

WORKSESSION MINUTES
College Park City Council
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
7:30 p.m. – 10:20 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kenneth Young, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Michael Williams, Economic Development Manager; Valerie Graham, Student Liaison.

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

City Manager's Report: No report; no questions.

Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda:

- Motion by Mitchell/Rigg to amend the order of agenda items, passed 8-0.
- Motion by Esters/Whitney to adopt the agenda as amended, 8-0.

1. Discussion of City Events – Ryna Quinones and Kevin Blackerby:

- Appreciation for the number and variety of events, and the diverse audiences they have attracted.
- Mixed opinion from Council about which 4th of July event to prioritize, the parade or fireworks – future discussion. Is there another time of the year to do a parade?
- Consider an event for immigrants: International Food Festival; Taste of College Park; Cooking with the Gents.
- Hollywood Streetscape will have two parklets that might be usable.
- Discussion of how to increase volunteers – send notices to M&C; advertise to M-NCPPC volunteers; offer older volunteers closer parking; consider a raffle or giveaways for volunteers.
- Consider closing down Knox Road more often. Celebrating athletic victories. Partnering with the City's retail tenants.
- Data on how many City residents are attending.
- Affordable food options are always good.
- Include an educational component at some events.

2. Discussion of 2023 Legislative Session and City Priorities - City lobbyists Len Lucchi and Stephanie Anderson and Sen. Rosapepe:

New leadership in Annapolis brings a lot of unknowns. Current budget surpluses weighed against economic concerns/inflation.

Rosapepe: Priority is Graduate Student Housing: Last year they asked for \$50M and got \$5M. He wants City's support on lobbying for more money next year.

Mayor reviewed staff memo: Graduate Student Housing; Affordable Housing and Affordable Senior Housing (Attick Towers renovations); Stormwater management to address flood challenges; M-NCPPC capital requests; funding to continue Route 1 reconstruction. Interest in making Campus Drive and Greenbelt Road more walkable and bikeable.

Discussion:

- MML legislative priorities;
- Stormwater management;
- Unemployment for individuals who are caregivers for loved ones;
- Investors buying single family homes and converting them to rentals: do our research, get other municipalities on board, determine what the City, County and state can do;
- Can the state or county give us more power to enforce laws re 5 unrelated?
- Bond bill for community center in north College Park and for Meals on Wheels.
- Modified muffler exhaust systems (Lehman) and Noise cameras
- Hollywood Elementary overcrowding matters: College Park Academy would like to open an elementary school; what would the catchment area be? Could help with City elementary school overcrowding. They are looking for potential locations; send ideas to Valerie.
- Undergrounding electric lines: involve MML, MACO; need to assemble a coalition to make it happen.
- Land Use Authority for municipalities – get the UMD involved.
- Transitional housing for seniors who don't need subsidized housing – more of a local development issue that requires local leadership.
- Infrastructure. How to finance transportation. Status of federal infrastructure funding to local road projects.

3. Discussion of additional use of ARPA funds for the hospitality industry: \$300,000 to The Hotel/Southern Management Companies

Overview by Michael Williams. Review of ARPA grants provided to date. Three requests tonight for use of ARPA funds for the hospitality and tourism businesses.

Councilmember Whitney disclosed her need to recuse herself from two of the discussions – GrillMarx and The Hotel – due to her employment.

These are one-time grants from ARPA dollars. How much ARPA funding remains in each category? Discussion of strategic reasoning used to determine funding level. Additional applications are being reviewed. Question about funding to GrillMarx which is a new business. Investment in economic infrastructure to create a certain look and feel in the downtown area which is currently lacking. Need to address food disparity in the City.

Bring all three to agenda next week as 3 different items.

- The Hotel – Adams
- Cambria Hotel – Mackie
- GrillMarx - Mitchell

4. Discussion of additional use of ARPA funds for the hospitality industry: \$150,000 to Cambria Hotel/Southern Management Companies

See #3 above.

5. Discussion of additional use of ARPA funds for the hospitality industry: \$350,000 to GrillMarx UMD Restaurant in the amount of \$350,000 allocated through Loss Revenue provisions of the ARPA program

See #3 above.

6. Requests for/Status of Future Agenda Items

Rigg/Adams – regulation of short term rentals such as AirBNB. 8-0.

Whitney/Esters - Traffic study for Roanoke Place and 51st Avenue. 8-0.

7. Comments:

- Recognition for Council Member Glaros at a future Council meeting.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Rigg/Esters, 10:20 p.m., passed 8-0.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk