

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, March 11, 2014
7:30 p.m. – 7:59 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Brennan, Dennis, Day, Hew and Mitchell.

ABSENT: Councilmember Stullich.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Catherine McGrath, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Day led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Day to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2014. The motion passed 7 – 0 – 0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Mitchell discussed the NLC “university communities” event hosted by the City and the University of Maryland held earlier today.

Councilmember Day discussed the visit he and Mayor Fellows made to the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park. He was very impressed with the young athletes, we are happy they are located in College Park and we need to do more to get the word out about them. He also announced that the Greenbelt Metro station will be closed this weekend.

Councilmember Dennis announced that the Lakeland Civic Association would meet on Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Brennan announced that the Berwyn District Civic Association would meet on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fishnet Restaurant.

Councilmember Wojahn said as part of this week’s NLC Congressional Cities Conference, members are meeting with their congressional representatives to advocate for NLC’s legislative priorities. He invited others to join in the meeting with Senators Cardin and Mikulski and Congressman Hoyer. Also, the CBE is hosting a free permaculture workshop this weekend.

Councilmember Kabir announced the North College Park Citizens Association would hold their monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at Davis Hall.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro said staff is working on the proposed budget and it will be released to Council by the end of March. The first budget Worksession is Saturday, April 5.

Student Liaison's Report: Ms. McGrath reported that the SGA has decided to donate Maryland flags to the downtown businesses to display on game days, and that they are redeveloping the "M" book.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items:

Emily Adams from the UMD Office of Community Engagement: Ms. Adams discussed details of Good Neighbor Day, which is on Saturday, March 29.

David Dorsch, 4607 Calvert Road: 1) To follow up on his earlier suggestion about a reward program for people who improve their properties: this should be an annual contest with substantial monetary awards, perhaps conferred at Good Neighbor Day. 2) Many utility companies are abandoning their lines; who is responsible for the wire that is left behind, sometimes hanging down? He is referring to both phone and cable service.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Brennan to adopt the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the following:

- 14-R-04** Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission Regarding Appeal Number CEO-2014-01, 9801 51st Avenue, College Park, Maryland, Denying A Variance From The Requirements Of The Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance, Section 27-420 (A), Approving A Variance From The Requirements Of City Code §87-23 C To Permit The Construction Of A Fence Within The 25-Foot Side Yard Setback, Where The Side Lot Line Is A Continuation Of The Front Yard Line Of The Adjacent Lot And Approving With A Condition A Variance From The Requirements Of City Code §87-23 F To Permit The Reconstruction Of An Existing Fence To Increase The Height By One Foot.
- 14-G-32** Approval of the City's participation in the 3rd Annual Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
- 14-G-33** Approval of a letter to Prince George's County formally requesting a TIF for undergrounding utilities on US 1

The motion carried 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS

14-G-34 Appointments to Boards and Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Day and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to appoint Paul Carlson and Jeannie Ripley to the Neighborhood Stabilization Committee. The motion passed 7 – 0 – 0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Fellows discussed the 3rd Annual Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation that was passed earlier this evening, which is a national effort during the month of April. He hopes we can make it an annual event in the City. There are parts of the country where water conservation is more critical than it is here, but it is important everywhere. We are encouraging residents to conserve water and will advertise this program during the month of April.

Councilmember Wojahn requested that the Council act in Special Session next week on SB 212 / HB 1265 - Fairness for All Marylanders – which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

Comments from the Audience: None

(Councilmember Stulich arrived).

ADJOURN:

Mayor Fellows said the Council would adjourn the public meeting and convene in a closed session to consult with Counsel on a Legal Matter, and would not return to public session tonight. A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Day for this purpose. With a vote of 8 – 0 – 0, Mayor Fellows adjourned the regular meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date
Approved

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, at 7:59 p.m. on March 11, 2014, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Day to enter into an Executive Session to “Consult with Counsel on a legal matter.”

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Present: Mayor Andrew Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Brennan, Dennis, Stulich, Day, Hew and Mitchell.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Catherine McGrath, Student Liaison.

Topics Discussed: The City Attorney advised the City Council about legal and financial issues related to an existing lease agreement. The City Attorney conferred with the Council with respect to legal advice on referendum petition matters.

Actions Taken: None.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilmember Kabir and seconded by Councilmember Dennis to adjourn the Executive Session, and with a vote of 8 – 0 – 0, Mayor Fellows adjourned the Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.