

**MINUTES**  
**Public Hearing of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2007 – 7:32 P.M.**

**07-CR-04:**

**Charter Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Article III, “Mayor And Council”, § C3-1 “Elected Officers Of The City” To Add A Requirement For Holding Elective Office; § C3-3 “Oath Of Office” Prescribing The Administration Of Oaths; § C3-5 “Election” Deleting An Extraneous Phrase; § C3-6 B(1)(A) Changing The Time Requirements For Holding A Special Election To Fill A Vacancy In The Office Of The Mayor Or A Council Member; § C3-6 B(3)(A) Changing The Time Requirements For The Withdrawal Of An Election Application; § C3-7 “Assumption Of Duties” Reducing The Time Between Regular And Special Elections After Which Officers Assume The Duties Of Office.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Hampton and Cook.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Stullich

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Leo Thomas, Deputy Director of Finance.

Mayor Brayman opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m. and invited Jack Robson, Chief of the Board of Election Supervisors, to give an overview of this Charter Amendment Resolution.

Mr. Robson stated that some of these changes were recommended by the BOES. Some are simply housekeeping items, and others are more substantive.

Section 3-1 adds a requirement that candidates for City office have been a registered voter in city elections for at least a year prior to the election, and goes to the issue of “domicile”. Section 3-3 amends the Charter to conform to the requirements of State law as to the administration of oaths, and vests in the Mayor the authority to administer the oath of office to Council members. Section 3-5 strikes extraneous language no longer applicable to terms of service. Section 3-6B(3)(a) changes the time in which a candidate may withdraw from an election. It would give the Board of Election Supervisors an extra 3 days to delete the candidate’s name from the ballot. By making this change, the Board’s schedule will not be affected by the intervening weekend, the Saturday of which is the 10<sup>th</sup> day before the election, the current requirement for withdrawal of candidacy. This change will allow the Board to mail accurate absentee ballots on the Friday, which is the 11<sup>th</sup> day before the election, rather than on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day before the election. Finally, the change to Section 3-7 will shorten the time between an election and the

assumption of office by the successful candidate. This is particularly important where an office vacancy exists at the time of election.

There were no comments from the public on this proposed Charter amendment.

Mayor Brayman stated that the Council is scheduled to take action on this item tonight, and no further public comment will be heard unless there is an amendment.

There being no further public comment, the hearing was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk