

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, February 27, 2007
8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, Stulich, Cook and Hampton; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bob Levan, City Attorney; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Peggy Higgins, Director of Community Outreach; Carole Sheringham, Director of Human Resources; Elisa Vitale, Planner.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Perry.

Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2007 and the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2007 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adopt the minutes as written. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Perry complimented the staff on a job well done with the wet snow on Sunday.

Councilmember Krouse announced that the North College Park Citizen's Association would meet on Thursday March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Davis Hall.

Mayor Brayman announced the "If I Were Mayor, I Would...." essay contest, which is a statewide essay contest for 4th graders sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Mayor's Association. More information can be found at www.mdmunicipal.org.

Acknowledgement Of Dignitaries: Mayor Brayman acknowledged Stacey Baca, Chair of the City's Education Advisory Committee.

Proclamations – Mayor Brayman was joined at the podium by Ms. Angie Rodriguez of American Legion Post #217 Auxiliary and the reigning Miss College Park, Ms. Vickie Kalasinsky. Mayor Brayman presented the Proclamation for the "16th Annual Miss College Park Scholarship Pageant."

Ms. Kalasinsky made personal remarks about her year as Miss College Park. She was awarded \$2,500 from the Miss College Park pageant, and \$7,150 from the Miss Maryland pageant, which has gone toward tuition at the University of Maryland.

Ms. Rodriguez thanked Ms. Kalasinsky and stated that she helped raise money for the scholarship program. There are twenty young women competing in the upcoming pageant. She thanked the sponsors and the City for their support.

Amendments To The Agenda: The following items were added to the agenda:

07-G-26: Letter to Congressman Hoyer regarding FY '08 Federal Funding requests.

07-G-27: Authorize Staff To Prepare And The Mayor To Sign A Letter In Support of HB 423, Letter to Senator Madaleno regarding Street Lighting Equipment

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro announced the schedule for the budget worksessions. The Historic District Appeal previously scheduled for March 8 has been postponed to a date uncertain. He also reminded people that all City e-mail addresses changed to @collegeparkmd.gov. People should now change their address books because the old address will no longer work.

Student Liaison Comments: Mr. Blitzstein announced that the first Communiiversity Clean-up of 2007 would be held Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Participants should meet in the parking lot of City Hall.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items: None.

Consent Agenda: None.

Action Items:

07-G-21 Approval Of A Letter In Support Of A Proposed Prince George's County School Task Force And College Park's Representation On Same.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to send a letter to Dr. John Deasy to request the Prince George's County School System to establish a school task force with a subcommittee to address the needs of the Greenbelt/College Park area, and that College Park appoint two representatives to join the task force. Councilmember Fellows read the letter into the record.

Councilmember Fellows said that the proposed redevelopment near the Greenbelt Metro will impact student enrollment, and a task force to address the student capacity issue is crucial. We are working with surrounding jurisdictions in making this request.

Stacey Baca, Chair, College Park Education Advisory Committee, stated that the EAC supports this motion and thanked the Council for taking action on this item.

Councilmember Catlin noted a correction: “City” of Berwyn Heights should be changed to “Town” of Berwyn Heights on the cc list.

The motion passed 8-0-0.

**07-G-22 Approval Of A Letter Stating College Park’s Position On The
Springhill Lake Redevelopment Plan Regarding School
Land/Construction**

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Milligan to send a letter to the Prince George’s County Board of Education regarding the City’s position on school issues regarding the Springhill Lake redevelopment.

Councilmember Stulich reviewed the proposed Springhill Lake project and its impact, and commented that the City should pay attention to the demands residential development will place on our schools. This letter encourages the Board of Education to reconsider the plan to transfer land to this developer, and to weigh the needs of children as heavily as the economic benefit of this development to the County.

Stacey Baca, Chair, College Park Education Advisory Committee, stated that the EAC supports this motion and thanked the Council for taking action on this item.

Councilmember Perry disagrees with charging the impact fee on all of the residences and instead believes the fee should be charged for only the new units. He has no problem with the location of a new school on the existing bus lot site.

Councilmember Milligan stated that Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt support this position. The schools are overcrowded and buildings are in need of improvements. The developer is tearing down a school without adequate provisions for replacement. He dislikes locating an elementary school on a major road and next to a mall, and prefers having it located within the development.

Councilmember Krouse stated the offer by the developer for the land is \$108 million less than the cost of a new school.

Councilmember Catlin discussed pending legislation regarding giving the developer credit for the existing units that are to be demolished.

Councilmember Fellows believes the letter is asking for a fair value from the developer to not shortchange our youth. A new school will only enhance the value of the development.

The motion carried 8-0-0.

07-CR-01 Adoption of Charter Amendment Resolution 07-CR-01

A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of City Of College Park Passed Pursuant To The Authority Of Article XI-E Of The Constitution Of Maryland And Section 13 Of Article 23A Of The Annotated Code Of Maryland To Amend Subsection A Of Section C7-4 Of The Charter Of The City Of College Park In Order (A) To Allow The Private (Negotiated) Sale Of The City's General Obligation Bonds, (B) To Specify Or Provide For Certain Parameters By Which Any Sale Of The City's General Obligation Bonds By The Solicitation Of Competitive Bids At Public Sale Shall Be Conducted, (C) To Provide That The City's General Obligation Bonds May Be Sold At, Above Or Below Par Value And For Cash Or Other Valuable Consideration, And (D) To Provide That The City's General Obligation Bonds May Bear Interest At A Rate Or Rates That May Be Fixed Or Variable Or As May Be Determined Or Provided For By The Mayor And Council; Generally Relating To The Provisions Of Subsection A Of Section C7-4 Of The City Charter; And Providing The Procedures To Be Followed For The Effectiveness Of The Charter Amendments Adopted By This Resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 07-CR-01. Although not required in City Code, a Public Hearing on this item was held earlier this evening, so no further public comment will be taken at this time. 07-CR-01 was introduced on January 9, 2007, and if adopted tonight will become effective on April 18, 2007, barring a successful petition to referendum.

Councilmember Perry stated that passage of this Charter Amendment Resolution would bring the City's bond sale requirements into the 21st century. Years ago when the Charter was drafted, bond sales were done differently. The practice today is to negotiate, which is a better deal for the City. This Charter Amendment gives the City the authority to handle bond sales in this manner.

There was discussion about a possible error in the Section number listed in the title. It was later found to be correct as written.

The Charter Amendment Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0-0.

07-G-23 Approval of City Insurance Contracts

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to approve City Insurance contracts for liability, employee health and workers'

compensation insurances for FY 2008. Councilmember Perry read the contract amounts in to the record. The contracts submitted for approval and award were negotiated using authorized informal purchasing procedures including brokers, agents and staff initiatives and therefore require an extra-majority vote of the Mayor and Council. It was noted that the IWIF premium for workers' compensation insurance for FY 2008 includes a 22% Loss Control Incentive credit of \$77,597 that would not be available from another vendor.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Fellows recognized the \$77,597 credit for the IWIF premium and complimented the staff on their accomplishments. This is a credit to the City's Safety Program.

The motion passed 8-0-0.

07-G-24 Authorize The City Manager To Negotiate And Sign A Memorandum Of Understanding With The College Park Boys And Girls Club Regarding State Funding For Improvements To Duvall Field.

A motion was made by Councilmember Milligan and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the College Park Boys and Girls Club regarding State Funding for improvements to Duvall Field. He stated that Delegate Peña-Melnyk introduced legislation for a state bond in the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of constructing certain improvements at Duvall Field that will largely benefit the Boys and Girls Club since they are the primary user of the field and facilities.

Renee Milligan, former president and current Board member of the College Park Boys and Girls Club, spoke in support of this motion. The Boys and Girls Club is the major user of Duvall Field and sees these improvements as a first step in a major renovation project and as an investment in our children's and community's future. They will try to get members to attend the hearing in Annapolis to support the legislation.

Mayor Brayman stated that his wife is also on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club, and he will assist with providing testimony in Annapolis to support the bill.

The motion carried 7-1-0 (Perry opposed).

07-G-26 Approval Of A Letter To Congressman Hoyer re: FY 08 Federal Funding Requests

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Milligan to send a letter to Congressman Hoyer in support of FY 08 federal funding requests. Councilmember Krouse read the letter in to the record.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Perry stated these requests are “earmarks.” He is not in favor of people in other parts of the Country paying for our parking garage, but is in favor of a contribution to the Stream Valley.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Perry to request \$100,000 for the parking garage, and \$800,000 for the Stream Valley.

