

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**  
**8:10 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Olson, Fellows, Hampton and Peña-Melnyk; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bob Levan, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Dorothy Friedman, Planning Department Staff.

Mayor Brayman opened by introducing Erica Harman, the winner of the MML "If I Were Mayor" Contest from Prince George's County. Ms. Harman opened the meeting.

Councilmember Fellows led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to adopt the minutes of the March 28, 2006 Regular Meeting, the May 2, 2006 Special Session, the May 9 Public Hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate, and the May 9 Public Hearing on the FY 2007 Budget Ordinance. There were no amendments to the minutes. The minutes were adopted 8-0-0.

**Announcements:**

Councilmember Milligan announced that Rachel Milligan was selected by the Pacific Coast Football Rugby Union to play on their travel team in the under-23 All-Star Championships to be held in Boulder, Colorado in June.

Councilmember Olson announced the Historic Preservation Commission hearing will be held on Thursday June 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Upper Marlboro for the Old Town College Park proposed Historic District.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk announced that College Park Woods Swim Club memberships are now available and are open to everyone. She further stated that the West College Park Neighborhood Watch needs more block captains.

**Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries:** Mayor Brayman introduced Miss College Park, Vicki Kalisinsky, who spoke about her pursuits during her tenure thus far. Her platform is "LD: Learning Disabled Does Not Mean Less Desirable."

Mayor Brayman also introduced Angie Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Miss College Park Scholarship Pageant, and Lisa and Rick Harman, Erica's parents.

**Awards:** None

**Amendments To The Agenda:** None

**City Manager's Report:** Mr. Nagro announced the success of the e-cycling event held at Public Works (for electronics recycling); the 4-Cities Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 p.m. at New Carrollton City Hall; the College Park Volunteer Fire Department won the \$10,000 kitchen remodeling contest; the Veteran's Memorial Improvement Committee will have their Veteran's observance on Monday, Memorial Day, at 11:00 a.m.

**Student Liaison Comments:** Jesse Blitzstein said he enjoyed the Student Liaison Dinner last week, and commented that finals are now over.

**Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:**

**Larry McNabb, 5107 Iroquois Street:** Mr. McNabb commented that his mother is doing better after her surgery and thanks everyone for their well wishes.

**Presentations:** Mayor Brayman invited Erica Harman to join him at the podium. Ms. Harman is the District 9 winner of the MML, "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." Essay Contest, and is a fourth grade student at Holy Redeemer School in College Park. Ms. Harman read her winning essay. Mayor Brayman presented her with an award from the City.

**Consent Agenda:** None.

**8:30 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 06-O-04:**

An Emergency Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Amending Chapter 15 §15-40 "Composition" To Provide That The Rent Stabilization Board Shall Consist Of Not Less Than Five Members Nor More Than Seven Members; That Members Shall Be Paid \$50.00 Per Meeting And Amending §15-50 "Quorum" To Provide That Four Members Shall Constitute A Quorum For The Board.

Mr. Levan made remarks about this Emergency Ordinance. The payment to Board members of \$50 per meeting is included in the FY'07 Proposed Budget. This Ordinance amends the number of members and the number that constitutes a quorum.

Comments from the Audience on this item:

**John Hawvermale, Excalibur Lane, Sandy Spring:** Asked what is the emergency that requires an Emergency Ordinance? Mayor Brayman replied the City has had difficulty

filling the positions and the Rent Stabilization Board has been unable to meet. Mr. Hawvermale pointed out that a quorum of four might yield a tie vote. It was later clarified that under Roberts Rules of Order, a tie vote would result in a motion to fail.

**James Kane, 4206 Knox Road:** Had questions about the composition of the Board. Suggests the City Attorneys limit their compensation to \$50 per meeting.

There were no further comments and the Public Hearing was closed at 8:36 p.m.

06-O-04      An Emergency Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Amending Chapter 15 §15-40 “Composition” To Provide That The Rent Stabilization Board Shall Consist Of Not Less Than Five Members Nor More Than Seven Members; That Members Shall Be Paid \$50.00 Per Meeting And Amending §15-50 “Quorum” To Provide That Four Members Shall Constitute A Quorum For The Board.

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Perry to adopt Emergency Ordinance 06-O-04. Councilmember Catlin made comments on the proposed ordinance.

Due to the earlier Public Hearing, there were no comments taken from the audience on this proposed ordinance. There were no additional comments from the Council.

The motion carried 8-0-0.

06-O-02      An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2007 Operating and Capital Budget Of The City of College Park, Maryland.

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Olson to adopt Ordinance 06-O-02. Councilmember Krouse made comments on the FY '07 budget, and said he is very satisfied with the budget.

Mayor Brayman said there will be no public comment on the budget tonight because a Public Hearing was held on May 9 and there have not been any amendments since that time.

Councilmember Olson said he will support this budget, and commented on the funding provided for public safety and for developing form-based codes for the Route 1 corridor.

Councilmember Catlin commented that this budget includes a 1.4¢ increase in the property tax rate, has added over \$300,000 to the contract police budget, and adds code enforcement personnel.

Councilmember Milligan said this was one of the easiest budget processes we have had, and there was agreement that code enforcement and public safety should be priorities. Residents in North College Park have appreciated the more noticeable police presence.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk thanked her colleagues, and was pleased that this budget includes funding to open up the Shuttle UM to city residents.

