

**MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m. – 9:07 p.m.**

**This was a hybrid meeting: Online via Zoom;  
In-person in the Council Chambers of City Hall.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Whitney, Rigg, Mackie and Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers Adams and Esters.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; Ryna Quinones, Communication and Events Manager; Kevin Blackerby, Events Planner; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Adrian Andriessens, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Wojahn opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Announcements:**

Councilmember Kabir mentioned a new initiative from the NCPCA to bring residents together.

Councilmember Whitney said the Berwyn District Civic Association and the Committee For A Better Environment are sponsoring a Trolley Trail Permaculture clean up.

Several Councilmembers congratulated Councilmember Adams on the birth of his son on Mardi Gras.

Councilmember Mackie commented on UMPD Chief Mitchell's safety talk.

Councilmember Mitchell said Prince George's County is offering a Saturday enrichment academy for students.

Mayor Wojahn said he is attending the PGCMA meeting on Thursday in Laurel.

Deputy Student Liaison Andriessens congratulated the UMD Men's Basketball team.

**City Manager’s Report:** Mr. Young said the Balancing Act budgeting tool is set to close on Friday; we’ve received 84 submissions so far. SmartLeaf Compost will soon be available and free wood mulch is available now. The Prince George’s County Planning Board will hear the reconsideration for the RST development on Thursday. He reminded residents to call 9-1-1 when they witness suspicious activity for the fastest response.

**Amendments To/Approval Of The Agenda:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Whitney and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy that the City sign on to the Amicus Brief in support of US v. Helaman Hansen. The motion passed 6-0. This item will be added to the Consent Agenda as item 23-G-42.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed 6-0.

**Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to adopt the Consent Agenda, which consisted of these items:**

23-R-03	Approval of a policy on use of the City Seal
23-R-02	Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Adopting The Recommendation Of The Advisory Planning Commission For Application Number CEO-2022-03, 5009 Apache Street, College Park, Maryland. Recommending Approval Of Variances From City Code §87-23.C. To Permit The Installation Of A 6-Foot High Stockade Fence With Lattice On Top Along The Side Yard Of A Street. Appeal period ends February 18.
23-G-39	Approval of minutes from the January 31, 2023 and February 14, 2023 meetings.
23-G-40	Approval of an agreement with Prince George’s County and the University of Maryland for a location on Guilford Road for a Capital Bike Share station
ADD 23-G-42	Approval of a motion to sign on to the Amicus Brief in support of US v. Helaman Hansen.

**The motion passed 6-0.**

## Discussion Items

### **A. Discussion of a new City bicycle-pedestrian committee – Terry Schum, Director of Planning and Steve Halpern, City Engineer.**

Ms. Schum reviewed the staff report. In addition to the on-going work on bicycle and pedestrian matters by City staff, a dedicated committee could help the City create a Bicycle Master Plan. Discussion: Work closely with the University community; they are starting the public input phase of their bikeways grant, which is internal to the campus.

Establish this as an 11-person Committee, with one rep from each Council district, plus a student representative = 5 seats. The remaining 6 seats will be at-large seats not requiring City residency. The goal is to have representation from pedestrians, cyclists and micro-mobility travelers. Consider appointments from the business community, advocacy groups, and people with mobility or sensory challenges.

Most traffic is pedestrian traffic so this may help us make the case for sidewalks.

### **B. Proposed Changes to the Recreation Board and discussion of the Work Plan – Ryna Quinones, Communications and Events Manager, and Kevin Blackerby, Event Planner.**

Ms. Quinones reviewed the staff report. Agreement to move forward with establishing a new City Events Advisory Board and removing the Recreation Board from the City Code. Return future agenda for action.

### **C. Discussion and possible action on legislation.**

Look into HB 979, HB 297, HB 514, HB 554.

Discussion of the need to develop a City position on the revenue that we will receive from the sale of cannabis for recreational purposes.

Agenda Item 23-G-43: A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to authorize the Mayor to work with the Maryland Municipal

League to develop a position on the revenue from sale of recreational cannabis. The motion passed 6-0.

**Council Comments/Reports:**

Councilmember Mitchell was a guest at the Maryland Mayor's Association conference.

Councilmember Mackie attended the CMAST meeting.

Councilmember Rigg discussed the Spencer Harris Safety Awards Breakfast and suggested holding a City v. UMD soccer match.

Councilmember Whitney attended a community safety meeting.

Councilmember Kabir attended the public safety meeting and the Spencer Harris Safety Awards Breakfast.

Mayor Wojahn attended the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the Maryland Mayor's Association conference, attended President Biden's economic event in Lanham.

**ADJOURN: A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to adjourn into a Closed Session. Mayor Wojahn read the closing statement:**

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, § 3-305, the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park are providing notice that they will meet in a Closed Session after this meeting to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. Specifically, the Mayor and Council will discuss a possible financial incentive for a business seeking to locate in the City. They will not return to Open Session after the Closed Session.

**The motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.**

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Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk

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**Closed Session**  
**February 21, 2023**

At 9:07 p.m. on February 21, 2023, at the conclusion of the Council meeting, a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to adjourn into a Closed Session. Mayor Wojahn read the Closing Statement:

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions Article, § 3-305, the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park are providing notice that they will meet in a Closed Session after this meeting to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. Specifically, the Mayor and Council will discuss a possible financial incentive for a business seeking to locate in the City. They will not return to Open Session after the Closed Session.

The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Wojahn and Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Whitney, Rigg, Mackie and Mitchell were present. Councilmembers Esters and Adams were absent. In addition, the meeting was attended by City Manager Kenneth A. Young, Assistant City Manager Bill Gardiner, City Clerk Janeen S Miller, City Attorney Suellen Ferguson, and Economic Development Manager Michael Williams. Everyone was in person in the Council Chambers. Mayor Wojahn was the Open Meetings Trainee.

The Mayor and Council discussed a possible grant from ARPA Loss Recovery Funds for a new restaurant seeking to locate in the City. No action was taken.

At 10:09 p.m., on a motion by Councilmember Rigg that was seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, the Closed Session was adjourned.

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