

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Olson (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), Fellows, and Hampton; Amanda Tuma, Deputy Student Liaison.

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; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Melanie Clark, Department of Youth and Family Services.

Councilmember Catlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements:

Councilmember Perry announced that the Berwyn District Civic Association will meet on Thursday, October 19, at 8:00 p.m. at Fealy Hall.

Councilmember Catlin announced that the Lakeland Civic Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Krouse announced that the North College Park Citizens Association will meet this Thursday at 7:30 at Davis Hall.

Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries: Morgan Gale, President, Calvert Hills Citizens Association; Fred Welsh, Chief, College Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Awards: None

Amendments To The Agenda: Add item 06-G-130, Letter to Prince George's County Fire Chief Lawrence Sedgwick.

Remove item 06-G-126, Approval, With Conditions, Of Detailed Site Plan for NOAA Center For Weather And Climate Prediction. This item will be brought back next week in Special Session.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro made the following announcements: Gorgeous Prince George's Day is Saturday October 14. The Four Cities Meeting has been

rescheduled for November 30. The 26th Annual Terp Trot 5K race will be held this Sunday October 15. The Route 1 downtown lighting project (between Guilford and Hartwick) began yesterday. The West College Park Citizens Association is meeting Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at the College Park Woods Swim Club.

Mr. Nagro also reported that the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department announced cut backs in the career staff at several local stations including College Park, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This would mean that Branchville, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and College Park would not have career staff during those hours, resulting in a critical shortage to residents. An item has been added to tonight's agenda addressing this concern to Fire Chief Sedgwick.

Councilmember Perry asked about the level of luminosity of the new lights on Berwyn Road. Councilmember Catlin replied that the Berwyn Road lights have 100-watt bulbs, but could be reduced to 70 watt. Councilmember Perry also asked about the sewer problem at the Suburban Trust bank.

Councilmember Olson asked about the installation of the four new "blue light" phones in Old Town College Park. Calls will be answered by the University of Maryland Police; the phones use cell phone technology.

Student Liaison Comments: Amanda Tuma reported that 12 people joined together for the start of Communiversity Clean up last Sunday. They will meet at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:

Melanie Clark from Youth and Family Services reported on the upcoming City of College Park Family Summit, which will be held on Tuesday, October 24, from 9 – 4:30. Invitations have been sent out, and they have had a good response. The goals of the Summit are to identify child-focused issues affecting College Park families, develop a community action plan to identify gaps and address issues, and deepen relationships among community partners.

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: Asked about the notification process for the repaving project in Calvert Hills. Mr. Nagro replied that individual door hangers were left at those residences impacted.

Charles Sarahan, Box E: Discussed his upcoming 80th birthday, his 52nd anniversary, and the public image of the University of Maryland.

Consent Agenda: Councilmember Perry requested the following items be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to tonight's Action Items: 06-R-20, 06-R-21, 06-R-22. The Consent Agenda included:

- 06-R-18** **Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-08, 8903 34th Avenue, College Park, Maryland for a Waiver of the Residential Front Yard Parking Area Restrictions and Variances to the Minimum Front Yard Setback, the Maximum Allowable Lot Coverage, the Minimum Required Lot Area and the Minimum Required Lot Width at the Front Building Line to permit the applicants to Enlarge an Existing Driveway and to Validate Existing Conditions**
- 06-R-19** **Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-09, 4912 Edgewood Road, College Park, Maryland, for a Variance of the Minimum Side Yard Setback Requirement to Validate an Existing Carport**
- 06-G-124** **Field Use Request from Friends Community School for use of Calvert Field on October 21**

The Consent Agenda was adopted 7-0-0.

Action Items:

06-G-130: Letter to Prince George’s County Fire Chief Lawrence Sedgwick

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to send a letter to Chief Krouse regarding career-staffing levels at the College Park Volunteer Fire Department. Councilmember Krouse recommended revisions to the letter.

College Park Fire Chief Fred Welsh discussed the complex nature of station staffing levels and recommended further revisions to the City’s letter.

A motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Perry to postpone this item to the end of the meeting to give the parties time to work out the language. This motion passed 7-0-0.

After the parties consulted, a motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Olson to postpone consideration of this item to the October 17 meeting during a possible Special Session. This motion passed 7-0-0.

06-G-125: Approval of Rent Stabilization Board By-Laws And Rules Of Procedure

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to approve the By-Laws and Rules Of Procedure adopted last month by the Rent Stabilization Board.