There were no comments from the audience on the substitute motion.

Councilmember Catlin, Fellows, Cook and Mayor Brayman spoke in opposition to the substitute motion.

The substitute motion failed 1-7-0.

The original motion passed 7-1-0 (Perry opposed).

07-G-27 Authorize Staff To Prepare And The Mayor To Sign A Letter To Sen. Madaleno In Support Of SB 423 – Street Lighting Equipment

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Krouse to send a letter to Senator Madaleno in support of SB 423 and its companion HB 875. This bill will allow municipalities to purchase street lighting equipment from electric companies at fair market value. Councilmember Catlin read a summary of the bill. This would give the City flexibility if it wanted to purchase and maintain the equipment, possibly saving money. He explained that the City just became aware of this legislation today, thus the short time frame in acting upon it.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Fellows urged support for this motion, stating that by owning and maintaining its own equipment, the City could improve the environment by using energy efficient equipment.

Councilmember Krouse also spoke in support of the motion.

Councilmember Milligan discussed the environmental impact and energy savings made possible by this legislation.

Councilmember Perry asked what would happen when a lease expires, if this had been reviewed by City staff, and if the City would need to establish a department to maintain the lights?

Mayor Brayman replied that those answers would be determined before the City would choose to act. This legislation would just give the City the option to act.

The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-0.

07-G-25 Appointments To Boards And Committees

The following names were put forward for appointment or reappointment:

Mayor Brayman reappointed John Robson, Chief, Board of Election Supervisors.
Councilmember Hampton reappointed Lizzette Vargas-Malpica to the Recreation Board.
Councilmember Milligan appointed Timothy Smalls to the Education Advisory Committee and David Miller to the Recreation Board.
Councilmember Fellows reappointed Renee Domogauer to the Board of Election Supervisors.
Councilmember Catlin reappointed Maxine Gross to the Board of Election Supervisors.
Councilmember Hampton reappointed Charles Smolka to the Board of Election Supervisors.
Councilmember Krouse reappointed Terry Wertz to the Board of Election Supervisors.

A motion was made by Councilmember Krouse and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to accept these appointments. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Milligan spoke about traffic and pedestrian safety in the neighborhoods. He saw an e-mail this week about a problem faced by a pedestrian trying to cross Rhode Island Avenue at Hollywood Road. He looks forward to having this issue coming back to Council.

Councilmember Krouse asked for upcoming worksession items regarding the composition of the APC and possible changes needed in the fence ordinance.

Councilmember Catlin raised questions about the safety of the mid-block crosswalk on Route 1 by Koons Ford. He thought there might be plans to have it moved or removed. Staff will follow up on this. He also spoke about the Park and Planning meeting last week about PDC campfire. Although the result was a favorable vote for the project, he believes the City's concerns were well documented. He also addressed the extension requested by Starview Plaza for their Detailed Site Plan. Staff will provide feedback on this.

Councilmember Perry asked the attorney if an applicant asks for a one year extension, can they come back earlier, or do they have to take the entire year. Mr. Levan replied they can come back earlier.

Councilmember Cook commented on the successful clean up of Guilford Run on Saturday that included about 30 students and residents.

Comments From The Audience: None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m. by a vote of 8-0-0.

Mayor Brayman commented that the Council will hold a worksession after a short break, but will not come back into public session.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, on March 6, 2007 at 7:20 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Milligan to enter into an Executive Session to consider matters that relate to collective bargaining negotiations. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Present: Mayor Brayman, Councilmembers Krouse, Milligan, Catlin, Fellows and Cook. Councilmember Perry arrived at 7:21 p.m., Councilmember Hampton arrived at 7:22 p.m., and Councilmember Stullich arrived at 7:24 p.m. Also in attendance were Bob Levan, Joe Nagro, Janeen Miller, Steve Groh, Bob Stumpff and Carole Sheringham.

Topics Discussed: An update on collective bargaining negotiations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fellows and seconded by Councilmember Perry to adjourn the Executive Session. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by a vote of 8-0-0.
