

## **WORKSESSION MINUTES**

### **College Park City Council**

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

**7:30 p.m. – 9:11 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; Teresa Way-Pezzuti, Director of Human Resources; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works; Frank Pacifico, Assistant Director of Public Works; Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Bridgette Johnson, Economic Development Manager; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Manager; Ryna Quinones, Communications Coordinator.

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

**City Manager's Report:** Mr. Gardiner announced the nomination period for the Jack Perry Award will be open from May 15 – July 15; provided an update about upcoming Metro closures; reported on the Arbor Day event last week; and notified everyone that our Contract Police officers are enforcing the modified muffler law.

Councilmember Mitchell reported concerns about individuals canvassing in neighborhoods asking if residents received their COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Gardiner said the County is running a door-to-door campaign to urge residents to get the vaccine. Mr. Ryan added that the County Health Department is sending people out to encourage vaccination, but they should display County ID. He reminded residents that they don't have to open the door and should report suspicious activity to 9-1-1.

Councilmembers Kabir and Day spoke about the disturbances caused by loud noise from vehicles.

#### **Amendments to /Approval of Agenda:**

A motion was made to Councilmember Kennedy seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to move item #5 to the beginning of the agenda. The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell seconded by Councilmember Mackie to move item #4 as the second item. The motion passed 8-0.

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

**Discussion items:**

**1. Approval of the City Manager's Contract**

Mayor Wojahn said he is excited to announce the selection of Natasha Hampton as the new City Manager. A press release will go out shortly. This will be the first woman and person of color to serve as the City Manager in College Park.

Ms. Hampton thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and looks forward to joining us officially on June 1.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to enter into Special Session. The motion passed 8-0 and Council entered into Special Session at 7:48.**

**21-G-64: Approval of the City Manager's Contract: *See Special Session minutes***

**2. Expansion of the City's summer camp scholarships to include Park and Planning and Prince George's County Community College summer camps.**

**21-G-65: Approval of expansion of the City's summer camp scholarship programs: *See Special Session minutes***

**A motion to adjourn from Special Session was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy. The motion passed 8-0 and the Special Session was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.**

**3. Discussion of the lease of certain fleet vehicles instead of purchase:**

Mr. Marsili reviewed the PowerPoint presentation. He said this will keep our fleet in good shape and using the latest technology. We are moving toward a more electric fleet for certain vehicles.

Councilmember Kabir said it isn't clear overall what the net savings will be and asked if other municipalities are also moving toward leasing vehicles.

Mr. Marsili said the leased vehicles will be under warranty while we have them, and when we return them at the end of the lease period, we will recoup a residual value. Vehicle technology is changing quickly so leasing vehicles will help us keep the most efficient vehicles in our fleet.

Councilmember Rigg asked about the break-even point and how the numbers would look if we kept the vehicles for a longer period of time. Mr. Fields said we are not required to turn the vehicles in after five years. Mr. Marsili will provide further information and added that the lease option is only proposed for certain types of vehicles, and not for the heavy trucks.

Councilmember Esters asked if other companies offer similar lease opportunities that would be worth considering in the future. Mr. Marsili said there are other companies that we could explore.

Ms. Ferguson said the default procurement process is a bid contract. Sourcewell is a cooperative purchasing group created by state statute. The City may want to amend its Code in the future to allow for this type of purchase.

To agenda at end of May – get questions answered in the meantime.

#### **4. Discussion of an amendment to the Bulk Trash Ordinance 20-O-02 to allow for a fee waiver in cases of a hardship.**

Mr. Marsili reviewed the staff report and said a draft ordinance is attached to address Council's interest in the ability to provide a fee waiver in cases of a hardship. Ms. Ferguson said the ordinance also provides more flexibility as to when billing and collection is made.

Councilmember Kennedy said the information on the website is confusing. Mr. Marsili said we will look at the website and are also preparing a one-page pamphlet.

Councilmember Kabir asked if the current language covers the scenario when a long-time resident is moving out of their home and needs to clear the contents due to downsizing. Ms. Ferguson said she will draft language for that situation.

Councilmember Mitchell agrees with the need to allow a waiver for these long-term residents, but thought we had talked about two occurrences, not one.

Councilmember Rigg likes the current language and said if we create too many exceptions it will work against our Strategic Plan objectives because we want to encourage residents to use reuse/recycle options.

There was discussion about the language, "or other one-time event," and how flexible that could be. It could cover the scenario when an individual who has lived in the City for a long time is clearing out their house when they move.

Mr. Marsili discussed the billing process.

For introduction next week (Rigg).

#### **5. Discussion on requiring notification to nearby residents when a request for exemption from the prohibited vehicle ordinance is made to the City.**

Mr. Ryan reviewed the staff report. If Council wanted to provide a notification process to nearby residents, it would include a code change. He described the notification process that staff is proposing and also the possibility of time-limiting the permits.

Councilmember Esters asked about the length of time the permits are granted for.

Councilmember Mitchell wants to bring some structure to the process.

Councilmember Kabir said the reason we call them prohibited vehicles is because they can be very large and cause some inconvenience to the neighbors. It is important to notify the neighbors.

For introduction next week (Kabir).

**6. Future Agenda Items:**

Esters/Mitchell: WMATA discussion of summer Green line station closures, pending receipt of form. Motion passed 8-0.

**7. Mayor and Councilmember Comments:**

Kabir: Monday community police meeting.

Kennedy: Monarch Preschool at the Methodist Church.

Dennis: Noise from loud vehicles.

Wojahn: New SGA president; farewell to Dan Alpert; new Student Liaison will be announced next week; Route 1 Communities Care artwork fundraiser.

**ADJOURN:**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Esters to enter into a Closed Session. Mayor Wojahn read the closing statement: Pursuant to the statutory authority of the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b), the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park are providing notice that they will meet in a Closed Session after the meeting to consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The Mayor and Council will not return to public session after the Closed Session ends. The motion passed 8-0 and the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.**

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Janeen S. Miller  
City Clerk

Date  
Approved