

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Ordinance 08-O-06

An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Amending Chapter 132 “Litter And Graffiti”, By Repealing And Reenacting §132-8 “Violations And Penalties”, §132-9 “Notice Of Violation; Cost Of Removal To Become Lien”, And §132-12 “Abatement By City” To Authorize Abatement Of Certain Litter And Graffiti Violations By The City, To Include The Costs Thereof On The Tax Bill Of The Owner Of The Property And To Authorize The Advisory Planning Commission To Decide Appeals
Tuesday, December 9, 2008
7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto, Catlin, Perry, Stullich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook. Councilmember Wojahn arrived at 7:40 p.m. and Student Liaison Dan Hartinger arrived at 7:43 p.m.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; and Steve Groh, Director of Finance.

Mr. Ryan explained that this proposed ordinance regarding litter would allow the City to take action to abate the violation when it has not been corrected within 24 hours. Prior to taking abatement action, the City has to provide the property owner with a notice allowing 10 days notice of its intention to enter onto the property to remove, dispose of, or eliminate the violation. The cost for doing the abatement is billed to the owner; any unpaid charges or any fine shall be added to the City real property tax and be collected as a lien against the property.

Mr. Ryan also explained that the proposed ordinance regarding graffiti is for commercial property only. Mr. Ryan stated that when a graffiti violation has been noted and not corrected within 14 days, the City has the right to abate with the cost billed to the owner and added to the City real property tax and be collected as a lien against the property. Mr. Ryan added that this proposed ordinance change is the same as what we currently do for tall grass and weeds.

Councilman Perry asked if a property owner needed more than the allowed amount of time to correct the violation, would the Director of Public Services still be able to grant an extension? Mr. Ryan responded that, under special circumstances, permission would still be granted.

Councilman Perry asked what precipitated the drafting of this ordinance, as he didn't feel there is a large problem in noncompliance. Mr. Ryan stated that requests were received from residents and councilmembers for quicker compliance of the ordinance.

Councilman Perry asked if this ordinance would allow for quicker compliance on public property. Mr. Ryan stated that the City is working directly with the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation to remove graffiti in a timely manner.

Mayor Brayman noted that no public comment would be taken during the regular meeting when the Council takes action on this item unless there is an amendment to the proposed Ordinance.

Being no public comment, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Yvette T. Allen, Assistant City Clerk