

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 11, 2007
8:00 P.M.

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; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Elisa Vitale, Planner; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works;

Mayor Brayman opened the meeting at 9:38 p.m. following an earlier public hearing. Mayor Brayman asked everyone to remember the people that were affected by the events of September 11, 2001 during the moment of silent meditation. Councilmember Stullich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The following minutes were presented for adoption: August 14, 2007 Public Hearing on Traffic Calming for Edgewood Road, August 14, 2007 Public Hearing on 07-O-16, August 14, 2007 Public Hearing on 07-O-15, and the August 14, 2007 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to adopt the minutes. Councilmember Fellows had a correction on little page 56 to the statement about pro-bono work under Ms. Balachandran's comments. Councilmember Catlin had a correction to the spelling of Chip Reed's name. A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to amend the minutes as noted. The amendment passed 8-0-0. The motion to adopt the minutes as amended passed 8-0-0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Fellows announced that he would not run for reelection to the City Council in the November 6 City election. He also announced that he plans to run for Mayor in 2009.

Councilmember Perry announced that the Lakeland Civic Association would meet on Thursday at 7:30 at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Catlin announced that the Berwyn District Civic Association would meet on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at Fealy Hall, and would hold a candidates night for District 2. He mentioned that the renovation of the Berwyn Neighborhood Playground is about 90% complete.

Councilmember Krouse announced that he would not run for reelection to the City Council in the November 6 City election. The North College Park Citizens Association will meet Thursday 7:30 p.m. at Davis Hall.

Councilmember Milligan announced that he would not run for reelection to the City Council in the November 6 City election.

Acknowledgement of Dignitaries: Mayor Brayman recognized Former Mayor Dervey Lomax, Former Councilmember Maxine Gross, Former Councilmember Leonard Smith, Lakeland Citizens Association President Monroe Dennis, Calvert Hills Citizens Association President Morgan Gale, Berwyn District Civic Association President Jerry Anzulovic, and Jack Robson, Chief of the Board of Election Supervisors.

Amendments To The Agenda:

Mayor Brayman wants to discuss the Mansionization letter at the end of the meeting.

City Manager's Report:

The Public Works yard will be open the last two Saturdays of September and the first two Saturdays of October for the Fall Clean up. Milling and paving for the FY '08 paving program will begin on Monday, September 17. The voter registration deadline for the upcoming City election is October 7. Register with the Prince George's County Board of Elections.

Student Liaison Comments: Ms. Kogut announced that the Communiversy Clean up will start in late September and should run every Saturday or Sunday for six weeks.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:

JW Robson, Chief, Board of Election Supervisors: The Diamondback incorrectly reported the number of days left to register to vote in the upcoming municipal election. Registrations must be postmarked by October 7, which is a Sunday, so they must be mailed prior to the 7th in order to receive a postmark of October 7. He corrected other mistakes made in a recent Diamondback article about the City's candidacy requirements. He advised candidates to submit their petitions early. In response to a Diamondback editorial, he stated that changes in the election code were made during the school year with students sitting at the table. He said that if you declare the City your domicile when you register to vote, you should keep it as your domicile, and not change it back to vote

in your home district the following year. He also advised that certain scholarships could be at risk if someone changes their domicile in order to vote.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to adopt the consent agenda, which consisted of the following items:

- 07-G-91 Approval of the Fall 2007 Field Use Request for Duvall Field by the Maryland Stingers Women's Rugby Team**
- 07-G-92 Approval of the Request for A Driveway Apron Variance at 4707 Greenbelt Road**
- 07-G-93 Approval of the Request for A Driveway Apron Variance at 7319 Radcliffe Drive**

The Consent Agenda was adopted by a vote of 8-0-0.

Action Items:

- 07-G-96 Establishment of Residential Permit Restricted Parking For The Lakeland Neighborhood**

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin that the staff be instructed to establish a residential parking zone for the entire Lakeland community east of Rhode Island Avenue. The zone would allow three residential permits per household and consideration will be given to the two churches on Lakeland Road to address their parking concerns.

Councilmember Perry said staff should work out the additional details based on what was proposed by the Community and heard tonight at the Public Hearing. Mayor Brayman asked Mr. Ryan and Mr. Miller if they believed they could work out the details, i.e., with regard to the area near the churches, as stated in the motion. Staff concurred.

A motion was made by Councilmember Milligan and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to amend the main motion to add a provision to direct staff to address the parking concerns at the corner of Rhode Island Avenue and Pierce Avenue by establishing a no parking zone at that corner. The amendment passed by a vote of 7-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

The main motion as amended passed 8-0-0.

07-G-94 Approval of A Letter From the Education Advisory Committee to the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education at the University of Maryland re: Formation of Alliance to Address Educational Achievement Gap

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to approve a letter from the City's Education Advisory Committee to Dr. Stephanie Timmons-Brown, Executive Director of the University of Maryland's Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education, about forming an alliance to address the educational achievement gap of African American males in our schools.

Stacey Baca, Chair, Education Advisory Committee: Ms. Baca thanked the Council for their support. She stated that she e-mailed the letter to the Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt education committees and has received no response.

Councilmember Milligan commented on a recent article in the Washington Post on this issue. He commented that he has been working to encourage the University of Maryland to get more involved with these issues on a local level.

The motion passed 8-0-0.

07-G-95 Approval of the Detailed Site Plan for the Downtown Parking Garage

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Perry to authorize Staff and Capstone development to submit the Detailed Site Plan (#07040) for the City of College Park Public Parking Garage to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for pre-acceptance review subject to Capstone Development providing the following: 1) Revised color building elevations for Knox Road and Yale Avenue that depict the waste collection area along Knox Road and the PEPCO transformer located at the southeastern corner of the site, 2) Plan details for the retaining wall/fence along the southern boundary, wall enclosure and gate for the gate collection area and proposed screening for the PEPCO transformer.

She stated this is a necessary step to support the revitalization of the downtown business area.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Catlin remarked that this is a momentous occasion, and stated it is probably the first parking garage submitted for approval to Park and Planning. He suggested the City should have a zoning attorney to represent us on this project.

Councilmember Perry commented that Capstone has never dealt with Prince George's County before and thinks it will be interesting to watch how it progresses.

Mayor Brayman wanted to make sure Councilmember Olson's office gets a courtesy review of the project before it is submitted.

The motion carried 8-0-0.

07-R-27 Approval of A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Approving The Application And Receipt Of Financing For Community Legacy Projects In College Park, Maryland To Be Financed Either Directly By The Department Of Housing And Community Development (The "Department") Of The State Of Maryland Or Through Other Departments Or Agencies Of The State Of Maryland

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to adopt Resolution 07-R-27, authorizing the city to submit a Community Legacy application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to help fund four projects in the City's designated Community Legacy Area, the US Route 1 Corridor. The four priorities are: 1) a grant of approximately \$500,000 for the undergrounding of utilities associated with the downtown parking garage, 2) a grant of approximately \$250,000 for eight Paint Branch stream bank stabilization projects. Funds will match contributions as a result of private sector development in this segment of the Route 1 Corridor, 3) a grant of approximately \$50,000 to create and implement a Route 1 Tax Increment Financing District to fund identified public infrastructure projects, and 4) a grant of \$25,000 to contract for Business Development Assessment Services for Downtown College Park to position businesses to be competitive with the proposed East Campus Development and guide the expenditure of \$700,000 in anticipated federal funding.

Councilmember Stulich stated that the Community Legacy Program is an opportunity for the City to use state funds to support its programs through either loans or grants. This time the City is applying for grants. The application is due October 2, and a Resolution is needed as part of the application.

Comments from the Audience:

Morgan Gale, 7010 Wake Forest Drive: As a member of the East Campus Community Steering Committee, he is interested in the fourth proposed project for the downtown business district and said it comes at a crucial time and he is in favor of it.

Councilmember Catlin commented on the Paint Branch Stream project and is happy to see an environmental project included.

Mayor Brayman discussed the proposal for the undergrounding of the utilities.

The motion passed 8-0-0.

07-CR-06 Adoption of Charter Amendment Resolution 07-CR-06 Amending §C3-4 Of The City Charter To Increase The Mayor's Annual Salary To \$7,500.00 And Each Council Members' Annual Salary To \$5,000.00, Effective January 1, 2008

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to adopt 07-CR-06 which would become effective January 1, 2008.

Councilmember Catlin stated that College Park gives periodic increases that are basically tied to the Cost of Living Index. The last increase was in 2004. He discussed the corresponding salaries in nearby municipalities. He stated it is not always easy to recruit candidates for office and the salary helps defray the expenses that come with doing the job. He is in favor of small periodic increases.

Mayor Brayman discussed the use of compensation commissions by other jurisdictions.

Councilmember Perry stated he wouldn't support this Charter Amendment because the Council never had a chance to discuss it in Worksession.

Councilmember Krouse clarified that this increase is included in the current FY '08 budget. He is pleased to support this amendment and thinks it is one of the greatest values per dollar for any salary that was ever spent because of the great amount of work that is accomplished.

Councilmember Catlin stated this item was discussed during a budget Worksession. He looked at the cost of living index that went up almost 13% between 2003 – 2007, and this increase was designed as nothing more than a cost of living adjustment.

Councilmember Stulich appreciates how much time one needs to spend to do the business of the City and while she believes no one on the Council does the job for the money, it is reasonable to pay a little more to the Councilmembers.

Mayor Brayman recalled that there were opportunities to discuss this during the budget Worksessions.

The motion carried 7-1-0 (Perry opposed).

Mayor Brayman updated the Council on the Mansionization legislation pending before Park and Planning and discussed a letter he is interested in sending. He wants to ensure the City is addressing the Advisory Planning Commission's concerns about lot coverage. He discussed a mechanism to trigger a review by the City. He discussed the survey

being conducted by Park and Planning. Interested Councilmembers are invited to discuss this further and complete a survey at the conclusion of the meeting.

07-G-97 Appointments To Boards And Committees

Councilmember Stullich nominated the following persons to the new Animal Welfare Committee: Lourene Miovski, Kennis Termini, Cindy Vernasco, Marj Gallagher, Page Lacey, Linda Lachman, Christine Lemke, Pam Townsend, Alan Hew, and Krissy DeShetler.

Councilmember Fellows nominated Cathy Groen to the Education Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Catlin nominated Rachel Saladino to the Education Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adopt the nominations. The motion carried 8-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Krouse asked for updates on the Skate Spot and the Greenbelt Pedestrian Bridge. He discussed the vegetation management situation in the public right of way in the areas of Edgewood Road and Route 1 and asked that a letter be sent to the appropriate agency from the Council about a plan for routine maintenance.

Councilmember Fellows wants to add the item of visitor permits in permit parking zone 11A around Graduate Gardens to a future Worksession.

Councilmember Stullich commented about response procedures to e-mails that come to the Mayor and Council through the City's website and wants to discuss this at a future Worksession.

Councilmember Cook commented on a letter she received commending the Code Enforcement staff on their help with a party on Autoville Drive. She commented that the construction on Cherry Hill Road between Park Drive and the light at Shoppers is the County project to add a stoplight, widen the road and add sidewalks.

Comments From The Audience: None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 p.m. by a vote of 8-0-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, on September 4, 2007 at 7:11 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Cook to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate in Prince George's County, and to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. The motion passed 5-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

Present: Mayor Brayman, Councilmembers Milligan, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Stulich (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Hampton and Cook. Also in attendance were Joe Nagro, Janeen Miller, Sara Imhulse, Steve Groh, Danielle Kogut, Terry Schum, Elisa Vitale and Suellen Ferguson.

Absent: Councilmember Krouse.

Topics Discussed: The potential acquisition of real property and the proposal for a business to locate in Prince George's County.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to adjourn the Executive Session. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.
