

MINUTES
College Park City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
7:30 p.m. – 11:01 p.m.

**This was a hybrid meeting: Online via Zoom;
In-person in the Council Chambers of City Hall.**

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Esters, Whitney, Adams, Rigg (virtual), Mackie and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Valerie Graham, Student Liaison; Adrian Andriessens, Deputy Student Liaison.

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

Announcements:

Councilmember Kabir announced the upcoming election for officers of the North College Park Community Association.

Councilmember Whitney mentioned the CBE tree identification initiative on the Trolley Trail.

Councilmember Adams announced the upcoming Green Line shut down by WMATA.

Councilmember Mackie said there are a few more days for the MLK Food Drive bin at City Hall.

Councilmember Mitchell said the County Executive is holding a FY 2024 budget listening session on Thursday, and congratulated Councilmember Mackie on her leadership position on the COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee.

Mayor Wojahn announced the Four Cites Meeting on Thursday here in College Park and the MLK Art Contest.

City Manager’s Report: Mr. Young announced the online budgeting tool for residents called Balancing Act.

Amendments To/Approval Of The Agenda:

Agenda approved without amendment, Mitchell/Esters, 8-0.

Public Comment:

Tracey Thomas, resident, re: 23-G-20, seeking permission to expand her driveway.

Brandon Dean, resident: discussed the financial assistance he needs to get his car out of impound, especially in light of the upcoming Green Line closures, and other issues regarding towing and the City’s reliance on fines and fees. He is appealing for the City’s help in paying his impound fees.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Whitney and seconded by Councilmember Adams to adopt the Consent Agenda, which consisted of these items:

23-G-20	Approval of a Request to construct a Non-standard Concrete Curb-Cut and Driveway Apron that is 20’ at the property line and 26’ at the curb at 5014 Laguna Road contingent upon the owner entering into a Declaration of Covenants in substantially the form attached and paying costs for removal and replacement of a tree in the City right-of-way.
23-G-21	Approval of the continuation of permit parking on Beechwood Road.
23-G-22	Approve the award of two contracts, one for the purchase of two (2) new 2023 EV Chevrolet Bolt sedans in the amount of \$59,766.00 to Criswell Chevrolet Inc., utilizing pricing from competitively bid State of Maryland contract #001B2600306, and a second contract for the purchase of two (2) new EV Ford ETransit vans in the amount of \$115,650.00 to National Auto Fleet Group under Sourcewell contract 091521-NAF, for a total cost of 175,416.00, to be funded from the Vehicle Replacement Program CIP, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action Items

23-G-01 Approval of an agreement with Amano McGann for City parking pay stations, including Now Care Support Agreement, Mi-Office Maintenance fee, credit card fees and Verizon Airtime fees, subject to approval of City Attorney.

Mr. Ryan said this has been an annual expense to support and maintain our 17 parking pay stations, but this is the first year that the annual cost exceeds \$30,000 so it requires Council approval. Mr. Young added that this contractor has received over \$300K of payment non-competitively without contracts. This motion will put the necessary contracts into place.

A motion was made by Councilmember Adams and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Amano McGann, for maintenance and support of the City's 17 pay stations in the amount of \$30,104.00, plus related back office maintenance, credit card fees and Verizon Airtime fees, for the 2023 calendar year, subject to approval of the City Attorney.

The motion passed 8-0.

Discussion Items

A. Annual police agency presentation from Major Keleti, Prince George's County Police Department, and Chief Mitchell, University of Maryland Police Department:

Chief Mitchell and Major Keleti reviewed their presentations and took questions from the Mayor and Council. Of note:

- Pending State Legislation requiring a registry of beds available for mental health services
- Council requested the number of referrals to the Office of Student Conduct.

B. Board of Election Supervisors recommendations for the 2023 election:

The Board reviewed the survey results, staff report and recommendations for the November election. Council supported the date of Sunday, November 5 for the election and College Park Community Center for the location; adoption of the state's permanent Vote By Mail list for College Park voters; changing the deadline for voter registration from 28 to 15 days. Discussion included: 10 early voting days at both City Hall and Davis Hall; consideration of additional locations for drop boxes; and the possibility of providing transportation. Return next week for action.

C. Quarterly Financial Presentation; FY 2024 Budget preview; Homestead Tax Credit review; Elderly Tax Credit discussion

Mr. Fields presented the financial report. Most of the anomalies are due to timing.

Highlights:

- The Hotel appealed their SDAT property assessment and got a significant reduction in their assessed value by \$100M which reduced the property tax to us by about \$300K. This will also reduce the amount we pay for their Revitalization Tax Credit.
- The ARPA hospitality grants we paid out are shown in Economic Development; will be funded from lost revenue recovery.
- In FY 23 we will write off the loan to the former Ledo's restaurant (former tenant). At the end of 2022 we exhausted all avenues of recovering any additional money. The loan amount is \$427,000, the rest is property taxes that we paid as property owner. The total write-off will be \$542,000. This will be discussed when the auditors are here in three weeks.

[10:34 p.m., Adams/Mitchell, to extend time, 8-0.]

Audience Comments:

Carol Macknis, resident: We should email the ballots and avoid the U.S. mail completely. She gets her ballot by email.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Whitney reported on today's meeting with UMD President Dr. Pines and Vice President Colella.

Councilmember Mackie reported on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee that she chairs.

Mayor Wojahn reported on his participation in the US Conference of Mayors; the Prince George's County Municipal Association; and the Mayor's Innovation Project.

Adjourn: 11:01, Mackie/Adams, 8-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk