

MINUTES
College Park City Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2023

7:30 p.m. – 10:37 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Kabir; Councilmembers Kennedy, Esters, Whitney, Adams, Rigg (by Zoom), and Mackie and Mitchell (arrived at 7:42 by Zoom).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Miriam Bader, Director of Planning, Gary Fields, Director of Finance, Teresa Way, Director of Human Resources, Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services, Erik Valentine, Community Development Planner, Steve Halpern, City Engineer, Robert L. Marsili, Director of Public Works, Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services and Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager and Dhruvak Mirani, the Student Liaison

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Esters: Enjoyed Trolley Trail Day and gave thanks to everyone who participated and who put the events together. Berwyn District Civic Association will meet this Thursday.

Councilmember Whitney: Enjoyed Trolley Trail Day. Franklins Restaurant and General Store in Hyattsville will hold a fundraiser on June 27th for a community meals program. Your input on the Better Bus initiative is due by Sunday, June 18th.

Councilmember Mackie announced the College Park Woods Neighborhood Watch Community event on Saturday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Also, announced that the Bee City USA Committee will hold a free Pollinator Resource Fair at the University of Maryland, The Clarice on June 17 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 p.m.

Councilmember Adams announced that the Calvert Flyers have several Disc Golf events taking place at the Calvert Road Park.

Councilmember Rigg announced that UMD College Park will host the 2024 International Town & Gown Association Conference in June.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kenneth Young, City Manager announced that Prince George’s Property Owners Association will hold Lunch and Learn on June 15th at St. Andrews Church Parrish Hall. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks will hold her 2023 State of the Economy Address & Breakfast on Wednesday, June 14th at the Hotel at the UMD. Council will hold a town hall in the City Hall Council Chambers on June 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for residents to ask questions, make suggestions, and discuss issues with the Mayor and Council.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS:

A. Mayor Kabir read the Proclamations for Pollinator Week 2023.

AWARDS:

City Manager Kenneth Young and Mayor Kabir presented the 2022 Employee of the Year Award to Jessica Prentice.

Certificates of Outstanding Essayists in the MML “If I Were Mayor, I Would” essay contest was issued to: Wisal Samti from Hollywood Elementary School, Genesis Perez Ortiz from Paint Branch Elementary School, TJ Every from Holy Redeemer School, Yaqoub Sacks from Al-Huda School, Kimari Ealam from Al-Huda School and Nesmah Munasar, MML Semi-finalist, from Al-Huda School.

AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Adams to move Action Item 23-G-97 to the first Action Item. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Esters and seconded by Councilmember Whitney to move Action Item 23-G-95 to the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Esters to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CONSENT AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

23-G-91	Award a contract in substantially the form attached to Vertex Roofing Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$52,300 for the removal and replacement of the roof on the DPW Truck Garage
23-G-92	Annual appointments to City advisory boards

23-G-93	Approval of the minutes from the May 2, 2023
23-G-98	Approval of the installation of stop signs on 52 nd Avenue at the intersection with Kenesaw Street to make the intersection a multi-way stop and relocate the stop bar on Eastbound Kennesaw Street.
23-G-94	Approval of closing the Locust Spring Alley between 49 th Place and Rhode Island Avenue to drive through vehicles.

The motion passed 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

23-G-97 Appointment to fill the District 1 Council vacancy.

Councilmember Kennedy explained the criteria of how the candidate was selected and the process taken.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Whitney to appoint Alan Hew to fill the vacancy in District 1.

The Mayor and Council thanked everyone who applied to fill the vacancy and hope that they consider running for election in the Fall.

Motion passed 7-0. Mayor Kabir swore in Alan Hew as a District 1 Councilmember.

23-G-81 Approval of City-Wide Tutoring Program with Imagine

Kiaisha Barber, Director, Youth, Family and Senior Services and Carolyn Bernache Chair, Education Advisory Committee reviewed the staff report. Aaron Cole, Account Executive, was on hand to answer Council questions regarding adding a GED credit course, making sure that while children are using this platform that safety measures are in place, and getting the word out to the residents to enroll in the program.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the scope of service and contract, to begin a one-year program implementation of online Imagine Learning tutoring program available to all student residents of College Park grades K-12 in reading and grades 3-12 in math, pending review by City Attorney.

Motion passed 7-0.

- 23-G-82 Consideration of Detailed Site Plan DPS-22024 and Related Departure, Discovery Point, located at the southeast quadrant of Baltimore Avenue and Campus Drive and a Declaration of Covenants and Agreement Regarding Land Use

Erik Valentine, Community Development Planner reviewed the staff report. The Applicants, Terrapin Development Company (TDC) and Brandywine Realty Trust are requesting Detailed Site Plan (DSP-22024) review for Parcels 1 and 2, or Phase 1 of their multi-phased development to be called Discovery Point. The proposal is to construct 2 mixed-use buildings, one per parcel, separated by a plaza.

Suellen Ferguson stated that she has worked with the applicant and all request and requirements have been agreed upon.

A motion was made by Councilmember Adams and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to support approval of DSP-22024 with conditions as recommended by staff including the additional condition that prior to issuance of a building permit, the Applicant shall provide proof of compliance with Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77 and the addition of two more Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements. Also, prior to Planning Board Approval, the Applicant shall sign a Declaration of Covenants and Agreement with the City in substantially the form attached, subject to approval of the City Attorney.

The motion passed 7-0

- 23-G-95 Consideration of reducing the speed limit on Rhode Island Avenue between University Boulevard to Paducah Road from 35 MPH to 30 MPH as soon as possible, and following the implementation of traffic calming measures, further reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH if determined by staff after a traffic study to be justified by the traffic data and other factors

Steve Halpern, City Engineer, reviewed the staff report. Per **Maryland State Highway Administration** procedures, the public will be advised that the speed limit will be lowered to 30 MPH with Variable Message Boards located along the roadway for at least a week before the new speed limits signs can be installed. In mid-June, construction will begin to add traffic calming bump outs and all intersections will be modified to prohibit vehicles going straight from entering the bike lane when a vehicle is making a left turn. Some of the streets entering Rhode Island Avenue will be narrowed. When construction is completed, staff will perform a traffic study to appraise vehicle behavior to the new roadway improvements. It is anticipated that the speed limit can be reduced to 25 MPH by the end of fall 2023 without additional action by Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whitney and seconded by Councilmember Esters to approve the lowering of the Speed Limit on Rhode Island Avenue between University Boulevard to Paducah Road from 35 MPH to 30 MPH as soon as possible, and following the

implementation of traffic calming measures, further reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH if justified by the traffic data and other factors.

Motion passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Discussion of the City's Revitalization Tax Credit Program
Discussion included how to go about getting affordable housing and senior housing. Can the credit be used for owner occupied housing, condos, mom and pop retail and commercial properties would like this program to include different occupancy types. Also, LEED Certified. The industrial are in the Branchville and Hollywood should be focused on the Tax Credit program is available to new construction or rehab construction. Revitalization of existing blighted or older areas.

- B. Review and confirm the Strategic Plan Priorities for FY '24 – No discussion will bring back to an agenda in July.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Rigg/Adam: Legislation to consider outdoor furniture. 6-0 (Mackie absent)

Esters/Whitney: Commemorative Bench in the Lakeland community to honor Mr. J. M. Chesley Mack who was a civic leader, entrepreneur, business owner, and served on the City Council from 1945 (when College Park was incorporated) until 1957.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

ADJOURN: Mackie /Whitney, passed 7-0 at 10:37 p.m.

Submitted by Yvette Allen, Assistant City Clerk