles may not be able to pass by. The community is probably going to start corresponding with the developers of University View because of the impact their overflow cars are having on the neighborhood.

Emily Guskin spoke for a friend of hers who lives on Berwyn House Road and does not have adequate parking there, so often has to park on Pontiac Street. Her friend is opposed to permitted parking on that block. Councilmember Perry discussed parking shortages on Berwyn House Road in the Lakeland neighborhood.

Mayor Brayman suggested the Council may need to take a holistic look at parking issues in this area.

Councilmember Catlin asked Staff to talk to the University of Maryland about parking spaces for University View residents that were supposed to be made available on campus. Was that ever done, and are those spaces being adequately utilized? He also wondered if commuter students are taking advantage of the bridge that was opened behind University View.

Ms. Guskin responded to Councilmember Catlin's question about on-campus parking for University View students. She discussed the location and cost of those spaces.

Councilmember Fellows commented this is a complicated question and asked if there was a petition process and if it should go to a Worksession?

Mayor Brayman clarified this motion does not propose permit parking, just having "No Parking" on one side of the street to open it up for safety reasons.

The City Manager commented that City Engineer Steve Halpern agrees with this approach. Parking Enforcement Supervisor Jim Miller commented that he has seen the problems noted on this block and expressed his support for this motion for safety reasons.

Councilmember Fellows requested that the issue of parking in this area be put on a future Worksession.

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Mayor Brayman nominated Emily Guskin as a temporary commissioner to the APC. Councilmember Catlin nominated Stacey Baca to the Education Advisory Committee. Councilmember Hampton moved both nominations, Councilmember Olson seconded.

THE MOTION PASSED 7-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Krouse thanked his colleagues for their support on the Permit Parking Zone and for their indulgence on the revisions to the letter.

Councilmember Catlin thanked staff for their good work on clearing the hiker biker trail of the snow.

Councilmember Perry gave kudos to the Public Works staff for their good job clearing the snow. There is a proposal to put a pawn shop at the old sign shop on Greenbelt Road near the entrance to the Washington Post. This is generating some emotion in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Olson discussed the right of way issue in Calvert Hills and requested this be put on a future Worksession. Mayor Brayman requested an accurate diagram and

wants to ensure that every adjoining property owner has been contacted. Councilmember Perry wants to know how many square feet it is altogether. Councilmember Olson also expressed his thanks to staff on snow removal and removal of downed trees. Wants to make sure Code Enforcement is monitoring the sidewalk on Calvert Road, especially around the Post Office.

Councilmember Fellows requested an addition to the next Worksession about extending the EIS comment period on the ICC. He also requested discussion of signature authority for the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty at the next Worksession.

Student Liaison Guskin cautioned everyone about being careful walking and driving on the ice.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Perry moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilmember Olson seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk