

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
7:30 p.m. – 8:43 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Catlin, Dennis, Stullich (arrived at 7:34 p.m.), Day, 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; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Bob Stumpff, Director of Public Works; Josh Ratner, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Day led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Wojahn and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on November 27, 2012 on Ordinance 12-O-10 and the Regular Meeting on November 27, 2012. The motion passed 7 – 0 – 0.

Announcements:

Councilmember Kabir said the North College Park Citizens Association would meet on Thursday night at Davis Hall.

Councilmember Wojahn said the College Park Community Foundation got its official start with the installation of the Board of Directors.

(Councilmember Stullich arrived)

Councilmember Catlin said the Berwyn District Civic Association would hold their annual holiday party on Saturday December 15 at Fealy Hall from 1 – 3.

Councilmember Dennis said Thursday night the Lakeland Civic Association would hold its monthly meeting at the College Park Community Center. Saturday December 15 is the holiday party and Christmas tree lighting.

Councilmember Stullich said the Calvert Hills Citizens Association would meet on Wednesday night December 12 at the Old Parish House.

Councilmember Mitchell said the Prince George's County Municipal Association would meet on Thursday night at the City of Bowie.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Appointment to College Park Housing Authority and Oath of Office: A motion was made (12-G-125) by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Day to appoint Carl

Patterson (a resident of Attick Towers) to the College Park Housing Authority. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0. Mayor Fellows then administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Patterson.

City Manager's Report: This is the last Council meeting of 2012. There was discussion of the January 2 Worksession and a decision was made to begin that meeting at 6:30 p.m. because of the long agenda. Mr. Nagro reminded the Council that beginning January 2 the Parking/Finance window hours will be 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. M-F, and 1 – 5 p.m. on Saturday. City offices will be closed on December 24 and December 25. Trash and recycling will be pushed back two days that week. Mr. Nagro then introduced Dr. Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost of the University of Maryland.

Dr. Mary Ann Rankin introduced herself and told Council about her role at the University of Maryland and described some of her goals. She began on October 1 and oversees the academic programs and budget under Dr. Wallace Loh.

Student Liaison's Report: Mr. Ratner reported that the SGA supported the increase in STEM funding in the budget, the offshore wind energy act, the disposable bag fee, and passed a resolution to increase voter turnout among students. They also passed legislation to encourage the University to detail how they will implement their climate action plan. Over winter break he will work with Dean Wiseman to make recommendations on how students can become involved in the College Park Academy.

Comments from the Audience on Non-Agenda Items:

Kennis Termini, 5029 Edgewood Road: She spoke in favor of the License Plate Reader cameras. Since this is an upcoming agenda item, Mayor Fellows asked her to wait until the agenda item is discussed.

Consent Agenda:

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

12-G-118 Award of a contract for replacement of the Narragansett Parkway guardrail RFP CP-12-12 to Long Fence Company, Inc. in the amount of \$144,618, and authorization for the City Manager to sign the contract.

12-G-119 Award of a three-year Public Works uniform contract to Cintas Corporation of Landover, Maryland for RFP CP-13-03 in the approximate amount of \$42,222 (depending on number of employees and uniform types), and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract.

12-G-120 Approval of 2013 Mayor and Council Meeting Schedule.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Action Items:

12-G-121 Award of Contract to Avrio RMS Group for license plate reader cameras at two locations, St. Andrews Place at Metzerott Road and Edgewood Road at Rhode Island Avenue, and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Contract (Requires a super majority vote)

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Afzali to award a contract to install license plate reader cameras at two intersections, St. Andrews Place at Metzerott Road, and, Rhode Island Avenue at Edgewood Road, and to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Avrio Group Surveillance Systems, LLC, in essentially the form as attached, for this purpose.

Councilmember Mitchell stated that in October of 2011, the Mayor and Council designated \$350,000 of FY 2011 revenue from speed camera enforcement for additional public safety expenditures. These included the purchase of cameras/license plate readers, capital equipment grants awarded to the three fire companies providing first response to portions of the City, replacement of the wood guardrail on Narragansett Parkway, four new streetlight installations and a crosswalk with flashing lights near Duvall Field. Funds were earmarked for CCTV/LPR cameras/license plate readers at St. Andrews Place at Metzerott Road and Edgewood Road at Rhode Island Avenue. Avrio submitted their proposal for this purpose.

Comments from the audience:

Kennis Termini, 5029 Edgewood Road: She brought the COPS officer to address any concerns.

Cpl. Errol Lobin discussed his experience as a County police officer using license plate reader cameras: He believes these are essential to crime fighting in our community.

Councilmember Kabir is in support of this proposal but received e-mails from two of his constituents with concerns about privacy. He asked if the Council would get any report on the use of the data. Mr. Ryan said no specific information would be provided to Council but staff would advise Council on the usefulness of the cameras periodically. Mr. Nagro clarified that information from the cameras would only be downloaded if there was an incident and subsequent request by police.

Mr. Ratner said that students are concerned about people coming in to the City and targeting students and believes this will be helpful in catching people who try to commit those crimes.

Councilmember Wojahn supports the proposal and understands the privacy concerns. He said the ACLU's position is that these cameras can be a useful tool for police but that the data should not be retained for a long period of time and the uses are made clear. He believes we have met this standard and he is comfortable with supporting the motion.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

12-G-122 Authorization for City Staff to explore two options for operation of the Downtown College Park Farmers Market, and authorization for the release of a Request for Qualifications.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Day that the City Council authorize city staff to release a Request for Qualifications for an independent contractor to operate the Downtown College Park Farmers Market for the 2013 season. Concurrently, staff would be authorized to explore the option of operating the market through an entity or individual separate and distinct from the City with minimal oversight by the City.

The Farmers Market Committee that was created by Council reported their recommended changes to the current operation of the Downtown College Park Farmers Market. Based on their research and discussions with other markets, the Committee found that farmers markets perform best when there is a dedicated market master in place to operate the market. The Committee explored three models for operating the market and discussed those options with City staff and the City Attorney. The independent contractor or the separate entity models are preferred at this time. Issuing an RFQ to solicit interest from potential independent contractors would enable the City to assess the level of interest in such a contract and estimate the cost. City staff will contact experienced market masters who independently operate other farmers markets in the region to solicit their interest in managing an additional market.

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

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

12-G-123 Approval Of A Letter To The 21st District Delegation Requesting Legislation In Support Of Revisions To The Prince George's County School Facilities Surcharge Fee Waiver Districts

A motion was made by Councilmember Stullich and seconded by Councilmember Afzali to authorize a letter to the 21st District delegation requesting they sponsor legislation to change to the school facilities surcharge exemption areas. The letter requests legislation to remove certain areas, designated as 2, 3, 5 & 6, from the exemption-eligible zones.

Councilmember Stullich said the Council is supportive of building additional student housing close to campus and has supported legislation in the past to incentivize that; at the same time we want to see balanced redevelopment and a range of housing options. There has been success in building student housing, but limited interest from developers in anything other than student housing. The legislation was originally created at a time when there was a severe student housing shortage. This request would retain but narrow the exemption zone to focus on the areas that are best suited for student housing projects now.

Student Liaison Josh Ratner asked if this legislation would apply to the proposed Maryland Book Exchange student housing project. The City Attorney said there is case law about when a right attaches to a development and when it does not. She is not prepared to discuss it further at this time.

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

12-G-124 Appointments To Boards and Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to appoint Charlene Mahoney to the Education Advisory Committee, Suzy Bellamy to the Noise Control Board, Larry Bleau to the Advisory Planning Commission, Blaine Davis to the Cable Television Commission, Donna Weene to the Committee for a Better Environment, John Lea-Cox to the Tree and Landscape Board, and Deloris Cass, Joseph Ruth, Doris Davis and Blaine Davis to the Veterans Memorial Improvement Committee. The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Comments From The Audience:

Charlene Mahoney: Thanked the Council for her appointment to the Education Advisory Committee.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Afzali reminded everyone that Santa Claus will be in College Park on Saturday.

Councilmember Catlin said Monday evening there will be an information meeting about the College Park Academy. The Academy is planning to open next year at St. Marks in Adelphi.

Councilmember Wojahn asked for information about who the City uses for battery recycling and what they do with them.

Council discussed UMD President Wallace Loh's invitation to dinner.

Councilmember Kabir said north College Park is having a winter coat drive; drop off coats to the box inside Pizza Roma in the north College Park shopping center.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Fellows adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m. with a vote of 8 – 0 – 0.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date
Approved

Pursuant to §C6-3 of the College Park City Charter, at 11:21 p.m. on December 4, 2012 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, a motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Day to enter into an Executive Session for the following reasons:

G: To Consult with Counsel on a legal matter

The motion passed 8 – 0 – 0.

Present: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Wojahn, Dennis, Catlin, Stullich, Day, 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; Jeannie Ripley, Code Enforcement Manager; Josh Ratner, Student Liaison.

Topics Discussed: The City Attorney advised the City Council about legal issues related to the City's noise enforcement program.

Actions Taken: None.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilmember Afzali and seconded by Councilmember Stullich to adjourn the Executive Session, and with a vote of 8 – 0 – 0, Mayor Fellows adjourned the Executive Session at 11:48 p.m.