

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
10:50 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Esters, Whitney, Adams, Rigg, and Mackie.

ABSENT: Councilmember Mitchell.

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Megha Sevalia, Student Liaison; Hayden Renaghan, Deputy Student Liaison.

During the regularly scheduled Worksession on January 18, a motion was made by Councilmember Kabir and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to consider taking a position on legislation coming up for hearings in the Maryland General Assembly. The possibility of the Special Session was listed on the Worksession agenda. The motion passed 7-0 and the Special Session begin at 10:50 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

22-G-16 HB 100/SB 0014 –Sustainable Maryland Certified Program.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Whitney to send a letter in support of HB 100/SB 0014 from the Mayor and Council, and to approve a similar letter of support from the Committee For A Better Environment

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

The motion passed 7-0.

22-G-17 HB 102 - Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties

A motion was made by Councilmember Kabir and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to send a letter in support of HB 102.

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

The motion passed 7-0.

22-G-18 Letter regarding the disposition of a forested parcel known as NASA Area 400 in Greenbelt

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Kabir to send a letter to Senators VanHollen and Cardin and Congressman Hoyer opposing the sale of a mature forested parcel known as NASA Area 400 in Greenbelt and instead support a no-cost transfer of this land to the adjacent Patuxent Research Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Mackie said we need to maintain our mature forests and that Greenbelt has taken this position.

Councilmember Rigg is nervous about opining on public policy matters with no direct impact to College Park and would prefer that we stay in our lane. It is difficult for him to support this action as a Councilmember. He would be more comfortable going through the Four Cities Coalition to make a statement of solidarity.

The motion passed 6-1 (Rigg opposed).

ADJOURN SPECIAL SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilmember Kabir and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to adjourn the Special Session, and with a vote of 7-0, the Special Session ended at 10:57 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved