

MINUTES
Special Session of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 5, 2008
10:18 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stullich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary 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; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

During the regularly scheduled Worksession of the College Park City Council, a motion to enter a Special Session was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Catlin. The Special Session is needed to vote on legislation that just came to the City's attention and needs immediate attention. The motion carried 7-1-0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

Action Items:

08-G-12 Motion To Support House Bill 184 "Public Safety – Public Sector Higher Education Institutions – Housing Code Enforcement – Funding."

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to send a letter of support for House Bill 184 (and any future corresponding Senate bill) "Public Safety – Public Sector Higher Education Institutions – Housing Code Enforcement – Funding" that would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide and allocate matching grants and technical assistance to political subdivisions affected by a student population to implement local housing laws.

There is a hearing on this bill on Thursday. Ms. Imhulse is authorized to speak with the sponsor about funding.

There were no comments from the audience.

The motion carried 8-0-0.

08-G-13 House Bill 351/Senate Bill 290 “Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act.”

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Molinatto to send a letter of support for House Bill 351/Senate Bill 290 “Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act” that would repeal a provision specifying that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in Maryland, and establishing that only a marriage between two people not otherwise prohibited from marrying is valid in Maryland.

Councilmember Wojahn explained this bill removes gender definitions from the definition of marriage in Maryland. He has a lobbying event for this bill on Monday. He believes this is an important step for the City to take in support of the gay and lesbian community.

Comments from the Audience:

Jerry Anzulovic, 4900 Ruatan Street: Is in support of this legislation.

Danielle Kogut spoke in support of this legislation.

Councilmember Perry objects to the legislation coming forward in a session that the public did not have any notice of. He does not believe supporting this legislation should be the business of the Council, and personally will not support it.

Councilmember Stullich is pleased to support this motion and believes it provides fair treatment to all our citizens.

Councilmember Molinatto stated that anything that impacts citizens should be the business of the Council.

Mayor Brayman stated he hopes this legislation will right some wrongs.

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

Adjournment: At 10:25 p.m., a motion to adjourn the Special Session was made by Councilmember Mark Cook and seconded by Councilmember Stullich. The motion carried 8-0-0.