

WORKSESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
7:30 p.m. – 9:12 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was a Virtual Meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Dennis, Esters, Day, Rigg, Mitchell and Mackie.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Gardiner, Interim City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Bridgette Johnson, Economic Development Manager; Teresa Way-Pezzuti, Director of Human Resources; Julia Nikhinson, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Wojahn opened the Virtual Worksession at 7:30 p.m.

City Manager's Report: Mr. Gardiner reported on the County's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan and the availability of City business assistance and community service grants. There were questions about vaccines at Attick Towers and Spellman House. More information is available at: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3730/COVID-19-Vaccination>.

Amendments to /Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed 8-0.

1. Discussion of logistics for review of advisory board annual reports and workplans:

Ms. Miller said that each advisory board is expected to submit an annual report, and 6 boards are expected to also submit a workplan, all of which should be reviewed by Council. Council discussed the logistics of reviewing the reports and workplans. Ms. Miller will send the annual reports and workplans to the Council. Members of the Committee on Committees (Kennedy, Mitchell, Mackie, Esters, Wojahn) will meet with each of the six boards that submit workplans (Animal Welfare Committee, Seniors Committee, Committee for a Better Environment, Education Advisory Committee, Recreation Board, and Tree and Landscape Board). Councilmember Kennedy will coordinate these meetings. Council will review and approve the Workplans in February after the COC has met with those six boards.

2. Discussion about the possibility of leasing office space for Seniors Program staff:

Ms. Barber said the seniors program office staff is currently located in three locations, and two of those locations may not be available to us in the future. Our goal has been to have the seniors program staff located in one place to aid the cohesiveness and efficiency of the department. We budgeted for rental office space in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. We are looking at space next to the Gailes Violin Shop on Rhode Island Avenue, which has been

recently renovated following a fire. This location is across the street from the rest of the department and is convenient to seniors who need to visit department staff.

Council has received comments asking why this rental space is needed since the new City Hall is supposed to include expansion office space. Mr. Gardiner said the new City Hall was not intended to house seniors program staff. Staff feel that the location on Rhode Island Avenue is more convenient for our residents than the 2nd floor of City Hall in downtown College Park. Ms. Barber reviewed the budget discussions last spring when this was discussed and the rental office space was budgeted. We do not have to enter into a five-year lease, but the terms would change. We are paying for the space we currently have at the church. Ms. Barber clarified that the Fellowship Hall at the Church where the seniors' events take place will remain available to us for rental. It is office space for staff that is needed: the Gailes' space would provide two private offices, and desk space for three additional employees. There is parking in front of the building, and there is wheelchair access in the parking lot in the back.

Councilmember Kabir noted that the majority of our senior residents live north of 193 and that the proposed space would be convenient for them. Councilmember Day requested a breakdown of senior services provided by district.

Mr. Gardiner added that in the last several years, the Council has discussed and increased the City's services to our senior community. This dedicated office space will help us provide better services to our seniors.

There was discussion about future opportunities for dedicated senior space and intergenerational programming. We will continue our conversations with M-NCPPC and wait to see the results of the feasibility study for a north College Park community center.

Staff will proceed with negotiations before bringing a proposal back to Council at a future meeting. Staff will provide the demographics requested in an information report.

3. Review of legislation:

Mayor Wojahn reviewed the "Climate Solutions Now" proposal which is coming to the General Assembly this session. Request to share information with the CBE and the Council. To Consent agenda next week.

4. Future Agenda items:

- Wojahn – Urban Land Institute training on development and Policy Governance training by Brown Dog Consulting – he will submit a form.

5. Council Comments:

- Kabir – Monday community police virtual meeting; Thursday NCPA monthly meeting.
- Kennedy – no-contact cookie exchange.
- Esters – Deck The City holiday lighting.
- Dennis – Monday's meeting with WSSC.

- Rigg – Monday’s meeting with WSSC.
- Mitchell –
 - cookie baking for our seniors;
 - can the City Engineer reach out to Washington Gas re recent street work;
 - fireworks on Christmas Eve: residents called 9-1-1 and were told that they don’t come out. It is becoming more frequent; what is the recommended process?
- Mackie – please follow the COVID guidelines.
- Wojahn – PGCPs is doing a school boundary review and has a schedule of public hearings on their website.

6. City Manager’s Comments:

Community Services Grant review committee: Kabir, Dennis and Day are still interested. To Consent Agenda for approval next week.

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adjourn the Worksession and enter into a closed session. Mayor Wojahn read the closing statement: Pursuant to the statutory authority of the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305, the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park will meet in a Closed Session after tonight’s meeting for the following purposes: to discuss the appointment of individuals over whom this public body has jurisdiction. Specifically, the Mayor and Council will review applications for quarterly appointments to Advisory Boards. The Mayor and Council will not return to public session after the closed session ends.

The motion passed 8-0 and the Worksession was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved