

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
8:00 p.m. – 9:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stullich, Cook, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Marcella Morris, Student Liaison.

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

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adopt the minutes of the Special Session on August 3, 2011, the Public Hearings of August 9, 2011 on 11-O-10, 11-O-11 and 11-O-06, and the Regular Meeting of August 9, 2011. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

City Manager's Report: The County Council will hold a Town Hall meeting in our City Council Chambers on Thursday, September 15 to discuss the streamlining of the County permitting process. Next week's Worksession will begin at 7:30 p.m. for the annual police agencies report to Council. The following week, on September 27, the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with an Oral Argument in CPV-2011-01. On October 5, the State Highway Administration will hold their annual "road show" for their Consolidated Transportation Plan - the location is to be determined. It is requested that elected officials present the City's priorities to SHA.

Student Liaison Comments: Ms. Morris announced that she has been confirmed by the SGA as the Student Liaison. The City's Department of Transportation MOU Bill for student opinion is in Committee with the SGA. She is trying to activate some community service programs.

Announcements:

Councilmember Mitchell said this Saturday from 9 – 11 a.m. there would be an estate planning workshop.

Councilmember Afzali said there is an upcoming meeting on expanding the Paint Branch bike trail from Cherry Hill to Laurel.

Councilmember Cook announced the Old Town Civic Association would hold a meeting on Monday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Parish House.

Councilmember Stullich said the Calvert Hills Citizens Association would meet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Parish House.

Councilmember Perry said the Berwyn District Civic Association would meet on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. at Fealy Hall. He discussed the recent Washington Post story about Sears catalog homes and an article in the Real Estate section about Berwyn.

Councilmember Catlin discussed last week's successful Berwyn Day, and predicted that the digging in front of the old College Park Motel might be in preparation for a new hotel development that was approved several years ago.

Councilmember Wojahn said that in conjunction with the M-NCPPC review of the Greenbelt Metro Area Sector Plan, a public forum on the areas that are closest to College Park would be held next Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Greenbelt Middle School.

Councilmember Nagle said the North College Park Citizens Association had a well-attended picnic on Saturday. On Monday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. District 1 County Council Member Mary Lehman will hold a County Redistricting meeting at the Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Beltsville.

Mayor Fellows noted the resumes of his intended appointments to the Ethics Commission.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items: None.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adopt the Consent Agenda which consisted of the following items:

- 11-G-80 Approval Of A Letter To The US Census Bureau Count Question Resolution Office To Submit The City's Challenge To Certain Data In The 2010 Census.**
- 11-R-15 Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission Regarding Variance Application Number CPV-2011-03, 9740 51st Place, College Park, Maryland, Recommending Approval Of A Variance Of 2 Feet From The Minimum Required Front Yard Depth Of 25 Feet To Construct A 4-Foot Deep By 6-Foot Wide Cover Over The Front Stoop**
- 11-G-81 Motion To Discharge The Redistricting Commission And Thank Them For Their Service**

The motion passed 8 – 0 - 0.

Action Items:

11-O-12 Adoption of 11-O-12, An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland To Amend 30 Attachment 1 To Clarify The Narrative Descriptions Of The Redistricting Plan For Council Member Elections

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to adopt Ordinance 11-O-12, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland, to amend the narrative descriptions of the Councilmanic Districts in “30 Attachment 1” of the Redistricting Plan (Plan C) for Councilmember elections, to more closely conform the wording to the adopted diagram and districts.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that this Ordinance will not change any of the district boundaries that were approved by the Council in Ordinance 11-O-09 which was adopted on July 12, but will clarify the narrative descriptions to better depict the map.

There were no comments from the audience or the Council.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

11-R-16 A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland, Adopting A Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell that the City Council adopt Resolution 11-R-16 in support of the Maryland Municipal Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of College Park.

Councilmember Perry commented that in 2010 it was decided to have a MML-sponsored Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. The final document was approved at the June 2011 MML Conference by both the Maryland Municipal Attorneys Association, Suellen Ferguson lead drafter, and the Maryland Municipal Public Works Officials Association, Bob Stumpff lead reviewer. The basis for a Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement between the various municipalities in Maryland is to be able to aid each other in the event of an emergency situation by providing resources – personnel, equipment, and supplies. Municipalities that do not sign a Mutual Aid Agreement will not be able to be reimbursed by MEMA (Maryland Emergency Management Administration) and/or FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) for helping another municipality when that municipality has a catastrophe, and declared as such by the Governor of Maryland and the President of the United States of America. A municipality can be a signatory to the Mutual Aid Agreement but is not mandated to help any other municipality if it does not have the resources to do so or it is also in the same emergency situation and needs all of its resources. Examples of such emergency situations include: the 2003 tornado in La Plata, the February 2010 snow storm, and Hurricane Irene in August 27-28, 2011.

He said even when we don't have an agreement, we do help. This is so that everyone can get reimbursed. He complimented staff for their work to bring this forward.

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

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

11-G-82 Approval Of A Letter To The Regional Postmaster About Mail Service Concerns In North College Park And Request For A Meeting To Discuss

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Nagle to send a letter to the Capital District Manager of the US Postal Service in Capitol Heights Maryland expressing concerns about performance issues with the Hollywood post office.

Councilmember Wojahn stated this letter was the result of concerns he has heard over the last two years such as misdirection of mail, mail that has been lost, poor customer service at the post office itself, and the unavailability of a complaint process for residents. This letter requests a meeting with representatives of the post office in an attempt to address the concerns.

Comments from the audience:

Stephen Brimer, 9732 52nd Avenue: He can attest to the concerns expressed in this letter because a check that was sent to him was never received and was returned to the sender stating that his house was vacant.

Councilmember Mitchell and Councilmember Wojahn requested revisions to the letter. Add a "cc" to the 21st Delegation and add another problem that was raised by a resident who requested a vacation hold on their mail but the mail was not held. Staff will revise the letter for the Mayor's signature.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

11-G-83 Appointments To Boards And Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Catlin to appoint Edward Maginnis (District 1), Richard Graham (At-large), and Gail Kushner (District 4) to the Ethics Commission. The motion passed 7 – 0 – 1 (Councilmember Nagle abstained).

11-G-84 Discussion Of The City's Priorities For The M-NCPPC 2013 Budget And Approval Of A Letter With City Comments

Prior to the motion, there was discussion about this agenda item. Staff learned about the County's September 19th hearing on the 2013 M-NCPPC budget after last week's Worksession. In the past, the City has sent a letter to the County with comments on the Park and Planning budget, and the Recreation Board has weighed in as well. Peggy Higgins, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services, commented on a potential concern regarding continued funding of the recreation staff for the after-school program at the Recreation Center adjacent to the City's Youth and Family Services building. Ms. Tina McCloud, member of the Recreation Board, presented the Board's comments.

The Council discussed the issues raised by Ms. Higgins, the Recreation Board, and the priorities that were in previous letters to Park and Planning, and developed a list of current priorities. A draft letter was discussed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Nagle that staff draft a letter to M-NCPPC for the Mayor's signature with requests for funding in the 2013 budget based on the priorities identified tonight.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Perry asked which dog park was being supported in the letter. The response was the dog park in Acredale Park off Metzert Road. He commented that this should have been a Worksession item.

Councilmember Catlin recommended that the signed letter be placed in Council packets for the elected officials who plan to testify on Monday. Councilmember Wojahn said he would testify on behalf of the City at the hearing.

The motion carried 7 – 1 – 0 (Councilmember Perry opposed).

Council Comments:

Councilmember Wojahn said the new restaurant, Azteca, has opened in north College Park, at the corner of US 1 and Indian Lane. Councilmember Afzali said it is a white tablecloth restaurant with good food.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilmember Catlin and seconded by Councilmember Afzali to adjourn the Council meeting. Mayor Fellows adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m. with an 8 – 0 – 0 vote.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date
Approved