

MINUTES
College Park City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 9:44 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Esters, Whitney, Adams, Rigg, and Mackie.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Ryna Quinones, Communications and Events Manager; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Miriam Bader, Senior Planner; Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell presented the State of the City.

Announcements:

Councilmember Kabir announced Women’s History Month

Councilmember Kennedy announced that Ramadan begins on the evening of Wednesday, March 22nd lasting 30 days and ending at sundown on Thursday, April 20.

Councilmember Esters gave a shout out to the UMD Women’s Basketball team who will be going to the Sweet 16 tournament.

Councilmember Whitney recognized and stated her appreciation of Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services, for her work advocating for a family to stay safe and housed in the community.

Councilmember Mackie reminded everyone to register to vote.

City Manager’s Report:

Mr. Young reported that we will hold a Special Election for the Mayor on May 6. All information is posted on our website. The deadline for candidacy is 4:00 pm on April 5. Early voting is Tuesday, May 2 at Davis Hall and Election Day is Saturday, May 6. You

can contact the City Clerk's office for an absentee/mail in ballot application or download an application from our website.

The Spring Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Duvall Field. Please register to attend this event.

The Budget Worksession will be held in the Council Chambers on Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

The next City Council Meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell read a Proclamation celebrating the retirement of Terry Schum, Director of Planning and Community Development

Amendments To/Approval Of The Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Adams to approve the Agenda. Motion passed 8-0-0.

Public Comment: None

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by Councilmember Esters and seconded by Councilmember Whitney to adopt the Consent Agenda, which consisted of these items:

23-G-56 Approval of a FY23 MHAA Grant Agreement for the "Lakeland Community Heritage Augmented Reality Tour Phase II" and authorization for the City Manager to sign the grant documents – Terry Schum, Director of Planning

23-G-57 Approval of minutes from the February 28, 2023 meeting.

The motion passed 8-0.

Action Items

23-O-02 Introduction of Ordinance 23-O-02 to Amend Chapter 190, "Zoning," due to adoption of the new County Zoning Ordinance and new requirements for granting variances and departures– Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney

A motion was made by Councilmember Rigg and seconded by Councilmember Esters to introduce Ordinance 23-O-02. The Public Hearing will be held on April 11, 2023.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSESSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Presentation of proposed Aging in Place Home Repair Program and Agreement with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

Terry Schum summarized the program. Sarah Reddinger, Vice President of Community Development and Chyna Diaz, Home Preservation Program of Habitat for Humanity gave a presentation.

Council had several questions of what items could be repaired and the eligibility process. Council requested the application be completed and submitted on-line. Staff will also assist residents on completing the form and educating the public on this program. Council requested that priority be given to households below the 80% AMI and qualified households in the Lakeland community. Top priority should be given to Lakeland residents, 50% AMI and then longevity residents (25 years or more). Council requested that they utilize resident volunteers. Habitat for Humanity will make the decision on what services need to be prioritized for health and safety reasons. The program is anticipated to begin July 1, the City Attorney will thoroughly review the agreement, staff will work with Habitat for Humanity in updating the program guidelines. This item will be brought back to agenda at a later date.

B. Presentation of City Survey Results – Ryna Quinones, Communications and Events Manager

Ryna Quinones, Communications and Events Manager presented the 2022 Community Survey Presentation.

Council requested that we publish the last survey on the website with current data so that residents can compare the results. Council would also like a breakdown of the survey for age group under 25 and the 25 – 35 age groups. In addition, Council would like to see some of the survey in the next Residential Guide.

C. Discussion and possible action on legislation – Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager

Letter of support for:

HB0459 - Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act) and Senate Bills

SB0114 - Property Tax - Real Property Tax Assessment and Tax Rate Increases - Notice Requirements
Property Tax - Real Property Tax Assessment and Tax Rate Increases - Notice Requirements

HB0190 - Housing and Community Development - Homeowner's Extreme Weather Mitigation and Preparation Grant Program – Letter sent.

REQUESTS FOR / STATUS OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Whitney: Community Development Grants

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Richard Biffel, nonresident: Commented on the City's Tax Revenue

Carol Mackins, resident: Communications in the City needs to improve. Our website is not easy to find information.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL, STUDENT LIAISON OR CITY MANAGER

Councilmember Kabir: Spoke to Hollywood Elementary School regarding the If I Were Mayor MML Essay contest.

Councilmember Esters: COG Human Services Committee meeting

Councilmember Rigg: Consider how we staff the COG and other Committee meetings.

Councilmember Mackie: COG Environmental meeting

Mayor Pro Tem: County Executive Alsobrooks Press Conference, PGCMA meeting

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. **The motion passed 8-0 and meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.**

Yvette Allen
Assistant City Clerk