

MINUTES
Special Session of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
8:15 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Stulich, Hampton.

ABSENT: Councilmember Cook and Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Bob Levan, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant To The City Manager; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Jeannie Ripley, Code Enforcement Manager; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Carole Sheringham, Director of Personnel; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Manager; Dorothy Friedman, Planner.

During the regularly scheduled Worksession of the College Park City Council on March 20, 2007, a motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to enter Special Session. The motion passed 6-0-0 (Milligan out of the Chamber).

Action Items:

07-G-34 Reconsideration Of The City's Position on SB 582 (Prince George's County School Facilities Surcharge – Exemption)

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to have the Council reconsider the position taken at the March 13 Regular Meeting on SB 582, specifically to amend the exemption zone to remove an area previously included, bordered by Route 1 and 48th Avenue, between Pontiac Street and Route 193.

Councilmember Catlin stated this amendment would exclude Koons Ford from the exemption zone.

Comments From The Audience:

Al Cutino, 8314 49th Avenue: Spoke in support of the motion to amend the exemption zone to move the line back to US 1. He didn't like the way this came up without consultation with the neighborhood.

Forrest Tyler, 4901 Ruatan Street: Spoke in support of the motion, but would prefer giving the neighborhood time to study the issue. He was unhappy with the process that was used.

Harry Pitt, 8200 Potomac Avenue, Neighborhood Preservation Coalition: The neighborhood should have been included in this process, and he wants to spend some time looking into the impact this would have on the neighborhood.

Emma Simson, 8904 34th Avenue, SGA President: Would support the compromise if all the groups agree. She proposes drawing the boundary around the Koons Ford, bowling alley and PDC Campfire sites.

Laura Moore, Graduate Student Association President: Due to the shortage of graduate student housing, it is important to preserve financial incentives to developers. She is in favor of the amendment, but hopes to include Koons Ford, the bowling alley, and PDC Campfire sites in the exemption zone.

Janet Firth, Rockville, Maryland, Knox Village LLC: Suggested that expansion of the exemption zone would dilute opportunities to consolidate housing in the southern part of College Park. She is in favor of student housing on the west side of Route 1 for safety reasons.

Sandra Tyler, 4901 Ruatan Street: Questioned whether the savings of the \$7,500 per unit surcharge would be passed on to the students.

Mayor Brayman commented that sites on the east side of Route 1 can be considered in future years, and suggested giving density bonuses for preferred projects. The question tonight is further study vs. going forward with the amendment.

Councilmember Perry expressed his opposition to having the piece of Lakeland that runs down to Rhode Island Avenue included in the exemption zone, but will support the motion to amend. He would prefer waiting until next year.

Councilmember Catlin stated that the Lakeland community has supported the Berwyn House development.

Councilmember Stullich asked for clarification of the boundaries. She stated that, while she understands the concerns of Berwyn residents, she thinks the City can't restrict student housing too much.

Councilmember Krouse stated he would support the amendment.

The motion passed 6-1-0 (Hampton opposed).

Mayor Brayman asked Staff to communicate the City's new position to Annapolis.

Adjournment: At 9:07 p.m., on a motion by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin, the Special Session was adjourned by a vote of 7-0-0.