

**WORKSESSION MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, August 4, 2020**  
**7:30 P.M. –11:03 P.M.**

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was a Virtual Meeting**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Brennan, Dennis, Day, Rigg, Mackie and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Somers, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Miriam Bader, Senior Planner; Adam Rosenbaum, Student Liaison; Julia Nihkinson, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Wojahn opened the Virtual Worksession at 7:30 p.m.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:** Mr. Somers stated that the City fared well with the storms on Monday and Tuesday morning. Another Continuing the Conversation Town Halls on Community and Race Relations in College Park will be held on August 20, 2020. The City has issued twenty-eight Business Assistance Program Grants and eighteen Resident Assistance Program Grants. Reminded everyone to visit the City’s COVID-19 page on the website for the latest updates on the City’s status and resources. Mr. Somers will send Council a list of business who were awarded and/or applied for a grant. Extra postcards flyers regarding the COVID grant program will be delivered to Council. If any resident sees a clogged storm drain, please call our Public Works Department.

Bill Gardner, Assistant City Manager, announced that presentation from Jeff Parks and Jessica Brown of Performance Breakthroughs, Inc. on the results from focus groups and survey responses regarding the City’s 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan has been rescheduled for Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 p.m.

**AMENDMENT TO/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to approve a letter in Special Session to the College Park Property Owners requesting they work with their student renters and consider allowing them to terminate leases or sublet to other students who wish to remain in the community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the City to sign on to the Supreme Court Amicus Brief Opportunity in Case Challenging Philadelphia’s Non-Discrimination Provisions.

Motion passed 8-0. Motion to approve the agenda as amended (Dennis/Kennedy) passed 8-0.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Presentation from Tom Diehl, Principal and Project Manager of GreenPlay, LLC on the Senior and Community Recreation Needs Assessment:**

Tom Diehl of GrenPlay gave an overview of the of the Senior and Community Recreation Needs Assessment: Discussion on need for more communication, meeting space, lack of available programs and other services available to meet the needs of the community. The next steps will be finalizing the report and bringing some recommendations to the table.

## **2. Current Status of Coronavirus Restrictions and Roles of City and County in Enforcement:**

Suellen Ferguson reviewed the memorandum that was in the packet. There was discussion on who to call if residents have concerns if people and business are not following the County and State Executive orders. Staff was asked to update the City's website to list the current rules and procedures on who to contact if there are violations. Prince George's County will also be adding additional inspectors to make sure that business are in compliance. Several virtual meetings will take place in the near future with the County and UMD. Please view the City's website at <https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/312/COVID-19-City-Updates> for current updates.

## **3. Consideration of Declaring Juneteenth a City Holiday**

Mr. Somers reviewed the staff report. The Human Resources staff surveyed other local municipalities to compare the number of paid holidays they provide to employees and to learn which municipalities are considering adding the Juneteenth holiday. The City provides basically the same holidays as do other municipalities except for the two holidays given every four years for the presidential election and presidential inauguration. Human Resources discussed with union leadership if they would be interested in trading the two presidential holidays which occur every 4 years for the Juneteenth holiday which would occur every year. Union leadership was interested, but union membership was not since they felt this may become a federal holiday. Council agreed with declaring Juneteenth a City Holiday and allowing staff to negotiate with union membership. Staff will prepare a Resolution approving the Juneteenth a holiday for an annual holiday on June 19 and negotiate formally with the bargaining unit before June 19, 2021 to "trade" the two presidential holidays (election and inauguration).

## **Items Added to the Agenda**

**Letter to College Park Property Owners requesting that they work with their student renters and consider allowing them to terminate leases or sublet to other students who wish to remain in the community.**

There was discussion on if this letter was going to be sent to all property owners and apartment complexes. Since the COVID grant program does not apply to residential business, they would not be able to apply for a grant. There was additional discussion on

A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to enter into a Special Session. Councilmember Kabir questioned why Council is going into Special Session to vote on an item that is on the agenda for next week.

Roll call vote to go into Special Session:  
Councilmember Kabir – No

Councilmember Kennedy – Yes  
Councilmember Brennan – Yes  
Councilmember Dennis – Yes  
Councilmember Day – Yes  
Councilmember Rigg – Yes  
Councilmember Mitchell – Yes  
Councilmember Mackie – No  
Motion passed 6-2-0 to enter into Special Session.

Mayor and Council went into Special Session at 10:38 p.m. *See Special Session Minutes of August 4, 2020*

**4. Requests for/Status of Future Agenda Items – None**

**5. Mayor and Councilmember Comments**

Councilmember Kabir announced the Community Police Meeting: Webinar (every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

Councilmember Mitchell thank all who reached out to her and offer their condolences.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to adjourn into Closed Session to discuss the appointment of individuals over whom this public body has jurisdiction. Mayor Wojahn said the Council will not return to public session after the Closed Session. The motion passed 8-0-0 and the Worksession was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

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Yvette Allen  
Assistant City Clerk

Date  
Approved