

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
7:48 p.m.

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; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Teresa Way-Pezzuti, Director of Human Resources; Terry Schum, Director of Planning; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works; Frank Pacifico, Assistant Director of Public Works; Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Bridgette Johnson, Economic Development Manager; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement Manager; Ryna Quinones, Communications Coordinator.

During the regularly scheduled Worksession, a motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to enter into Special Session for purposes noted on the Worksession agenda. The motion passed 8-0 and Council entered into Special Session at 7:48.

ACTION ITEMS

21-G-64: Approval of the City Manager's Employment Agreement

Mayor Wojahn said that after a nationwide search, the City is excited to announce and welcome Natasha Hampton to the City of College Park; she will be the first woman and first person of color to serve as City Manager for College Park.

Ms. Hampton thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve; she will begin June 1.

A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Day to approve the appointment of Natasha S. Hampton as the City Manager, and to approve an employment agreement in substantially the form provided to the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Dennis said we have an aggressive Strategic Plan and other initiatives, and he looks forward to working with Ms. Hampton on these matters.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Mitchell looks forward to working with Ms. Hampton and welcomed her to the City. Councilmember Kennedy enjoyed Ms. Hampton's philosophy about engaging the community. Mayor Wojahn said he was impressed by her story about rising up through the ranks. Councilmember Kabir discussed her leadership book.

The motion passed 8-0.

Ms. Hampton thanked the staff who has helped her through this process.

21-G-65 Expansion of the City’s summer camp scholarships to include Park and Planning and Prince George’s County Community College summer camps.

Ms. Barber said we weren’t able to provide summer camp scholarships last year due to COVID. This year we have \$12,100 of scholarship funds. The University of Maryland is providing limited opportunities, and many of them are virtual, so we request expansion of scholarship funds for camps offered by M-NCPPC and Prince George’s County Community College. Our scholarships provide up to \$400 per child.

Ms. Bernache, Chair of the Education Advisory Committee, requested Council’s support and thinks it is important to provide these additional opportunities to our City youth since they have been so isolated this past year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to support the expansion of scholarship funds to include M-NCPPC and Prince George’s Community College Summer Camp opportunities.

Councilmember Mitchell thanked the Education Advisory Committee and said many of our children will benefit from the opportunity this summer.

There were no comments from the audience.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if there was a need for more funding with this expansion.

Councilmember Mackie said kids can get in trouble if they are not engaged over the summer. This will help them stay occupied which is important to all of our youth.

Councilmember Rigg asked if they have considered virtual summer camps.

Ms. Bernache said there will be a mix of virtual and in-person opportunities.

The motion passed 8-0.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Councilmember Dennis and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to adjourn from Special Session, and with a vote of 8-0, the Special Session was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller	Date
City Clerk	Approved