

**MINUTES**  
**College Park City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

**7:30 p.m. – 8:18 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 (virtual), Esters, Whitney, Adams, Rigg, and Mackie.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Gary Fields, Director of Finance; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Valerie Graham, Student Liaison; Adrian Adriessens, Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Councilmember Kabir talked about the City parade.

Councilmember Kennedy announced the North College Park Community Association meeting.

Councilmember Esters announced the Lakeland Civic Association meeting.

Councilmembers Whitney and Mackie thanked staff and volunteers for their work on the City parade and the Special Election.

Ms. Graham wished students the best of luck on finals. Mr. Andriessens mentioned the mental health resources that are available to students.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Young announced the final clean up at the Public Works yard; Smoothie King is now open in the City Hall plaza; Friday Night Live kicks off this week; the Hollywood Farmers Market is now open on Saturdays.

Ms. Miller gave an update on the Special Election.

**AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Esters/Whitney to move item 23-G-71 to the Consent agenda, passed 8-0.  
Motion by Whitney/Rigg to approve the agenda as amended, passed 8-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

**David Dorsch, resident:** The Council should change their rules so they don't have to have a Special Election when the Mayor steps down. It is very costly.

**Dave Turley, resident, representing the VFW on Branchville Road:** Expressed concerns about the body shop at the end of the Branchville Road taking up the parking spaces on the street.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Esters and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to adopt the Consent Agenda, which consisted of the following item:**

**23-G-71      Consideration of a 4-hour parking limit in a specified area of Branchville Road and consideration of traffic calming measures near the VFW located at 5051 Branchville Road.**

**The motion passed 8-0.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON FY '24 BUDGET AND CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE**

Mr. Fields gave an overview of both public hearings. The budget is built on the current tax rate of 30.18 cents. The first public hearing is on the Constant Yield tax rate. The second public hearing is on the budget ordinance for fiscal year 2024. For the first time, the tax rate is split between residential at 30.18 and commercial, industrial and multifamily at 33.18 cents. We have a healthy fund balance reserve, in excess of the City Code recommendation of 25%.

**A. Constant Yield Tax Rate:**

**David Dorsch, resident:** You should reduce the proposed tax rate so the residents don't have to pay any more than they paid last year.

**B. 23-O-03 An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park To Adopt The Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund, ARPA Allocation Fund, Capital Projects Fund And Debt Service Fund Budgets Of The City Of College Park**

There was no comment on this agenda item. The Public Hearing was declared closed.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**23-G-73 Discussion and possible action on a financial incentive from ARPA grant funds for small businesses**

Mr. Williams gave an overview of the request for City small businesses to receive a second round of grants from ARPA funding. He said all of the businesses listed in the staff report should be eligible. There was discussion about how the grant amounts are determined; what future grants might be possible; if this motion allows staff the discretion they need; and when the first round of applications will finish being vetted. There was emphasis to prioritize those businesses that have not received funds before and that are truly in need.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Adams and seconded by Councilmember Esters to approve a second round ARPA funding to assist small businesses in College Park affected by the negative impact of COVID-19.**

**The motion passed 8-0.**

**Comments:**

Councilmember Rigg discussed his PTA/PTO meeting earlier tonight as a parent in Prince George's County Public Schools.

Councilmember Mackie mentioned the City's summer camp scholarship opportunities.

Ms. Graham announced next year's Student Liaison and Deputy Student Liaison.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell attended the MML "If I Were Mayor" event.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Councilmember Rigg, second by Councilmember Esters, 8:18 p.m., passed 8-0.