

WORKSESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Davis Hall, 9217 51st Avenue
7:30 P.M. – 10:55 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Brennan, Dennis, Day, Rigg, Kujawa and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

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; Julia Nikhinson, Deputy Student Liaison

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

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Somers talked about College Park Day.

AMENDMENT TO/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was approved without amendment (Day/Brennan) 8-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Presentation on CBE SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) report – Suchitra Balachandran, Matt Dernoga and Todd Larsen:

Ms. Balachandran presented the report (attached to minutes). Discussion:

- The environmental impact seems to be the strongest argument in favor.
- Questions about the suggestion of a tax reduction – can it even be done? What was the basis for the numbers in the report? Is it realistic?
- Explore options to the bag system that was proposed, such as compostable bags, various sized containers, or whether there is new technology that makes a weight-based program feasible. Don’t want to add plastic bags to the waste stream.
- Importance of a well-developed implementation strategy and public education. Why did New Windsor end their pilot program early?
- What initiatives/opportunities might be created to complement this program? i.e., recycling, food waste composting.
- Question about the meeting they held last week – was it a CBE meeting? No, they wanted to get feedback before making this presentation. Council stated they would prefer the group talk to Council before they start talking to residents.
- Do more research, explore options and consider adding this item to the next Strategic Plan.

2. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with University of Maryland (UMD) for police department monitoring of certain City security cameras – Deputy Chief David Lloyd and Lt. Joseph Lilly, UMD Police Department, and Bob Ryan:

UMPD has monitored 21 of the City’s security cameras since 2011. The first three years were free of charge. The current agreement expired last year. The new MOU shows a fee increase; the explanation was that monitoring costs are increasing. They work with our vendor to get cameras fixed or replaced, as needed.

Council expressed interest in data that show what results we are getting for the cost: the impact on response time, how cameras are being used, how many arrests are related to the 21 live monitored cameras? Not interested in old data or anecdotal information. Can we get more immediate access to the data on the record-only cameras when needed? Is there a “medium” level of service that would cost less? How did the UMPD arrive at the costs in the MOU? Major Lloyd requested all of the questions in writing. Council to send their questions through Bob Ryan. Return with the MOU when we get answers to our questions.

Look into the problems that have been reported with the hardware. 200+ service requests per year is excessive. Schedule another Worksession about our own Hitachi camera program.

- 3. Follow-up on Committee-on-Committees recommendations:** Mr. Somers described this as a discussion on logistics on how to move forward with the CoC recommendations. All appointments will expire on June 30. All terms going forward will be three-year terms. How to transition to staggered terms from the current terms. Use a lottery system to reappoint one-third of the members for 1 year, 2 years, 3 years. Some appointments are by district, some are at large – how will that be handled? Those designations weren’t contemplated to be changed. Return future W/S.
- 4. License agreement for installation of Small Cell Antenna facilities and application process:** Ms. Ferguson said we are starting to get interest from companies wishing to install antennas in the City and we are also hearing concerns from residents. This draft license agreement will continue to be refined and will be shared with the companies. Some are interested in placing antennas in residential areas. The application needs to be finalized. Has MML come up with a standard application? Return Future W/S.
- 5. City membership in the Purple Line Corridor Coalition:** Move forward with membership.
- 6. Boards and Committees:** Special Session appointment of Theresa Keeler to the College Park Housing Authority.
- 7. Future Agenda Items:**
 - Expand cameras on the Trolley Trail in Berwyn.
 - Revitalizing the downtown street scene on weekends maybe by closing streets.
 - Other options for traffic calming such as chokers that can be incorporated into our Complete Streets plan to make streets safer for bikes/pedestrians.
 - Butterfly gardens/Bee City USA
 - Extending bike system to east College Park
 - Talk to Park & Planning and Riverdale Park about Old Calvert Road now that the road is being used more than ever for cut through traffic – bridge is dangerous, no sidewalk. Add to future W/S Day/Rigg 8-0.
 - Status of residential security camera rebate program – ask lobbyist and County staff status of County legislation.
- 8. Comments:**
 - Status of zoning rewrite and when should we weigh in

- Proclamation for Spanish Heritage Month
- Coffee Club
- Flashing lights at Hartwick and US 1
- Find more strategies to reach our residents about the tree programs that we offer

[Motion to extend meeting beyond 10:30 by Brennan/Kennedy 8-0.]

- Review of trip to New York City to meet with credit rating agencies
- Over 1,000 people were helped at the free dental clinic at the Xfinity Center

9. Adjourn: At 10:32 p.m., a motion to adjourn into closed session was made by Brennan/Day and passed 8-0. The closed session is to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, to consult with staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The City Attorney and staff will discuss a possible settlement in a matter of pending litigation. The City Attorney will offer legal advice to the Mayor and Council.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved