

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**  
**8:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Olson, Fellows, Hampton and Peña-Melnyk; Jesse Blitzstein, Student Liaison.

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joe Nagro, City Manager; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Elisa Vitale, Planning; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Peggy Higgins, Director of Youth and Family Services; and Carole Sheringham, Human Resources Manager.

**Minutes:** Councilmember Perry moved to approve the minutes of September 26 Public Hearing @ 7:00 p.m.: Petition Request For Change Of Existing Permit Parking Restrictions In The 9700-9800 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue; September 26 Public Hearing @ 7:15 p.m.: Petition Request For Change Of Existing Permit; Parking Restrictions In The 5200 Block of Edgewood Road; September 26 Public Hearing @ 7:30 p.m.: Ordinance No. 06-O-06, Amending Chapter 129, Licenses; September 26 Public Hearing @ 7:45 p.m.: Ordinance No. 06-O-07, Amending Chapter 11 Article 2, Airport Authority; September 26 Regular Meeting; and October 24 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Krouse second. Motion carried 8-0-0.

**Announcements:**

Councilmember Perry announced the Berwyn Civic Association Meeting of November 16, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. to be held in Fealy Hall.

Councilmember Olson thanked all for their support in the last year for his successful bid to the Prince George's County Council.

Councilmember Hampton congratulated staff on the Local Government Insurance Trust award and wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk thanked all for their support and announced her swearing-in date of January 12, 2007.

**Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries:** Mayor Brayman recognized Emma Simson, Student Government Association President, and George Gates of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

**Acknowledgement of Newly Appointed Board and Committee Members:** None.

**Awards:** None

**Amendments To The Agenda:** None.

**City Manager's Report:** Mr. Nagro reminded all that it is leaf season and to bring your leaves to the curb; the Columbia Avenue project has begun between Norwich Road and Dartmouth Avenue; reported on the street light project on Route 1; the utilities (sewer and water) have been capped at the Yale Avenue properties; and complimented Carol Linder, Safety Officer, for her work handling claims with Local Government Insurance Trust where the City won a claims award.

**Student Liaison Comments Jesse Blitzstein:** University clean-up – the last two events went extremely well; the last clean-up of the year will be held on Sunday, December 19th; congratulated Councilmembers Olson and Peña-Melnyk on their achievements; and requested that Council take student interest into account regarding the upcoming Special Election date.

**Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:**

**George Gates, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission:** Introduced himself as the new Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator and if there are any issues to please feel free to give him a call. Mr. Gates will come back to a future Council meeting to discuss the City's water issues/concerns.

**William Grayson, 4805 Cherokee Street & Co Director of Maryland Votes:** Maryland Votes is a new non-partisan statewide origination that works to register and mobilize student voters which was able to register 8,500 new student voters from Maryland. Mr. Grayson request that Council look into moving the Special Election to the first or second week in February to give the students the opportunity to participate in the special election.

**Emma Simson, SGA President, 8904 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** Asked Council to consider moving the special election to after or before the student winter break (February or December).

**Devon Ellis, 3712 Marlborough Way:** Was robbed at gun point Saturday morning in University Park; encouraged the City to keep up the efforts to provide security and safety for our community; and if there were to be an increase in revenue, to employ more police officers to the City.

**Presentations: Peggy Higgins, Director of Youth and Family Services, presented the results of the College Park's Family Summit which was held on October 24, 2006 at the Youth and Family Services building.**

## **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hampton and seconded by Councilmember Olson to adopt the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- 06-R-23      Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-13, 7323 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Maryland for a Waiver of the Rear Yard Setback Requirement for All Structures in a Commercial Zone
  
- 06-R-24      Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-15, 7007 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, Maryland for a Variance from the Maximum Allowable Lot Coverage of 6% or 476 Square Feet from the allowable lot coverage of Thirty Percent (30%) or 2,395 Square Feet to add a 20' x 28.3' Two-Story Addition
  
- 06-R-26      Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting the Recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission and Granting Variance Application Number CPV-2006-18, 8615 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, Maryland for a Variance from the Twenty-five Foot (25') Front Yard Setback Requirement to Construct An Open Front Porch
  
- 06-G-136      Letter To The City-University Partnership Regarding The Development Of The Starview Property
  
- 06-G-139      Letter To The Developer Regarding The Development Of The Starview Property

The Consent Agenda was adopted by a vote of 8-0-0.