Comments From The Audience:

Charles Sarahan, Box E: He is opposed to this item and believes the market should set the rental rates.

Mayor Brayman noted receipt of a letter from Timothy Maloney at Joseph, Greenwald and Laake relevant to this item, and asked it be entered into the record without comment.

The motion carried 7-0-0.

06-G-127: Authorize the City Manager To Issue An RFP (Request For Proposal) For Police Consulting Services

A motion was made by Councilmember Olson and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to authorize the City Manager to issue an RFP for police consulting services. Councilmember Olson noted that there was an advisory question on the November 2005 ballot asking “Should the next City Council consider options for increased city-wide policing which may include an estimated initial cost on average of \$40 per month (\$480/year) per household?” which passed 51% to 49%. Subsequently, the study was funded in the FY '07 budget, and is expected to identify options and costs to improve public safety in the City, up to and including a municipal police force. The goal of the RFP timetable is to have results available to Mayor and Council in time for FY '08 budget discussions.

Comments From The Audience:

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: There is great support for this study in the community and he applauds this action.

Councilmember Fellows said this has been discussed for about 10 years and he is happy that it is now moving forward.

Councilmember Perry asked if “no build” is an option that the study will evaluate. He also asked if the evaluation committee will be balanced like the results of the referendum question.

Mayor Brayman said he is pleased this is moving forward and wants to have good information resulting from this study to be considered at next year’s budget session.

The motion passed 6-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

06-G-128: Approval Of A Letter To County Executive Jack Johnson On The Maryland Department Of Transportation's Draft 2007-2012 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to send this letter with revisions (adding the "University of Maryland" after the "21st Delegation" in Paragraph 2). Ms. Schum commented on the phasing of the project.

There were no comments from the audience.

The motion carried 7-0-0.

06-R-20: Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-10, 4805 Nantucket Road, College Park, Maryland, for a Waiver of the Prohibition of Parking Spaces/Areas in the Front Yards of Dwellings, and Denying a Variance from the two foot (2') Rear Yard Setback Requirement for Accessory Structures

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adopt Resolution 06-R-20 approving the APC recommendation. Councilmember Perry stated he could not support this motion because it allowed parking in the front yard and denied a 2' rear yard setback. Councilmember Krouse had comments on the situation at this property.

The motion carried 5-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed; Councilmember Olson absent for the vote).

06-R-21: Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-11, 9306 48th Avenue, College Park, Maryland, for a Variance of the Maximum Allowable Lot Coverage in Order to Reconstruct a Rear Porch

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adopt Resolution 06-R-21 approving the APC recommendation. Councilmember Perry stated he could not support this motion because it would result in 54% lot coverage. Councilmember Krouse said he initially agreed with Councilmember Perry until he looked at the shape of the lot. He now believes the request is reasonable.

The motion carried 6-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

06-R-22: Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-12, 9707 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, Maryland, for a Variances to the Minimum Side Yard Setback Requirement and the Minimum Rear Yard Setback Requirement to Validate Existing Conditions

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adopt Resolution 06-R-22 approving the APC recommendation. Councilmember Perry stated he could not support this motion because the project is a “blivet” and doesn’t fit. There is too much concrete, too many sheds, and is in violation of the zoning ordinance. Councilmember Krouse made comments supporting the recommendation.

The motion carried 6-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

06-G-129 Appointments To Boards And Committees

Councilmember Krouse nominated District 1 resident Joseph Smith to the Tree and Landscape Board.

The motion carried 7-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Perry mentioned the photos in the article about College Park in the City Paper. He believes the camera at Public Works has decreased illegal dumping at the facility. The hillside next to the old Safeway has been cleared and he wants to thank and congratulate the responsible party.

Councilmember Olson asked for the women’s self defense training seminar that is budgeted to be scheduled soon.

Councilmember Hampton asked if there is anything the City can do about the Safeway at Adelphi and Riggs Road that is closing. Mr. Nagro stated that staff is trying to get information about this but has not received a response yet.

Mr. Nagro mentioned that the CTP meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at the Kenilworth Avenue office of the SHA. Councilmember Peña-Melnyk is planning to attend.

Mayor Brayman announced he is co-sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the International Rett Syndrome Association (IRSA).

Comments From The Audience:

Jerry Anzulovic, 4900 Ruatan Street: Commented on the new street lights on Berwyn Road. They are a little too bright, but he is appreciative of the illumination.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk