

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
7:45 P.M.

11-O-04

**An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland,
Amending Chapter 125 “Housing Regulations”, §125-10 “Responsibilities Of Owners And
Occupants” To Prohibit The Spread Of Bamboo Onto Adjoining Properties And Chapter 110
“Fees And Penalties” To Provide A Penalty For Violation**

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Catlin, Cook, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Perry and Stullich.

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Groh, Acting City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

Mayor Fellows called the Public Hearing to order at 7:45 p.m. Bob Ryan gave an overview. This ordinance would prohibit the spread of bamboo to adjoining properties and establish a fine for violations. The City Council determined that bamboo is an invasive species that once established is extremely difficult to eradicate. This ordinance is designed to control the spread of bamboo onto adjoining properties without the permission of the adjoining property owner. The fine is \$200 for a first offense and after 30 days \$400 for a subsequent offense.

Public Comment:

Mark Shroder, 4909 Muskogee Street: When bamboo spreads on your property, you have three unappealing options: 1) dig up the roots, 2) create a physical barrier, 3) use herbicides. If you kill the bamboo on your property it may also kill the bamboo on the other property and you may face liability for that. It is important to determine who is right and wrong. He asked where the onus lies to prove whether the property owner did or did not consent.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Fellows closed the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date Approved