

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
8:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle (arrived at 8:02 p.m.), Wojahn (arrived at 8:02 p.m.), Catlin, Perry, Stullich (arrived at 8:26 p.m.), Cook, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Becca Lurie, Student Liaison; Aaron Zaccaria, Deputy Student Liaison; Peggy Higgins, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Steve Groh, Director of Finance; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Dorothy Friedman, Planner.

Mayor Fellows opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Councilmember Afzali led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2010, the Special Session of September 21, 2010, the Confidential Minutes of the September 7 Executive Session and the Confidential Minutes of the September 15 Executive Session. Councilmember Catlin noted two corrections to the minutes of the September 15 Regular Meeting: correct the spelling of the word “recent” and change “neighborhoods” to “census tracts.” The motion passed 7 – 0 – 0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Nagle encouraged everyone to watch next week’s Worksession discussion item on the College Park City-University Partnership.

Councilmember Wojahn announced that College Park Day would be held on Saturday, October 9 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the College Park Community Center.

Councilmember Afzali announced the West College Park Civic Association would meet on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at the College Park Woods Clubhouse.

Councilmember Mitchell said there would be a City-wide Neighborhood Watch meeting on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Acknowledgement of Dignitaries: Mayor Fellows recognized Page Lacey and Linda Lachman, both of whom were recently reappointed to the Animal Welfare Committee. Ms. Lachman said she supports changing the name of the Animal Control Officer to the Animal Welfare Officer.

Proclamation: Mayor Fellows read the Proclamation for the “20th Annual Conference of the Association for Black Culture Centers.”

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

City Manager’s Report: Mr. Nagro reported on the Resident Information Guide produced by the Public Works Department that would be distributed this week. Copies in Spanish are also available.

Student Liaison Comments: Ms. Lurie reported that today is the Day Of Action – the SGA’s Voter Registration campaign. Voter registration closes on October 12.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items:

Marie LaBonte, 4800 Berwyn Road: Discussed problems being caused in the neighborhood by residents in a rental house on her street.

Miss College Park, Devin Fendlay: Ms. Fendlay reviewed her activities and appearances since being crowned on April 11, 2010. She is a freshman at the University of Maryland College Park and greatly appreciates the scholarship money she received

Ruth Herbert, 5004 Cheyenne Place: She expressed her dissatisfaction with the City’s purchase and plans for an Eco park at 4703 Edgewood Road.

Martin Klaypack, 4805 Harvard Road: He discussed the increase of crime and vandalism he has seen in his Calvert Road neighborhood between 1 a.m. – 5 a.m. and lamented the lack of police presence.

Presentations: Mayor Fellows and Peggy Higgins, the Director of the Youth, Family and Senior Services Department, made a presentation to Felipe Urquilla in recognition of his service to the College Park Seniors program.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda consisted of the following item:

10-R-26 Resolution To Extend The Downtown College Park Commercial District Management Authority

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Action Items:

10-G-80 Purchase Award to Duncan Solutions, Inc., for Parking Handheld Ticket Writers, Software, Training and Implementation for a net purchase price of \$44,200.

A motion was made by Councilmember Nagle and seconded by Councilmember Perry to award a contract to Duncan Solutions, Inc. of Carlsbad, California in the amount of \$44,200 for the purchase of 6 “AutoCite X3” handheld ticket writers, along with associated charger, software, training and implementation. The net price reflects a deduction for a trade-in allowance on the City’s current equipment. In awarding this contract, the City will be riding a contract issued by the City of Alexandria, VA. The purchasing policy of this COG member jurisdiction meets or exceeds our purchasing guidelines. This contract award is subject to contract arrangements and documents being prepared by the City Attorney. Funding for this purchase was encumbered in fiscal year 2010 through the issuance of a purchase order subject to Mayor and Council award.

Councilmember Nagle commented that the City’s existing 9 handheld ticket writers were purchased in July 2004 at a total cost of \$40,000. The manufacturer indicated their life expectancy was 5 years maximum; ours have exceeded that time period. Due to service problems, it has been determined that they should be replaced at this time.

There were no comments from the audience. There were no comments from the Council.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

10-G-81 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maryland Department of Transportation Services for Resident Ridership of the Shuttle-UM for a Fee of \$6,000 for the Period of September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2011 and Authorization for the City Manager to Sign the MOU

A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maryland Department of Transportation Services for Resident Ridership of the Shuttle-UM for a fee of \$6,000 for the Period of September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2011 and Authorization for the City Manager to Sign the MOU.

Councilmember Afzali stated the Department of Transportation Services reinstated the Route 1 Corridor route with the creation of the New Carrollton route (#126) which extends to the New Carrollton metro station and the Seven Springs route (#110) which extends to IKEA. Given the reinstatement and expansion of the Route 1 shuttle service, the City Manager negotiated with David Allen, Director of Transportation Services (DOTS) at the University of Maryland, to establish terms for the aforementioned fee to renew the MOU. Council appropriated funding for this service in the FY 2011 budget. The MOU allows up to 1,000 passes for City residents and city employees to ride the Shuttle-UM from September 2010 until the end of August 2011.

There were no comments from the audience on this item.

Councilmember Catlin said in 2008 the Maryland General Assembly created a three-year pilot program that resolved legal issues to allow City residents to ride the Shuttle. This is the third year so we will go back to the general assembly to get the law renewed or to give us a solution to

the legal issues going forward and not impose a program on us that really isn't what we asked for.

Councilmember Nagle said the program sounded like a good idea at the time, but based on how the program is working, it doesn't seem like a good idea to continue. The City recently did a survey, about 30 responses were received and very few people used the Shuttle on a regular basis. The University has told us that if the program continues, the fee would increase to \$10,000. She does not think it makes sense to continue with this and it's just throwing \$6,000 away.

Councilmember Wojahn shares the concerns about the program but thinks we should give it one more year. The City needs to support public transportation and provide more options to residents. He would like to see if it is possible to work out a similar arrangement with the Prince George's County "The Bus" system or WMATA. The Shuttle works for some people very well, but there may be other options that serve all of the City's residents.

Councilmember Afzali agrees we should look at other possible services in the future. He thinks it would be hard to continue if the University charges \$10,000 in the future, but voting "no" at this point would catch people off guard. If we want to get a Route 1 bus line in the future, it would look weird to cut this service now.

Councilmember Perry does not support this. We haven't come close to 500 riders and there is no way of documenting the actual number of riders. Campus bus service is paid for by student activity fees, which is why they would charge the City to use the service. All of the sudden it is government's responsibility to provide these services – he has a hard time with that. Just because we have budgeted for it doesn't mean we have to spend it.

Councilmember Catlin says it takes a lot of time, effort and energy to get legislation through Annapolis. This is a three year pilot program and if we don't continue it, it wouldn't look good for any kind of legislation that would allow us to make a better deal. This has taken a lot of effort on the part of many elected officials. If you let it die this year there is no telling how long it would take to resurrect it. The plans for development in the Route 1 corridor didn't come to fruition as we thought but it is important to make this kind of service available for people who live in the corridor.

The motion carried 5 – 3 – 0 (Cook, Perry and Nagle opposed).

10-G-82 Approval of a Letter to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission with FY 2012 Budget Requests

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Stulich to approve a letter to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) with FY 2012 budget requests including the following projects: an amendment to the Transit District Development Plan, a Cherry Hill neighborhood park display board, a new stormwater inlet at Hollywood Community Park, a new Entrance Gateway to

Hollywood Community Park, a study of a potential community center in the Hollywood Commercial District, a study of lighting along the Paint Branch Trail, closed circuit television cameras and license plate readers, and support for the College Park Dog Park Association park expansion.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that College Park received no funding for these projects in FY 2010 or FY 2011. The Prince George's County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on M-NCPPC operating and capital budgets for FY 2012 on Monday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex.

Councilmember Wojahn offered an amendment to the letter regarding the preliminary feasibility study for a Hollywood Community Center. He read the suggested amendment to the letter, which was accepted by Councilmembers Mitchell and Stullich.

The motion carried 8 – 0 – 0.

10-CR-02 Introduction Of A Charter Amendment Resolution To Amend §C3-1, Elected Officers Of The City, To Change The Age Requirement At The Time Of Taking Office To Age 18 for Mayor and Councilmembers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to introduce 10-CR-02, a Charter Amendment Resolution To Amend §C3-1, Elected Officers Of The City, To Change The Age Requirement At The Time Of Taking Office To Age 18 for Mayor and Councilmembers.

The public hearing will be held on October 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

10-G-83 Appointments To Boards And Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Nagle to reappoint Robert Day to the Advisory Planning Commission, reappoint Richard Biffi to the Rent Stabilization Board as a landlord representative; appoint Suzie Bellamy to the Animal Welfare Committee, appoint Doris Ellis to the Education Advisory Committee, and appoint Matthew Byrd to the Cable Television Commission. The motion carried 8 – 0 – 0.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Mitchell thanked everyone who attended the Ice Cream Social and Bingo today.

Councilmember Stullich reported on a vote taken at the Old Town Civic Association meeting last night on the proposed redevelopment at the Maryland Book Exchange. The motion was to recommend that the City Council oppose the development, and the motion passed 24-0. The City Council will receive a letter stating that position next week.

Councilmember Perry asked the Clerk to provide the Council with the history of an earlier referendum question about changing the age of elected officials in the City.

Councilmember Catlin stated that Hanami Japanese Restaurant received their beer and wine license from the Board of License Commissioners today.

Mayor Fellows attended a dinner tonight for the Center for Global Health Initiatives at the University of Maryland. They plan to do outreach for health initiatives in the community.

Comments from the Audience:

Wayne Woodruff, resident of Laurel, Maryland: Wanted to know how to go about putting a Christmas tree stand up in College Park.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Fellows adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. by a vote of 8 – 0 – 0.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date Approved