## **Action Items:**

### **06-G-137      Approval of a Letter to the State Highway Administration Regarding Phasing of Route 1 Development**

A motion was made by Councilmember Peña-Melnyk and seconded by Councilmember Fellows to send a letter to Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator of the State Highway Administration regarding the phasing of Route 1 development.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk stated that the April 24, 2006 letter from the State Highway Administration to Councilmember's Dernoga and Hendershot, requested that the City and County work together to determine a priority order for the segmentation of Route 1 design and

construction. The City recently sent a letter to the Prince George's County Executive and County Council expressing support for phasing the design and construction of US Route 1 improvements to facilitate implementation of the project.

After reviewing the State Highway Administration construction phasing criteria, this letter is recommending the following priority order for phasing: Segment 1 from College Avenue to MD 193; Segment 2 from MD 193 to Hollywood Road; and Segment 3 from Hollywood Road to I-495/95 .

### **Council Comments**

Councilman Krouse asked if the City had spoken to the University of Maryland requesting their support for segmentation of US Route 1.

City Manager Nagro stated that a request was sent to Mr. Porcari asking if the University of Maryland would support or co-sign this letter. Mr. Porcari's response was that the University would send out their own letter. As of the meeting tonight, we have not received a copy of their letter.

Councilmember Krouse expressed that the shared vision of US Route 1 was to have a divided four lane road with outside bike lanes and the vision now appears to be divided into sections with no commitment from anyone of building all three segments. Councilmember Krouse further expressed that he is not sure this letter is going to ensure that all three segments of Route 1 are going to get built. He further stated he is disappointed that we have not received a copy of a letter from the University of Maryland stating that they support the segmentation of US Route 1 and that they are committed to getting the rest of the road built since the City was going on record supporting completing the road close to the University of Maryland.

Councilmember Perry echoed Councilman Krouse's comments and stressed that he is concerned that there is no commitment in fixing Route 1 and we don't ask for a commitment in this letter. Does not believe the State is committed to Route 1. Concerned that if we send this letter out as written that we will only have the first section being built. Does not believe that the University of Maryland is concerned about US Route 1 past the Main gate.

**Councilmember Fellows moved to amend the letter. In the first paragraph remove the last sentence and add: "While the City remains committed to rebuilding all of US Route 1, and we asked for the State of Maryland's same commitment, the City Council recommends the following priority order for phasing."**

Councilmember Fellows stated that this amendment would reassert our commitment to the rebuilding all sections of Route 1. Councilmember Krouse seconded the motion. The amendment passed 8-0-0.

Councilmember Fellows stated that it is a shared interest to rebuild all of Route 1 and if the University's correspondence does not request the same as the City, then we could respond to their letter.

Councilmember Peña-Melnyk stated that she has been involved in fixing Route 1 for almost four years and when she first took on this project that it was not a priority for anyone. After working with District 21 a resolution was passed making Route 1 a priority. Therefore, a letter was sent to the State Highway Administration and now they are saying that there is no money in the budget. SHA is now asking that the design and construction of the proposed US 1 improvements begin with segmentation. This is not the ideal way of getting US Route 1 fixed, but it is a start. If we do not compromise now it is never going to get done. Councilmember Peña-Melnyk urged Council to sign this letter now and she will keep fighting for the improvements of US Route 1.

Mayor Brayman recommends that we also copy Dr. Mote.

The main motion as amended passed 7-1-0, Councilmember Perry opposed.

### **06-G-138      Appointments to Boards and Committees**

Councilmember Hampton moved to appoint Denise Mitchell to the Education Advisory Committee. Councilman Catlin moved to appoint Dr. Courtland Lee to the Education Advisory Committee to fill the UMCP appointment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to approve the aforementioned appointments. The motion carried 8-0-0.

### **Council Comments**

Councilmember Milligan has seen on several occasions that people are not obeying traffic signs within the neighborhood and suggested that we may want to do a public service announcement to let people know that the traffic signs need to be obeyed, even in quiet residential neighborhoods.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Peña-Melnyk to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Yvette Allen  
Assistant City Clerk