

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, November 25, 2008
8:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto (arrived 8:11 p.m.), Catlin, Stulich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook; Student Liaison Dan Hartinger (arrived 8:06 p.m.).

ABSENT: Councilmember Wojahn.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Steve Halpern, City Engineer.

Mayor Brayman opened the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Councilmember Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2008 Special Session and the November 12, 2008 Regular Meeting. The minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Announcements: None.

Acknowledgement of Dignitaries: Mayor Brayman recognized former Mayor Joe Page; Larry Bleau, President of the North College Park Citizens Association; and Jonathan Sachs, President of the Student Government Association.

Acknowledgement Of Newly Appointed Board And Committee Members: None.

Amendments To The Agenda: None.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro reported that Shuttle UM advertisement posters have gone up in the bus shelters. Leaf season is continuing; an amended leaf collection calendar has been posted on the City's web site.

Student Liaison Comments: Mr. Hartinger reported the SGA is focusing on lobbying in Annapolis regarding textbook legislation.

Comments From The Audience On Non-Agenda Items:
Larry Bleau, 4901 Niagara Road, President of the North College Park Citizens Association: At the November meeting, the NCPA took a unanimous position

opposing the proposed Chick-Fil-A restaurant on Cherry Hill Road; and heard a presentation from the Compassion Center.

Consent Agenda: None

Action Items:

08-R-21 A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Approving The Purchase Of A Regenerative Air Sweeper Under A Master Contract Between The City Of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania And Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems For A Total Price Of \$103,225.00

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Hampton that the City Council adopt Resolution 08-R-21: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Approving The Purchase Of A Regenerative Air Sweeper Under A Master Contract Between The City Of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania And Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems For A Total Price Of \$103,225.00.

Councilmember Perry commented that the City of College Park would get the same price on this piece of equipment that the City of Harrisburg received. This sweeper will replace a 1993 GM truck and will fit into the City's new parking garage. The funds have already been approved in the Capital Improvement budget.

Councilmember Catlin noted that the funding in the CIP was estimated at 90,000, so the City is spending a little more. However, the purchase was shown in the FY 2008 CIP, and the purchase is being made in FY 2009.

The motion carried 7-0-0.

08-G-112 Approval Of A Letter To The Prince George's County Department Of Public Works and Transportation Requesting Removal Of Nine Panels Of The Sound Wall On The Hiker Biker Trail At Paint Branch Parkway

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Molinatto that the Mayor be authorized to sign the attached letter to the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation requesting removal of nine panels of the sound barrier wall on the hiker biker trail at Paint Branch Parkway.

Councilmember Stullich commented that the intention is to improve the trail for pedestrian and bicycle use, and there is no intention to have this segue way into future vehicular access from Paint Branch Parkway into the Old Town neighborhood.

Comments from the audience:

Mayor Joseph Page: While he supports the need for the removal of the necessary panels to promote safety for bikers and pedestrians, he wants the City to ensure there is no expectation that removing those panels promotes ingress or egress of vehicular traffic. He recommends only removing those panels that are necessary and including language that this opening is not to be used for motorized traffic.

Larry Bleau, 4901 Niagara Road: He is a cyclist and often uses this route. The current configuration is awkward. He asked about the cost.

Councilmember Perry discussed the original purpose of the sound barrier wall, asked if the City was being premature in sending a letter now because the East Campus project and the Purple Line would remove some or all of the wall, asked what data supports the statement that the wall is an “unsafe” obstacle, and suggested the City’s letter should not be so specific in its request.

Changes to the letter were discussed.

A motion to amend the letter by removing the word “unsafe” was made by Councilmember Perry. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A second motion to amend the letter was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Mark Cook. The amendments were to the first sentence of the second paragraph, “By fall 2009, the City will have constructed the fourth trolley trail segment” and adding a third paragraph before the concluding paragraph, “We want to be clear that we do not support allowing motor vehicle access to the Old Town neighborhood at this crossing. This request is intended solely to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle use of the Trolley Trail, which is the City’s main north-south path for pedestrians and bicyclists.”

Councilmember Stullich said she views this letter as the beginning of a dialog with the County.

Comments from the Audience on the amendment:

Mayor Joe Page: Mayor Page felt Councilmember Stullich’s proposed amendment was adequate.

Councilmember Mary Cook asked how this would impact the effectiveness of the sound barrier. She is concerned that the residents in the area may not be aware of this proposal and should be notified.

The motion to amend the letter passed 6-1-0 (Perry opposed).

The main motion on the letter as amended passed 6-1-0 (Perry opposed).

08-G-113 Appointments to Boards and Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Perry to appoint Leonard Smith to the Veterans Memorial Improvement Committee. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Mary Cook commented on reasons to be thankful this Thanksgiving season.

Mayor Brayman discussed the recent public hearings on the Purple Line. He wants staff to reach out to Riverdale Park and the University of Maryland to understand their preferences on the alignment prior to the City taking a position in January.

Comments From The Audience: None.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Hampton to adjourn the meeting. The Council will reconvene in Worksession after a short recess. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk