

MINUTES
College Park City Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
7:30 p.m. – 9:45 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, 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; Robert Marsili, Director Public Works; Brenda Alexander, Deputy Director Public Works; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Valerie Graham, Student Liaison.

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

Announcements:

Councilmember Kabir discussed the City's residential property tree planting program.

Councilmember Kennedy congratulated the new officers of the North College Park Community Association.

Councilmember Esters announced the BDCA meeting this week and Councilmember Whitney added that the meeting is in person at Taco de la Madre.

Councilmembers Adams and Rigg acknowledged the tragedy of a recent mass shooting at Michigan State University.

Councilmember Mackie announced a College Park Woods initiative to clean up trash.

Mayor Wojahn said he is attending an event with President Biden in Lanham tomorrow.

City Manager’s Report: Mr. Young announced the schedule for the upcoming Presidents Day Holiday. Councilmember Whitney asked about crosswalk markings on US 1 at Melbourne Place where a recent pedestrian accident occurred.

Proclamations and Awards: Mayor Wojahn read the proclamations for Black History Month and Women’s Heart Health Month

Amendments To/Approval Of The Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to remove item 23-G-36 from the agenda. The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 8-0.

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

23-G-32	Approval to exercise the one-year extension option for contract CP-20-05 with Level Green Landscape, LLC, for right of way grass mowing, for the term beginning April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, in the amount of \$98.59/acre, as included in the existing contract terms, based on their satisfactory completion of the initial term.
23-G-33	Approval of a letter to the Board of License Commissioners to recommend that liquor licenses issued within the City of College Park be renewed for the following year and to authorize the City Manager to send a letter to the BOLC to that effect.
23-G-34	Approval of an MOU to locate three City security cameras at the College Park Professional Center, in substantially the form attached, subject to review by the City Attorney.
23-G-35	Award of a contract with Casey Trees to supply and properly plant trees from a mutually agreed upon list of tree species of a designated size and quality on private residential property for a unit price of \$325 per tree, with an additional fee for the provision of consultation by the Contractor, in substantially the form attached. (Requires supermajority vote)

23-G-38	Approve minutes from the January 24, 2023 meeting.
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The motion passed 8-0.

23-O-01 Public Hearing and Action on Ordinance 23-O-01:

An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Amending Chapter 129, "Licenses", By Renaming The Chapter As "Licenses And Business Regulation"; By Dividing The Chapter Into Two Articles; By Repealing And Reenacting §129-3, "Violations And Penalties"; By Enacting §§ 129-12, "Definitions", §129-13, "Disposable Plastic Bag Use Prohibited At Point Of Sale", §129-14, "Required Fee For Provision Of Paper And Reusable Carryout Bags", §129-15 "Violations And Penalties", And §129-16, "Rules And Regulations"; And By Repealing And Reenacting Chapter 110, "Fees And Penalties", §110-12 "Penalties" To Prohibit A Retail Establishment From Providing A Carryout Plastic Bag To Customers, To Require A Retail Establishments To Charge A Fee Of At Least \$.10 For Each Paper And Reusable Carryout Bag Provided To Customers And To Provide A Penalty For Violation.

Mayor Wojahn opened the Public Hearing and invited public comment on this ordinance.

Brendan Mahoney, Restaurant Association of Maryland: He requested an amendment to exempt food service facilities from the plastic bag ban and the requirement to collect a fee from the customer for paper bags. There are certain situations where a plastic bag is needed to provide a better barrier for items that might leak. Reusable bags present a legitimate food safety concern due to cross contamination. Requiring a customer to pay a fee for paper bags is a concern to fast food establishments and food service delivery companies. He suggested further engagement with those establishments prior to adoption.

Staff clarified the exemptions listed in the proposed ordinance.

Alexa Bely, resident, co-chair, CBE: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Todd Larsen, resident, co-chair, CBE: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Caroline Thorn, resident, UMD SGA Director of Government Affairs: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Reese Artero, resident, member of SGA sustainability committee: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Teddy Jorgenson, resident, member of the SGA sustainability committee: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Leo Shapiro, resident: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

Carolyn Wick, resident: Spoke in support of the Better Bag initiative.

There being no further public comment, the Public Hearing was declared closed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whitney and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adopt Ordinance 23-O-01, an Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Amending Chapter 129, "Licenses", By Renaming The Chapter As "Licenses And Business Regulation"; By Dividing The Chapter Into Two Articles; By Repealing And Reenacting §129-3, "Violations And Penalties"; By Enacting §§ 129-12, "Definitions", §129-13, "Disposable Plastic Bag Use Prohibited At Point Of Sale", §129-14, "Required Fee For Provision Of Paper And Reusable Carryout Bags", §129-15 "Violations And Penalties", And §129-16, "Rules And Regulations"; And By Repealing And Reenacting Chapter 110, "Fees And Penalties", §110-12 "Penalties" To Prohibit A Retail Establishment From Providing A Carryout Plastic Bag To Customers, To Require A Retail Establishments To Charge A Fee Of At Least \$.10 For Each Paper And Reusable Carryout Bag Provided To Customers And To Provide A Penalty For Violation, with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

The Mayor and Council spoke in support of adopting the ordinance as written, and thanked staff and the Committee for a Better Environment for their work on the bill.

The motion passed 8-0.

Discussion Items

A. Annual Presentation from City Auditors: Mr Fields introduced Mr. Seymour and Mr. Lehman from SB and Company.

Mr. Lehman said they have issued an unmodified opinion, no fraud was discovered, no audit journal entries were required, no material weaknesses were identified, and they received full cooperation from staff in conducting the audit. Mr. Lehman reviewed the

PowerPoint presentation. They will also complete the Single Audit required by ARPA by the March deadline.

The Ledo's write-off is a one-time event. On Schedule 17, the "miles of sidewalks" and "miles of roads" may need to be updated.

B. Presentation and discussion on options for gun violence prevention measures:

Councilmember Kennedy shared the research that an intern from the University of Virginia did for her. Suggestions: Promote an education campaign about gun safety practices: the importance of locking up guns; availability of gun safes; nearby places to store your guns; store ammunition separately from guns. Purchase and distribute gun locks (cost about \$10 each) to residents (budget item). Advertise gun buy-back programs when they are held. Talk about these items at the next Public Safety meeting. Pay attention to what the University of Maryland is doing.

C. Discussion and possible action on legislation:

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to support these bills, and applicable crossfiles, via a letter or testimony:

- HB 459 County and Municipal Street Lighting: MML is taking no position. Letter to MML requesting support of the bill. Bring to PGCMA. COG is submitting a letter in support.
- SB 159/HB 162 Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry - Establishment
- HB 1130/SB 229 Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization, Use, and Penalties
- HB 51 Department of Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program and Debt Limit of Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Bonds (State and Federal Transportation Funding Act). Used to fund ICC and can be used for transit projects such as expansion of MARC service.
- HB 94 Vehicle Laws – Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities
- SB 557/HB 628 Primary and Secondary Education – Breakfast and Lunch Programs – Universal Expansion
- SB 86 Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023). To raise the age to own a rifle or shotgun in Maryland to 21
- HB 503 Natural Resources - Greenspace Equity Program – Establishment. Supported by MML

- HB 552 Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)
- HB 1209 Environment – Flood Control – Flood Risk Assessment and Model Ordinance (Climate Ready Floodplain Act of 2023)
- HB 892 Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Overburdened Communities

The motion passed 8-0.

More information was requested for SB 292 – Victims of child trafficking.

Future Agendas:

Esters/Whitney - Development and implementation of strategies to engage UMD student living in College Park, passed 8-0.

Kabir/Mitchell - Invite School Board CEO Goldson and representative Briggs to a future meeting to discuss local area schools, passed 8-0.

Council Comments/Reports:

Councilmember Kennedy – Vice Chair of the Farm Committee at COG.

Councilmember Mackie – Chair of the COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee.

Councilmember Mitchell – Emergency Management meeting of the MML HEPAC Committee.

Mayor Wojahn and Councilmember Adams – toured emergency operations center in Annapolis.

Mayor Wojahn - PGCMA meeting/lunch reception on 3/2 with the Montgomery County chapter. Request City sponsorship. 3/6 at 5 p.m. PGCMA will meet with the County Executive on budget priorities. The annual Spencer Harris Safety Awards Breakfast is on Thursday. Maryland Mayors Association Conference on Thursday.

Adjourn: Motion by Councilmember Adams, second by Councilmember Rigg, passed 8-0 at 9:45 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk