

MINUTES
College Park City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

7:30 p.m. – 10:49 p.m.

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

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

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; Kiaisha Barber, Director of Youth, Family and Senior Services; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Steve Halpern, City Engineer; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Jim Miller, Parking Enforcement; Dhruvak Mirani, Student Liaison; Gannon Sprinkle, Deputy Student Liaison.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Hew announced the North College Park Community Association meeting and the COPS coffee club meeting.

Councilmember Whitney announced the Lakeland Civic Association meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell thanked staff for the final Friday Night Live event and thanked the Contract Police for their response to an incident in her neighborhood.

Councilmember Mackie announced the upcoming Senior Social and Good Neighbor Day.

Councilmember Adams announced a meeting for the Edmonston Road tree planting plan and the Calvert Hills Civic Association meeting.

Mr. Mirani said the SGA is hosting a voter registration drive at the campus Farmers Market.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Young announced broadcast upgrades for City Council Meetings, the grand opening of Little Blue Menu, and made comments about the Campus Village Shopping Center.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Kabir read the Proclamations for Suicide Prevention Month Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15).

AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to approve the agenda without amendment. The motion passed 8-0.

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-133 Approval of a letter of support for a grant application to USDOT from MDOT to fund a comprehensive study on University Boulevard/Greenbelt Road from Rhode Island Avenue in College Park to Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt.

23-G-134 Approval of the City’s legislative priorities for 2024:

2024 Capital Project Priorities:

1. Baltimore Avenue reconstruction from MD 193 to I-495: The City requests that our State, County, and Federal representatives urge MDOT to fund planning, engineering, and right-of-way acquisition for Segments 2 and 3.
2. Bond bills for M-NCPPC projects in College Park:
 - a. Pedestrian bridge and connected trails / sidewalks directly linking the Aviation Museum and Junior Champions Tennis Center with the Paint Branch Park, disc golf course, trail networks and neighborhoods on the east side of the Northeast Branch.
 - b. New north College Park Community Center
 - c. ADA connections to the M-NCPPC College Park Woods gazebo and other facilities in the park.

2024 Policy Priorities:

1. Authorization of enhanced noise enforcement measures and penalties
2. Affordable housing assistance
3. Pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure funding
4. Youth Service Bureau funding to maintain counselling resources for residents.
5. Environmental resiliency
6. State funds to support hospitality industry and businesses impacted by highway construction

23-G-135 Approval of minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting.

The motion passed 7-0 (Councilmember Rigg out of the Chambers).

ACTION ITEMS

23-G-136 City Council letter of support for the UMD application to host the “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibit, and the City’s participation in exhibit activities following a successful application.

Mr. Gardiner reviewed the staff report. He introduced the project leaders, Maxine Grossman and Yelena Luckert from the University of Maryland.

The guests described the project. This is a grant application to host a traveling exhibit, “Americans and the Holocaust,” that is jointly sponsored by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association. The exhibit examines the forces that shaped the US response to Nazism, war and genocide during the 1930s and 1940s . If approved, the UMD will be one of the host locations of the exhibit between 2024-2026. City support for the program could include hosting one or more public programs, facilitating collaboration with local schools, and marketing the exhibit to the community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mackie and seconded by Councilmember Esters to authorize the City to support the University of Maryland’s application to host the “Americans and the Holocaust” exhibit and authorize the City’s participation in exhibit activities following a successful application.

There were no comments from the audience or the Council.

The motion passed 8-0.

23-O-07 Ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 184-18 and 184-24 and Chapter 110-1 - Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services

Mr. Ryan reviewed the amendments that were developed in response to the August 2 discussion with Council: a parker may pay 50 cents to park for 15 minutes and may pay by cash and coin. In the future, the Council may authorize different payment methods by Resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whitney and seconded by Councilmember Rigg to amend Ordinance 23-O-07 to retain cash and coin payment, to authorize the Council to determine by Resolution the method of payment that will be accepted in

parking meters and pay stations, and to authorize payment for parking in quarter-hour increments.

There were no comments on the amendment. The amendment passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Adams and seconded by Councilmember Mackie to adopt Amended Ordinance 23-O-07, amending Chapter 110, "Fees And Penalties", By Repealing And Reenacting §110-1, "Fees And Interests" And Chapter 184, "Vehicles And Traffic" By Repealing And Reenacting Article III, "Parking Meters", §184-18, "Operation", And By Deleting Article IV, "Administrative Regulations", §184-24, "Moneys Deposited In Parking Meters", To Change The Amount Of Fees To Be Charged For Parking To \$2.00 Per Hour, Payable In Quarter Hour Increments, Reflect The Current Fees For Monthly Parking Permits, Allow The Council To Determine Methods Of Payment For Parking Meters By Resolution And To Delete A Sub-Section That Does Not Reflect Current Practice.

The motion passed 8-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Care Solace Presentation on Mental Health and Social Services access for College Park residents.

Ms. Barber introduced this presentation and Ms. Anita Ward from Care Solace, and Mr. Louie Watson who is consulting. Ms. Ward reviewed the PowerPoint and described the logistics of the program: There will be a warm handoff from the caller to the resource, appointment setting, hand holding throughout the process, and longitudinal follow up. We will get monthly reports. Cost is based on population. The program will help fill the gap for ages 18 – 62. UMD students are included in the program. Discuss with our Communication staff and other stakeholders on how to roll out the program; all of the advertising will include a contact QR code and phone number.

Next steps: bring the contract forward for approval, and work on the communications plan.

- B.** Discussion of an Elderly Property Tax Credit program for City residents – Gary Fields, Director of Finance

Mr. Fields reviewed the staff report. Because of the Homestead Tax Credit and Homeowners Property Tax Credit, an Elderly Tax Credit may not benefit residents. Not

sure of the need or how many residents it would apply to. We will get updated statistics on how many City residents could be eligible. The County is doing this as a pilot. We will run into difficulty if we make changes to the County's criteria of \$500K assessed value and 5 years; it is much easier to match the County's criteria.

Discussion:

- Concern about administrative burden, especially if we have to determine eligibility and assist people with the application
- Alternatives:
 - Consider a significant but targeted program for those over 65 and who qualify for a federal program that is income dependent.
 - Consider a flat rate of \$100 for people who meet a certain criteria rather than having to do complicated calculations.
- Other types of tax credits might be more beneficial.
- Keep it simple and don't overburden staff.
- Talk with Laurel about their program.

Return to a future Worksession.

C. Discussion of the report from our consultant, CTC, on the small cell application from Crown Castle on behalf of T-Mobile – Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney and Steve Halpern, City Engineer

Mr. Halpern reviewed the staff report and introduced our consultant from CTC, Mr. James Crane.

Ms. Ferguson said this is the first small cell application to come to Council and explained that the City Code provides the Council with a choice of whether to hold a public hearing. The Council will always receive an information report on each application. Applications can either be approved administratively, or can come to Council for approval, in which case Council may decide to hold a public hearing. The Council needs to decide how much time they want to spend on these applications and what process to follow. Our consultant, CTC, reviews all of the applications. Time is of the essence because the shot clock is running. The City has adopted a design standard and Crown Castle has signed the license agreement.

Mr. Crane from CTC reviewed the application, the equipment, the process, and the timing. In this application, one waiver is required. This application meets all federal standards for RF exposure. The recommendation is to move forward in the permitting process for all five sites.

The carriers hire acquisition companies (in this case, T-Mobile is using Crown Castle). They will subcontract the other work such as installation.

This is regulated by the FCC and the City has very limited leeway; we are not allowed to say no to these placements as long as they comply with the design standards and license agreement. Discussion of the public notification requirement in the County Code.

Process/Procedure to follow: Council will always receive an Information Report on the application along with the consultant's analysis of the application and recommendation. The Information Report will come to Council with enough lead time that the Council can choose to hold a public hearing. Return future meeting with a Resolution to adopt this as a policy to be followed going forward.

[10:30 p.m., motion by Adams/Mitchell to extend the meeting, passed 8-0.]

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Invite the Prince George's County Public School Board rep and CEO to a future meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Jacob Hernandez, resident: Thanked the Council for the Hispanic Heritage Proclamation and suggested it be translated into Spanish.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, STUDENT LIAISONS:

Councilmember Whitney enjoyed being at the First Look Fair and her participation in the UMD freshman class CIVICUS panel.

ADJOURN: 10:49 p.m. Adams/Mackie 8-0

Submitted By: Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk