

WORKSESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
7:30 p.m. – 10:26 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Dennis, Esters, Day, Rigg (7:33 p.m.), Mitchell (9:30 p.m.) and Mackie.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Gardiner, Interim City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Teresa Way-Pezzuti, Director of Human Resources; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; 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. Gardiner thanked Public Works staff for their excellent work clearing the snow; announced the Navahoe Street closure; said the UMD child care center at the Calvert Road school opened February 1; announced a change of date for the community police meeting; announced the Rhode Island Avenue Bike Lane meeting on Monday; discussed the COVID-19 vaccination schedule; and announced the County Hotline: 3-1-1-, then press #.

Amendments to /Approval of Agenda: Kennedy Day 7-0

Discussion items:

1. 2021 Municipal Election:

Council reviewed and discussed the election scenarios presented. Discussion about the City’s voter rolls: Ms. Miller responded that the County sends Voter Notification Cards and uses the National Change of Address database to update our records. If voter mail is delivered to an address where the person no longer resides, it should be put back in the mail with a note “not at this address.” Discussion of voting centers: they provided convenience but an expensive option, and due to COVID we should try to minimize in person voting. Current COVID guidelines on gatherings would also eliminate Davis Hall as a polling location because the capacity is only 6 people at a time. New City Hall will not be ready. The College Park Community Center or Ritchie Coliseum are large enough for in person voting. When we inquired to UMD about Ritchie for the Special Election we were told it would not be made available due to campus COVID restrictions. Interest in increasing the number of ballot drop boxes and locating them around the City and on campus, under surveillance. Who paid for the UMD officers that monitored the state’s drop box at the Xfinity Center? Consensus for Option 3 – mailing applications for ballots to registered voters with one poll open on Election Day. Return next Worksession with more information on this option. Show cost comparison of a weekday v.

weekend Election date, with or without Early Voting. Discuss date of election at next Worksession.

- 2. Restorative Justice Commission:** Mr. Gardiner reviewed the staff report, provided general background on the concept of restorative justice, and reviewed Council Resolution 20-R-16. He reviewed approaches the Council may take. Maxine Gross and Robert Thurston participated in the discussion.

Council: Understand the history behind the injustice that happened; make the commitment to do this work correctly; training and facilitation are needed; reach out to other resources (i.e., County, Museum of African American history and culture); discussion of finding a consultant and forming a steering committee to develop a proposal and framework for the commission.

Robert Thurston: The City and Lakeland should have an understanding on what the deliverables are. “Lakeland” is shrinking by the day; maintaining what is left is important. We also need to address the emotional part of this.

Maxine Gross: Lakeland has already lost 2/3 of its body. It is important to look at Lakeland differently than other communities and to think of those that were displaced (the Lakeland diaspora) and their descendants. This approach can be incorporated into land use decisions. She cannot cooperate with a process that does not recognize a concrete restorative measure as an outcome. Steering committee – Lakelanders, city officials, and members of the broader community including the diaspora.

Mayor Wojahn mentioned the Lakeland Vision 2025 document as an additional goal.

Return next week to set up the short-term steering committee.

- 3. Campus Community Connections: Andrew Fellows, UMD Faculty Research Specialist (and former Mayor)**

Mr. Fellows reviewed the history of this program, the original 10 projects, the fall 2020 projects, and the upcoming capstone projects. Projects are concentrated in 3 areas: stormwater, carbon footprint and zero waste. They are always seeking ideas for future projects.

- 4. Review of Legislation**

- HB 379/SB 462 – Public Utilities – Low-income Housing – Energy Performance Targets: **Letter of support approved in Special Session. See minutes for 21-G-14.**
- HB 485/SB 361 Public Private Partnership – Process and Oversight: **Letter of support approved in Special Session. See minutes for 21-G-15**

Provide information next week:

- SB 211 Family Medical Leave Insurance Program – ask lobbyist if there will be any impact on us if enacted.
- HB 67 MDOT Promises Act of 2021
- HB 463 Maryland Health Equity Resource Act

5. Requests for/Status of Future Agenda Items:

- Kennedy/Mitchell 8-0: remove City Youth Advisory Committee from the agenda and return to master list until fall.
- Mitchell/Kabir 8-0 pending submittal of form: Add participatory budgeting process for a greater sense of engagement. Hyattsville is doing it.
- Wojahn sent form to engage with a company to do an affordable housing plan. Hyattsville did this. Dennis/Day 8-0: Combine with other topic? Amend what is currently on the Master List.
- Day/Esters 8-0: schedule the request by Tempo for a Revitalization Tax Credit.

6. Mayor and Councilmember Comments

- Congressman Hoyer’s office is looking into concerns re postal service.
- Four Cities working group on Greenbelt Road improvements.

**ADJOURN: Motion by Councilmember Rigg, second by Councilmember Mitchell.
Motion passed 8-0, meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.**

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
9:58 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Gardiner, Interim City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Adam Rosenbaum, Student Liaison; Julia Nihkinson, Deputy Student Liaison.

During the regularly schedule Worksession on February 2, 2021, a motion was made by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to enter into a Special Session to address time sensitive matters of state legislation. The possibility of the Special Session was listed on the Worksession agenda. The motion passed 8-0 and Council entered into Special Session at 9:58 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

21-G-14 HB 379 /SB 462 – Low-income home energy efficiency

A motion was made by Councilmember Kabir and seconded by Councilmember Esters to send a letter in support of HB 379 /SB 462 – Low-income home energy efficiency.

The committee hearing is scheduled for February 4.

There were no comments from the audience or the Council.

The motion passed 8-0.

21-G-15 HB 485/SB 361 - Public Private Partnership oversights

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to send a letter in support of this bill.

The committee hearing is February 9.

There were no comments from the audience or the Council.

The motion passed 8-0.

ADJOURN from Special Session: Motion by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Kabir. The motion passed 8-0 and the Special Session ended at 10:04 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved