

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
7:30 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was a virtual meeting

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Gardiner, Interim City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Teresa Way-Pezzuti, Director of Human Resources; Adam Rosenbaum, Student Liaison; Julia Nikhinson, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Wojahn opened the virtual Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Kabir said that the North College Park Community Association will meet virtually on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Councilmember Dennis announced the Prince George's County Police Coffee Club virtual meeting at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Councilmember Rigg reviewed last night's WSSC meeting, and the tragic events at the Capitol last week.

Councilmember Mitchell also discussed the events at the Capitol last week. She announced the PGCPS meeting re school boundaries tomorrow night.

Councilmember Mackie announced a Grab & Go Meal distribution tomorrow morning and a food giveaway at the College Park United Methodist Church.

Mayor Wojahn discussed the City Manager recruitment process; inaugural events next week; and the cancellation of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute due to COVID restrictions.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Gardiner said City offices will be closed next Monday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and Wednesday (Inauguration Day); trash and recycling collections will be shifted; and gave an update on yesterday's County COVID call for municipalities. Question to Mr. Ryan about the status of permit parking: Mr. Miller is working on the problems with our vendor and we will provide more information by the end of the week.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Wojahn read the proclamation in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Day to add to the Consent Agenda:

- 21-G-06, Support for Don't Block The Box legislation, HB 311.
- 21-G-07, Support for Vulnerable Road Users legislation, HB 118.

The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion passed 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mary King, resident: She asked about the new pole on Metzert Road that has what might be a camera on top. What is it? Mr. Ryan said it is a replacement speed camera for the ground based camera that has been there for several years. She added that the public doesn't know what was just added to the Consent Agenda so maybe it should have been on the Action agenda for discussion.

Carol Nezzo, resident: She described her experience with the College Park Call-A-Bus service that she used to take her to a doctor appointment. We should encourage people to go to doctors and dentists. Please get seniors some transportation to facilitate this.

David Gray, resident: Follow up on the letter he sent last week about tree cutting at the Airport and the landing slope above the bike trail. How much risk are people put in due to the landing slope? The numbers they presented of trees to be cut seem wrong; they are cutting every tree within six feet of his property line. Please follow up on this.

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

21-G-01	Approval of minutes from the December 22, 2020 Regular Meeting
21-G-02	Approval of Council appointments to the Community Services Grants review committee
21-G-03	Approval of Council appointments to the Council "Committee on Committees"
21-G-04	Approval of support for the "Climate Solutions Now" Petition

ADDED: 21-G-06	Approval of a letter in support of Don't Block The Box legislation, HB 311-21.
ADDED: 21-G-07	Approval of a letter in support of Vulnerable Road Users legislation, HB 118-21.

The motion passed 8-0.

ACTION ITEMS

21-O-01 Introduction of Ordinance 21-O-01, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council amending Chapter 141, Nuisances, for Clarification of Prior Notice Requirement for Nuisance Violations.

Ms. Ferguson said this is an amendment to the nuisance Chapter 141-9. She said a number of types of nuisance situations do allow for notice to the individual and allow a time period for compliance, but there are certain violations where a notification period of any kind is not appropriate and was never intended, such as an emergency, and gatherings that violate the COVID restrictions. This ordinance will clarify which nuisances are and are not subject to the warning period.

Councilmember Rigg asked questions about a declared emergency. Ms. Ferguson said an emergency situation is one that is so bad that people can't be given extra time to comply.

Mr. Rosenbaum asked if this would apply to everyone in College Park. Ms. Ferguson said yes. He asked about the definition of "an emergency occurrence" vs. a "declared emergency." Ms. Ferguson provided examples of situations in which there is no utility in providing a compliance period. He asked about the overlap of this and calling the police in an emergency. Ms. Ferguson said police are called for a criminal matter and provided examples.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to introduce Ordinance 21-O-01, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Amending Chapter 141, "Nuisances", By Repealing And Re-Enacting §141-9, "Violations And Penalties", To Clarify That §141-9 Does Not Require Notice Prior To Issuance Of A Municipal Infraction In Emergency Situations, Or For Conditions And/Or Activities That Are Prohibited Due To A Declared Emergency.

Mayor Wojahn said the virtual Public Hearing will be held on January 26, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. during the Regular Meeting.

21-G-05 Approval of Quarterly Appointments to Advisory Boards

Ms. Miller said the appointees listed in the packet have submitted applications to serve on these boards and were discussed in Closed Session last week. She added that the term expiration dates listed fit in to the staggered term plan.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Esters to approve the quarterly appointments. The motion passed 8-0.

General Comments from the audience –

David Gray, resident: Congratulated Councilmember Esters and said mail-in voting seemed to work very well; we should think about mail in voting in the future to get more participation. He pointed out a bad link on the City website.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to adjourn the Regular Meeting, and with a vote of 8-0, Mayor Wojahn adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller	Date
City Clerk	Approved

CLOSED SESSION
January 5, 2021

On Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 9:12 p.m., at the conclusion of the Worksession, a motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adjourn into a Closed Session. Mayor Wojahn read the closing statement: Pursuant to the statutory authority of the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305, the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park will meet in a Closed Session for the following purposes: to discuss the appointment of individuals over whom this public body has jurisdiction. Specifically, the Mayor and Council will review applications for quarterly appointments to Advisory Boards. He said the Council will not return to public session after the closed session. The motion passed 8-0.

At 9:18 p.m. the Mayor and Council reconvened in Closed Session. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually. Mayor Wojahn was the Open Meetings trainee.

Mayor Wojahn and Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Dennis, Esters, Day, Rigg, Mitchell and Mackie were in attendance. In addition, the meeting was attended by Interim City Manager Bill Gardiner; City Clerk Janeen Miller and Assistant City Clerk Yvette Allen.

The City Council reviewed and discussed the appointment of specific individuals to its advisory boards. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Esters to adjourn the Closed Session, and with a vote of 8-0, Mayor Wojahn adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.
