

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, January 9, 2007
8:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: None.

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; Steve Groh, Director of Finance

The meeting opened with the Pledge Of Allegiance led by Councilmember Krouse.

Minutes: The Minutes of the December 5, 2006 Special Session, the December 12, 2006 Public Hearing on Ordinance 06-O-08, the December 12, 2006 Public Hearing on Ordinance 06-O-09, and the December 12, 2006 Regular Meeting, were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to adopt the minutes. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Milligan stated that the 2004 Committee to explore options of a charter or lab school in College Park has been revitalized and met recently with the new Dean of the College of Education. Interest in the project has been expressed by Senator Rosapepe and County Councilmember Olson. School Board Member Heather Iliff will also be briefed on the Committee's efforts.

Councilmember Krouse announced that the North College Park Citizens Association will hold their January meeting on Thursday at 7:30 at Davis Hall.

Councilmember Catlin announced that the January meeting of the Lakeland Civic Association will be held Thursday at 7:30 at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Perry announced that he will be a candidate for the District 2 City Council seat in the City's November General Election.

Councilmember Fellows announced that the Calvert Hills Citizens Association will hold their general meeting on Thursday night in the Friends School basement at 7:30 p.m. They will present a Candidates' Forum for District 3 and District 4 candidates.

Councilmember Hampton announced that the 16th Annual College Park Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held on Saturday January 13 at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

She also reminded District 4 residents that the Special Election will be held on Tuesday January 16, from 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., and District 4 residents will vote at Davis Hall. The West College Park Citizens Association held their Candidates' Forum last Sunday.

Mayor Brayman noted that District 3 votes at City Hall on Tuesday from 11 – 9. The Board of Election Supervisors will count all the votes at City Hall after the polls close at 9:00 p.m.

Councilmember Perry reminded the audience that the City Council will not meet on the night of the Special Election; the meeting will be postponed to the following night.

Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries: None.

Acknowledgement of Newly Appointed Board and Committee Members: Mayor Brayman recognized Milton Grodsky, newly appointed member of the Airport Authority.

Awards: Mayor Brayman presented Certificates Of Appreciation for their dedicated service to the City of College Park to the following individuals:

- To Corey Harbison, for her involvement in the North College Park Citizens Association and in development issues in north College Park over the last five years.
- To Jeff Smith, for his service as Chairperson of the City's Recreation Board since 1999.
- To Fran Ropko, for his service on the Recreation Board over the last 10 years.
- To Kim Lugo, for her involvement with Neighborhood Watch and the Citizens Corps Council since 1998.

Amendments To The Agenda: None.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro announced that City offices will be closed on Monday for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and that trash pick-up will be delayed by one day. The annual vacuum leaf season is over; leaves must be placed in paper bags on regular trash day. The roadwork at Cherry Hill Road at US Route 1 is 95% complete: traffic lights are installed but not operational yet; striping has been completed; a median will be installed south of Cherry Hill Road. The annual Spencer Harris Safety Award Breakfast will be held Friday, January 26 at 8:00 a.m. at Public Works.

Student Liaison Comments: None.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:

Dave Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: WSSC posted “no-parking” signs as part of their water main work, but they leave the signs up even when they are not working. Can the City contact WSSC and ask them to remove the “no-parking” signs when they are not working.

Amelia Murdoch, 4600 Hartwick, National Museum of Language: She presented a book, “The Five Minute Linguist,” to thank the City for their support to the NML over the years.

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: Discussed the need for a crosswalk near the new Trolley Trail, announced the Calvert Hills meeting on Thursday evening, and thanked City staff for their help over the last several years. He thinks the staff does a tremendous job.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adopt the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- 07-R-01 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-2006-22, 8807 36th Avenue, College Park, Maryland For A Variance Of Six Feet (6’) From The Required Front Yard Depth Of Twenty-Five Feet (25’) To Construct A Front Porch**

- 07-R-03 Approval of Resolution No. 07-R-03, A Resolution Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Paying Tribute To Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The Consent Agenda was adopted by a vote of 6-0-0.

Action Items:

- 06-O-10 To Adopt An Emergency Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 125 “Housing Regulations”, Section 125-17 “Firesafety Laws” To Adopt By Reference The Fire Codes Of Prince George’s County And The National Fire Protection Association 101 Life Safety Code**

A motion was made by Councilman Milligan and seconded by Councilmember Perry to adopt Ordinance 06-O-10. Councilmember Milligan read the title and comments into the record. He urged Council's support.

A public hearing on this Ordinance was held earlier this evening, so no further public comment was taken.

Student Liaison Blitzstein applauded the Council for taking this action and believes it will benefit both the student population and the residents.

The motion carried 6-0-0. Because it is an Emergency Ordinance, it will become effectively immediately.

07-G-01 Authorize The City Manager To Sign A Consultant Agreement With Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc., In An Amount Not To Exceed \$40,000, For The Development Of A Preferred Design Alternate For The Lackawanna Streetscape

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Perry to authorize the City Manager to sign a consultant agreement with Rhodeside and Harwell, Inc., for the Lackawanna Streetscape project. He read the comments into the record.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Milligan supports this project; he is a regular Metro user and believes there is need for better lighting as well as aesthetic improvements.

Councilmember Catlin noted that houses within a few blocks of the Greenbelt Metro station have a higher land value on their recent tax assessment.

Councilmember Fellows thinks that this is a good step toward having the Greenbelt Metro station make a positive impact on the surrounding area and is very happy the City is doing this.

Mayor Brayman thinks this is an interesting project and he is glad it is going forward. He hopes the City will do more public projects that improve and are accepted by the neighborhood. He discussed the Planning Department's neighborhood planning initiative, and believes this is a win-win project. He hopes the City will engage the immediate property owners regarding lighting levels.

The motion carried 6-0-0.

07-O-01 Introduction Of A Bond Ordinance Authorizing And Enabling The City Council To Issue Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$9.3 Million To Finance The Construction Of A City Garage And Related Infrastructure

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Milligan to Introduce 07-O-01. Councilmember Fellows read the title and comments into the record. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

07-CR-01 A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of City Of College Park Passed Pursuant To The Authority Of Article XI-E Of The Constitution Of Maryland And Section 13 Of Article 23A Of The Annotated Code Of Maryland To Amend Subsection A Of Section C7-4 Of The Charter Of The City Of College Park In Order (A) To Allow The Private (Negotiated) Sale Of The City's General Obligation Bonds, (B) To Specify Or Provide For Certain Parameters By Which Any Sale Of The City's General Obligation Bonds By The Solicitation Of Competitive Bids At Public Sale Shall Be Conducted, (C) To Provide That The City's General Obligation Bonds May Be Sold At, Above Or Below Par Value And For Cash Or Other Valuable Consideration, And (D) To Provide That The City's General Obligation Bonds May Bear Interest At A Rate Or Rates That May Be Fixed Or Variable Or As May Be Determined Or Provided For By The Mayor And Council; Generally Relating To The Provisions Of Subsection A Of Section C7-4 Of The City Charter; And Providing The Procedures To Be Followed For The Effectiveness Of The Charter Amendments Adopted By This Resolution

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to Introduce 07-CR-01. Councilmember Perry read the title and comments into the record. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 7:15 p.m. in Council Chambers.

07-G-03 To Authorize The Award Of A Contract To Division One To Serve As Project Manager To The City For The Downtown Redevelopment Project

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to award a contract to the team of Mark Owens as Division One and Rick Slosson DBA Turtle Creek as Project Managers on behalf of the City in connection with the City's development agreement with Capstone Inc. The contract will be for an amount not to exceed \$499,200. Councilmember Catlin read the comments into the record.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Perry said that the City does not have the in-house staff to manage the downtown development project, so has to find experts that are capable of doing so. This team has everything the City needs. The Council feels comfortable that they will protect the interests of the City.

Mayor Brayman clarified that this contract is paid by hourly rate.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

07-G-04 Appointments To Boards And Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Hampton for the following appointments:

The new appointment of Renee Domogauer from District 3 to the Board of Election Supervisors; the reappointment of Joan Sicher to the Education Advisory Committee; the new appointment of Effie Baldwin to the Recreation Board; the reappointment of Robert Day to the Advisory Planning Commission; and the reappointment of Andrew Rose to the Advisory Planning Commission.

Mayor Brayman stated that if the University puts forward a nomination to the APC, Mr. Day will step aside. Councilmember Perry wants the City to continue to pursue a University appointment to the APC.

The motion carried 6-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Perry mentioned the COG grant of up to \$20,000 for a Transportation Land Use Connections Program and asked if the City is applying for it.

Councilmember Catlin thought there might be projects on Route 1 that would qualify for the program.

Councilmember Krouse thanked staff for replacing missing street signs. Missing signs should be reported to Public Works.

Councilmember Milligan asked for the following to be placed on a future Worksession: traffic control measures to encourage compliance with stop signs and speed limits in the neighborhoods.

Councilmember Fellows thanked Ms. Ferguson for her letter to County Council Chair Exum requesting clarification of the County's position on the issues that come forward while the City's Historic District designation is under appeal.

Councilmember Hampton asked the City to request an update on development plans at Route 1 and Route 410.

Mayor Brayman asked for the following to be placed on a future Worksession: Filing requirements for Campaign Finance Reports.

Mayor Brayman thinks the City needs to explore having a special public safety area, perhaps in conjunction with a special taxing district, in the downtown business district. He believes the late night businesses should contribute financially.

Comments From The Audience: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m. by a vote of 6-0-0. The Council will reconvene in Executive Session but will not return to Public session tonight.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk