

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, July 10, 2007 – 7:45 P.M.

Ordinance Number 07-O-06

Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 34 “Elections”, By Repealing And Reenacting §34-5 “Polling Places; Hours Of Voting”, §34-6 “Absentee Balloting”, §34-10 “Additional Provisions”, §34-15 “Campaign Finance Reports”, And §34-16 “Filing Of Reports As A Condition Of Qualification For Public Office” To Change The Hours During Which Polls Are Open During Elections, To Establish Requirements For The Issuance Of Absentee Ballots, To Provide That The Supervisors Of Elections Officially Report Election Results To The Mayor And Council At The First Regular Council Meeting After The Official Canvass Of Each Election, To Add To A Provision Concerning The Maintenance And Retention Of Election Records And Documents, To Provide For The Filing Of A Pre-Election Report Prior To Elections And Adjusting The Schedule For Filing Other Reports, To Provide For Filing Of Financial Reports By Political Committees Formed After The 14th Calendar Day Prior To The Election, And To Provide That Failure To File The Pre-Election Report Within Three Days Of The Due Date Will Result In Disqualification.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Stullich, Hampton and Cook. Student Liaison Danielle Kogut.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Brayman opened the Public Hearing at 7:48 p.m. Jack Robson, Chief Election Supervisor, gave an overview of Ordinance 07-O-06. Some of the proposed changes are administrative; others are more substantial. The change in the closing time of the polls from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is consistent with state law and gives the election supervisors an earlier start on counting the ballots; the former state code regarding absentee ballot voting requirements has been moved into the City code; the date of the official canvass has been clearly defined; provisions for keeping election records have been clearly defined; and an additional pre-election campaign finance report has been added eight days before the election with the stipulation that if a candidate does not file this report within three days of its due date, he or she is disqualified from running or serving.

Andrew Friedson, President, Student Government Association: Wants the criteria changed to allow University of Maryland students to vote by absentee ballot without having to meet any of the other criteria. Comparisons were made of various scenarios that would prevent a student or non-student from voting at the polls.

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: Thinks the campaign finance reports are very important and believes the additional pre-election report is a good idea.

Mr. Robson reviewed the process for voting by absentee ballot, and mentioned an earlier study conducted by the Board of Election Supervisors about the feasibility of establishing a polling place on campus, which determined that the Shuttle UM serves both of the existing City polling sites.

There being no further public comment, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:12 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk