

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 27, 2011
8:16 p.m. – 8:53 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Catlin and Mitchell.

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; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Elisa Vitale, Senior Planner; Marcella Morris, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the meeting at 8:16 p.m. after an earlier Oral Argument. Councilmember Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Cook to adopt the minutes of the Public Hearing on September 13, 2011 for Ordinance 11-O-12, and the regular meeting of September 13. The motion passed 6 – 0 – 0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Wojahn discussed College Park Day which will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 1 – 5 p.m. at the College Park Community Center. This year College Park Day will include some famous food vendor trucks, a variety of entertainment and activities for kids.

Councilmember Nagle announced the Experience and Enjoy College Park tour will be held at the new Azteca Restaurant on U.S. 1 on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. The speaker is Major Velez, Prince George's County Police Commander of District 1.

Proclamations: Mayor Fellows read the Proclamation for Alpha Phi Omega's Invasive Plant Removal event at Cherry Hill Park.

Amendments to the Agenda: Add item #11-G-88, Maryland Stingers Fall Field Use Request (Councilmember Stullich).

City Manager's Report: Mr. Nagro announced the Public Works yard will be open Saturday October 1 and October 8 for fall clean-up. Residents can bring anything to the yard except hazardous material. Hours are 7:30 a.m. – 12 noon. He also reminded residents that Columbus Day is not a City holiday so trash collection will be on the normal schedule. The new Resident Information Guide is now being distributed door-to-door and is getting positive reviews. He discussed the two press events on Wednesday, October 5 for the Safe Routes to School program.

Student Liaison Comments: Ms. Morris said she wrote an op-ed piece that will appear in the Diamondback tomorrow to highlight how students can get involved in the City. University of Maryland and University of Baltimore merger talks have begun in earnest. She is working on Good Neighbor agreements. There has been some interest expressed in expanding the Student Liaison position to system-wide schools.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items:

Phil Hart, 4608 Amherst Road and Carol Nezzo, 4600 Amherst Road: They are unhappy with the restoration of the grass between the curb and sidewalk on Amherst after a WSSC contractor had worked there. They are happy to help with the restoration. They are interested in working together on environmental projects for Sustainable Maryland Certified so they can get \$500 from Clean Currents.

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

11-R-18 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland Adopting a Fund Balance Policy In Compliance With Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 54.

The motion passed 6 – 0 - 0.

Action Items:

11-G-85 Approval Of Payment In The Amount Of \$6,000 To The University Of Maryland Department Of Transportation Services For Resident Ridership Of The Shuttle-UM For The Period September 1, 2011 Through August 31, 2012.

A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Stullich that the City Council approve payment in the amount of \$6,000 to the University of Maryland Department of Transportation Services for resident ridership of the Shuttle-UM for the period September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding once it is approved by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Afzali said this has been an action plan item for the last two years and \$10,000 was included in the budget. The \$6,000 is the same amount we paid last year, it is a great program, but he thinks the City is not doing enough to promote it.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Cook said he was an early supporter of the program and of mass transit in general but thinks we should not throw good money after bad. If we give them \$6,000 they have

to have some performance standards and track how many residents actually use the program. This is a waste of money.

Councilmember Nagle believes this is severely underused and that the current cost per ride is unreasonable given the low ridership. She is willing to support it for one more year but there need to be some tracking standards in place.

Councilmember Wojahn agreed and added that the City should continue to explore other options like working with the County to increase bus service options along U.S. 1. He is concerned with summer headways which can be as long as 45 minutes to an hour. But given the increasing congestion in the area he doesn't think cutting public transportation is a good idea.

Councilmember Stullich supports the program because there is a lot of concern about traffic congestion. Ridership is lower than we would like but she is not sure how accurate those records are and agrees that tracking ridership is an issue. This is a program that we fought for and we have made tremendous progress.

The motion passed 4 – 2 – 0 (Councilmembers Cook and Perry opposed).

**11-G-86 Approval Of A Letter To The Maryland Department Of Transportation
With City Comments On The Consolidated Transportation Plan.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Perry to send a letter to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation providing comments on the FY 2012 – 2017 Consolidated Transportation Program.

Councilmember Wojahn said the CTP is the State's six-year budget for capital transportation projects. MDOT has established transportation priorities that include: 1) system preservation and safety, 2) transit improvements, 3) smart green and growing initiatives, 4) transit-oriented development and 5) bicycle and pedestrian travel. The City's top priority continues to be funding for reconstruction of the U.S. 1 corridor. \$8.8 million in engineering funds are included in the CTP for FY 2012-2015. The MDOT Secretary will present the CTP at a meeting in Prince George's County on October 5 which is an opportunity for local officials to voice priorities and raise issues directly with the Secretary and speak in support of increased funding for Route 1.

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

The motion passed 6 – 0 – 0.

11-G-87 Appointments To Boards And Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Wojahn to reappoint James Sauer to the Cable Television Commission. The motion passed 6 – 0 – 0.

11-G-88 Maryland Stingers Women’s Rugby Team Fall Field Use Request

A motion was made by Councilmember Stulich and seconded by Councilmember Perry to approve the recommendation of the Recreation Board to approve the fall field use request for Duvall Field by the Maryland Stingers Women’s Rugby Club.

Councilmember Stulich stated that the Maryland Stingers has requested use of Duvall Field for their practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. from August 23 – November 10, 2011. The group has used Duvall Field for the past 6 years and use it concurrently with the Boys and Girls Club. The City has previously approved their seasonal application without fee because the players are there and available to assist and support the Boys and Girls Club, and the Recreation Board has recommended that user fees be waived again this year.

There were no comments from the audience.

The motion carried 4 – 2 – 0 (Councilmembers Nagle and Cook opposed).

Council Comments:

With respect to the waiver of the fees for the Maryland Stingers, Councilmember Wojahn is concerned that we aren’t following our own policy for field use and has requested a future Worksession discussion on this topic with input from the Recreation Board.

Councilmember Nagle asked about the Strategic Plan item under Goal 4 for benchmarks for Code Enforcement complaints and inquiries.

Comments from the Audience: None.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilmember Perry and seconded by Councilmember Afzali that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Fellows adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m. with a vote of 6 – 0 – 0.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC	Date
City Clerk	Approved