Councilmember Perry will not support this budget. He commented on the hiring of off-duty Prince George's County police officers for the Contract program. He does not believe we are getting the policing services we are paying for. He stated that we are unique by having the University of Maryland here and should be recognized as such. He disagrees with the property tax increase. Believes there is pork in this budget, and cited babysitting services. Asked if this motion automatically includes the pavement management plan? The answer was yes.

Councilmember Fellows stated the Council was urged by the public to increase funding for public safety, and highlighted the money included for the police study. Regarding the babysitting funding, we should be a family-friendly city and thinks having this money included encourages people to run for office. He is happy to support this budget.

Councilmember Catlin noted that the total money in the budget for babysitting is \$1,200. Mr. Groh stated that no one has submitted a reimbursement request for these funds to date.

Councilmember Milligan commented on the amount of money the Councilmembers are paid per meeting. He believes it will help attract good people to run for Council by addressing specific needs such as babysitting.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk believes the babysitting money is a good idea. Councilmembers are paid \$4,400 per year – they don't do it for the money. The babysitting money is there for people who need it. We should aspire to have a diverse Council with women with families.

Mayor Brayman praised the City Manager, Joe Nagro, for his leadership on steering this budget process. He understands the Council, the City, and took into account the Wish List, and staff concerns. Mr. Nagro did the best job he's ever seen with this budget. The rest of the Council echoed these sentiments.

The FY 2007 Budget Ordinance passed 7-1-0, with Councilmember Perry opposing.

06-G-78          Recommend Denial Of Special Exception 4554 (Best Pawn) at 5051  
Greenbelt Road

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to

recommend denial of Special Exception SE-4554 for Best Pawn at 5051 Greenbelt Road, and request the Prince George's Planning Board to hold a Public Hearing. In the event SE 4554 is approved, there are several conditions recommended to be imposed upon the application.

Councilmember Perry made comments on the application, discussed the staff reports, and stated that the community is opposed to this application.

Joanna Smith from Gibbs & Haller was representing the applicant. She made a statement on behalf of Best Pawn. She stated the client will accept certain conditions if the Special Exception is approved which should alleviate the public's concerns.

Councilmember Krouse raised concerns about the storage of vehicles on the property.

Councilmember Fellows asked Ms. Smith if the applicant would accept the three conditions listed in the motion. She said yes. Councilmember Fellows asked if any of their other locations sold firearms; Ms. Ellie Pirella answered no. He further asked if they use the word "Pawn" in their other store names; Ms. Pirella answered yes.

Mayor Brayman detailed various aspects of the community's opposition.

Comments from the audience:

**Heather Iliff, President of the Berwyn District Civic Association:** The BDCA voted unanimously to stand in opposition to this application.

Councilmember Olson supports the motion to deny this Special Exception. We do not need to add to the policing issues in the City. A pawn shop is not the type of quality redevelopment we are seeking in College Park.

Councilmember Krouse proposed an amendment to Condition #1 of the motion:

"The Pawnshop shall not accept or sell guns or other firearms or weapons, such as knives or explosives, or allow overnight storage of vehicles on the subject property."

The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Catlin. There were no comments from the audience on the amendment. The amendment passed 8-0-0.

On the main motion, as amended:

Councilmember Catlin commented on the negative image that certain businesses can have on a community, and stated that studies show that certain businesses are avoided by people, including pawn shops.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk stated that she has witnessed first-hand how pawnshops bring crime to a community. She wholeheartedly opposes this application. We are trying to revitalize College Park is this is not a quality business.

Councilmember Fellows commented that the Town of Berwyn Heights also opposes this application, and hopes the Special Exception is denied by the County.

Mayor Brayman is concerned that the inclusion of conditions in our staff report dilutes the strength of our opposition, and emphasized that the City is strenuously and vehemently opposed. He would prefer that the application be withdrawn.

The motion to deny the Special Exception, as amended, passed 8-0-0.

#### 06-G-79 Appointments To Boards And Committees:

Robert Day was nominated to fill an unexpired term on the APC until December 2006. The motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Perry. The motion passed 8-0-0.

#### **Council Comments:**

Councilmember Krouse said he has not yet prepared the letter for the Four Cities meeting about the telecommunications monopole. He will take the letter to the Four Cities meeting then bring it back to the Council for approval.

Councilmember Catlin talked about the weeding endeavor with the City Horticulturist on the Trolley Trail in Berwyn. Berwyn Road improvements are continuing and will result in a much nicer commercial district.

Councilmember Perry asked what to do with electronics trash now that the e-cycling event is over? Mr. Stumpff recommended that individuals contact e-cycling companies on their own. He can supply a list of those companies. He will explore the possibility of storing electronics at Public Works until the next e-cycling event. Mr. Perry further asked about recycling of fluorescent light tubes. Those are not being recycled for homeowners at this time.

Councilmember Perry asked about trash being picked up on Sunday morning in the Knox Box area.

Mayor Brayman complimented Erica Harman on her performance earlier in the evening.

Jesse Blitzstein asked if the Council wanted his assistance in finding students to fill any Board or Committee vacancies. The Clerk will provide him a list of vacancies and he can discuss his recommendations with the Council.

**Comments From The Audience:**

**Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive:** Commented that the hearing notice signs for the June 1 Historic Preservation District hearing are being taken down, and applauded City staff for their efforts in keeping them properly posted. He does not think it is right for people who are opposed to the Historic District to remove the signs.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk