

**WORKSESSION MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**  
**Council Chambers**  
**7:30 P.M. – 10:43 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy (arrived at 7:39 p.m.), Brennan, Dennis, Rigg, and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Day and Kujawa.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Somers, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Peggy Higgins, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Ryan Chelton, Economic Development Coordinator; Alex Tobin, Student Liaison; Serena Saunders, Deputy Student Liaison.

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

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Somers announced Bike to Work Day, the Charter Review Commission Public Forum, discount compost at Public Works, and 1<sup>st</sup> Thirsty Thursday.

Councilmember Kabir said construction has started on Hollywood Gateway Park and asked about the schedule and neighborhood impact.

**AMENDMENT TO/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Add discussion of co-sponsoring a self-defense class (Kabir/Mitchell 5-0); approve agenda as amended (Rigg/Kabir) 5-0.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 1 Presentation on the Youth and Family Services program:** Miss Higgins announced her retirement in July. She reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on the Youth and Family Services program. Council is interested in seeing quantitative data. How do we compare with the other Maryland YSBs and their budgets? How many clients served are City residents? Clinical staff see approximately 50 families per week, and in 2018 saw a total of 120 families. 51% of people we serve are low-moderate income. College Park families get priority. Some wait as long as 9 months for an appointment. Fees for clinical services are on a sliding scale and are deeply discounted, per prior Council direction. We do not bill insurance.
- 2 Debrief of 2018 Farmers Markets and Discussion of 2019 Markets including Market Manager Contract – Ryan Chelton, Aaron Springer and Julie Beavers, Market Manager:** Both the Hollywood and Downtown Markets did well last year.  
Downtown: The changes implemented last year helped the downtown market do better – they have a new organic farmer that sells out every week and have added more prepared food. Making the market more visible to US 1 has helped. Not sure what will happen to this market when City Hall is under construction.  
Hollywood has at least 10 vendors/week and has seen an increase in sales since MOMs reopened. The MOMs manager is happy to have the market there.

The markets will open the weekend of May 4. Julie Beavers has agreed to return as market manager for another year. Contract on consent next week.

### **3 Review of proposed changes to the noise ordinance resulting from December 4 Worksession discussion:**

- Interest in a permit application process for special events that are likely to exceed noise limits. What would the approval process look like?
- If the UMD holds an event with loud noise that permeates into neighborhoods after 10 p.m. we should address it with them, as was done previously with Art Attack.
- Wailing Ordinance: County officers can enforce the County noise ordinance that has a provision about “disturbances” and can take action on “disorderly.” Staff previously raised a concern about how enforceable wailing legislation would be. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Ferguson will follow up with the County on whether they have legislation about “wailing.”
- Explore adding an “unruly behavior” category.
- Do a side-by-side comparison of our noise ordinance and Baltimore County’s.
- Ask the Noise Control Board to review and comment.
- Page 2/36 of staff report:
  - A: Definition of Day/Night on Saturday and Sunday: Add “Holidays”
  - D2: Remove “religious”
  - D3: Remove “religious or political”
- Should we have a permit requirement for political events? For protests at City Hall?
- What about modified mufflers? Police can stop and issue a repair order

Return future W/S with responses to above.

**4 Discussion of possible consolidation of some National Night Out events in the future:** It is hard to get people to volunteer and participate. Consensus is to support neighborhood events rather than a central event. Can we provide staff to help provide structure, best practices, resources, to keep neighborhood events going? City Manager’s budget will propose an events coordinator who might be able to take this on in 2020. Can the coordinators of the various neighborhood events meet and learn from one another?

**5 Discussion and possible approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with State Highway Administration regarding pedestrian lights on US 1 between College Avenue and 193:** We received updated information from SHA and revised pricing for 134 lights. SHA policy is that MOUs must be signed prior to bid opening. Actual cost won’t be known until after the bid opening on March 7. This is only for Phase 1 of the US 1 reconstruction project. Cost to the City can be carried over two fiscal years or be bonded. Possibility of some pay back to the City if/when certain parcels are redeveloped. See *Special Session Item 19-G-41 for approval of MOU.*

**6 Discussion of legislation – SB 478/HB 1317, Property Tax-Vehicles Valued as Stock in Business-Alteration of Tax Credit:** Mr. Gardiner reviewed legislation and staff report. If approved as proposed, the bill would reduce the business personal property taxes the City collects from automobile dealers. Mr. Gardiner believes there is an amendment to “allow”

not “require” municipalities to offer the tax credit which would be beneficial to the City. Council is interested in supporting the amendment. See *Special Session Item 19-G-42 for approval of letter.*

**7 Appointments to Boards and Committees including next week’s appointment of the Board of Election Supervisors, selection of the Chief, and compensation for the Board, for the next two-year term:**

Board of Election Supervisors:

Mayoral - Jack Robson (Chief)

District 1 – Lisa Williams

District 2 – Diane Ligon

District 3 – John Payne

District 4 – Maria Mackie

Council discussion about compensation: The Board has been called upon to implement several new election changes which has required additional time for research. Compensation hasn’t increased since 2013. New compensation: Chief \$960/year; Supervisors \$720/year, for each of next two years. Clerk to provide number of meetings.

Additional appointments for CBE: Andrea McNamara and Pablo Regis de Oliveira (Rigg).

**ADDED TO AGENDA:** Possible City sponsorship of a Women’s Self Defense Class:

Councilmember Kabir stated that a business in north College Park is offering a free self defense class and asked if the City would co-sponsor the event and thereby provide advertising for the event on our various platforms. The business has their own liability insurance. Mayor Wojahn referred to the City’s draft policy on grants and sponsorships; the subcommittee has met but has not finalized the policy. This is a one-time event.

Councilmember Rigg drew comparisons with other private fitness/safety events in the City, and said there is a potential for a slippery slope and that this might set a precedent for other private commercial establishments who want the City to “sponsor” their event and provide free publicity.

*[Motion to extend the meeting, Mitchell/Kennedy, 5-1 (Brennan opposed).]*

Councilmember Kennedy said City-sponsored events should be vetted by staff.

Councilmember Mitchell was worried about the precedent and said Councilmembers can support the effort individually. Mayor Wojahn would like the City to develop an application process and protocol to handle requests like this. Mr. Somers said this is being worked on by the subcommittee.

**8 Requests for/Status of Future Agenda items:**

- (Wojahn) NLC Diversity and Equity Roadmap – staff time to complete a survey and NLC would come back with a roadmap to help the City address issues of equity and diversity in our policies and practices. Will require staff time for input. *Request for a Worksession, Mitchell/Kennedy, 6-0.*

**9 Mayor and Councilmember Comments:** Councilmember Mitchell discussed Women's History Month. Councilmember Kennedy mentioned the mixologist at The Hotel bar. Councilmember Kabir discussed the Community Police Meeting at MOM's Café. Councilmember Dennis announced tomorrow's Coffee Club. Councilmember Brennan visited the LIDL in Bowie that is identical to the new College Park store. Mr. Tobin discussed the Student Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Saunders discussed midterms. Mayor Wojahn said the City has a Bond Bill hearing on Saturday in Annapolis, discussed the National League of Cities conference in DC, attended the Lakeland Community Heritage Project dinner and discussed their efforts in preserving the history of that community.

**ADJOURN:** A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Brennan to adjourn the Worksession, and with a vote of 6-0, Mayor Wojahn adjourned the Worksession at 10:43 p.m.

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Janeen S. Miller  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved