

**WORKSESSION MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**  
**Council Chambers**  
**7:30 P.M. – 10:37 P.M.**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Somers, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Leo Thomas, Jr., Deputy Director of Finance; Tracey Clayton, Billing and Collections Supervisor; Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works; Brenda Alexander, Assistant Director of Public Works; Alex Tobin, Student Liaison.

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

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:** Mr. Somers reported on Christmas Tree recycling, the sale of City apparel, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute, the Public Forum on Duvall Field Visioning, the Bowling Bash, and the Community Services Grants application process.

**AMENDMENT TO/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was approved without amendment (Mitchell/Day) 8-0.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Mayor Wojahn read the Proclamation in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Recommendations for bulk trash pick-ups, including study results, combined with discussion of an ordinance and fines to address illegal dumping: Robert Marsili and Brenda Alexander, DPW, plus Brent Dieleman and Stacey Demers, SCS Consultants. The consultant reviewed their PPT and presented their study findings. Their focus is how the City can maintain the current high level of service to residents while addressing the challenges that come from the increase in certain bulky trash items. Their recommendations will provide relief to the taxpayers who bear the burden of program abuse, focus on the sustainability and stewardship of the program going forward, and focus on employee safety. Recommendations include: a certain number of bulky trash pick-ups per year are free; thereafter there is a fee. Don’t collect improperly prepared material. Establish certain new regulations. Educate the residents about alternatives to disposal of certain items. Provide additional drop-off opportunities. Concerns about current solid waste program: require containerization; inventory/assign all carts; limit collections at multi-family buildings; no collections from commercial establishments; reduce collection weight from 75 lbs. to 50 lbs.

Questions/Comments: What will happen to the fee charged to rental homes; can we allow discretion during certain times of the year (i.e., holidays); what about collections from churches; can this be phased-in; how do you define an “item” (example of mattress and box spring); run the numbers for the cost difference if we allowed 6 bulky trash pick-ups per year

instead of 4. Return future W/S with more information/responses to the questions/comments above, more information about move-outs (number of move-outs, etc.), and draft legislation with options and costs for each.

3. Discussion of City fees - Gary Fields, Leo Thomas, Tracey Clayton: Mr. Fields referred Council to pages 1 and 2 of the report for a summary of the fees. The basic purpose of the study was to determine reasonable and appropriate fees for the services we charge for. He reviewed the theory behind the cost allocation, reviewed the study and the recommendations, which are highlighted in gray on page 64 of the packet. Mayor Wojahn clarified that the Council's role is to focus on the ends, not the means, which would be the appropriate cost recovery rate. Council is OK to move forward with staff recommendations except with respect to the immobilization fee – Council wants more information on surrounding jurisdictions before moving. Bring that information back with the draft legislation.
4. Discussion of a tax credit for Seniors at least 65 years old who have lived in their current home for at least the last 40 years; or at least 65 and retired from the US Armed Forces – Leo Thomas: The County has tabled their legislation, so we can't piggyback on them. Any City tax credit would be pursuant to state law. Based on the state law, the City's credit could be for a maximum of five years and for a maximum of 20%. The City can offer less on either factor, but not more. We can estimate the tax credit for the long-term residents (there are about 121) but not the number of veterans. There will be administrative costs to the City – application, determining eligibility, etc. – which are unknown at this time.

Questions: What is the policy goal – why would we decide to do this? What about other deserving public servants? What are we giving to one category of resident but not another? There are highly paid members of the military who could qualify for the credit – should it be more narrowly tailored? What about the impact on the budget from the lost revenue? Could one person get both credits? Is it sustainable long term? What about the overall impact on the budget – where does the money come from? How would the City check eligibility? General interest in pursuing, but more information is needed first. Look at Laurel's program. Return in the summer for further discussion.

5. Discussion of Homestead Tax Credit Rate (currently at 0%) – No change. No action needed.

**[A motion was made by Councilmember Day and seconded by Councilmember Kabir to extend the meeting 30 minutes. The motion passed 8-0-0.]**

6. FY '20 Budget Guidance: Mr. Fields reviewed the budget calendar: budget Worksessions are in March this year; Council requests are due January 25. Because we are so early in the process, we don't have any hard numbers to give you, but we are not aware of any shortfalls or concerns. \$4.9M of excess general fund balance will be transferred to the capital projects fund, as previously approved. The City Manager hopes to recommend the Constant Yield Rate. We will need to finance the new City Hall. Numbers from SDAT will be available in February. Directors have been advised to maintain 2019 levels; any increase will require justification. The Union contract is up for negotiation, which is an unknown at this time.

7. Appointments to Boards and Committees: Victoria Evans to Seniors Committee.  
*See Special Session minutes* for remaining Appointments to the Charter Review Commission
8. Requests for/Status of Future Agenda items: None.
9. Mayor and Councilmember Comments: NCPCA meeting, Saturday's MLK event, Furlough clean-up and meal at Fishnet, Holiday lights, MML opening reception tomorrow, Purple Line Now forum.
10. City Manager's Comments: None.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Day to adjourn the Worksession, and with a vote of 8-0-0, Mayor Wojahn adjourned the Worksession at 10:37 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved