

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Minutes**

Minutes adopted November 3, 2021

CLOSED SESSION – WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

The City Council convened at 5:30 PM on Zoom to vote to go into closed session to consult with the City Attorney to obtain legal advice regarding the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project and to consult with the City Attorney and staff regarding pending litigation. The meeting was closed pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7) and (8). Mr. Seamens moved to close the meeting; second by Mr. Kovar. VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Seamens, and Smith. ABSENT: Dyballa, Kostiuik, Searcy.

Present for the Closed Session: Mayor Stewart, Councilmembers Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuik, Seamens, Smith, and Searcy; City Attorney Cornbrooks, City Manager Ludlow, Deputy City Manager Clarke, and City Clerk Carpenter. The Council received legal advice related to the development review and relations with NDC and TPSS Co-op, and discussed planning related to the litigation filed by the Co-op. There were no recorded votes and no action was taken.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmember Kovar, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Kostiuik, Councilmember Seamens (Mayor Pro Tem), Councilmember Searcy

Absent: Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Smith

Also Present: City Manager Ludlow, Deputy City Manager Jessica Clarke, City Clerk Carpenter, Communications Specialist Donna Wright, Grants Coordinator Jennifer Hale, Housing Manager Wiggins, Economic Development Manager Samira Cook-Gaines

The City Council convened at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Mayor Pro Tem Seamens updated the Council on future agenda items. Mr. Seamens also recognized the winners of the Safe Grow Photo Contest. Communication Specialist Wright announced the awards:

First Place: Jonathan Kang – Ward 2

Second Place: Keith Kozloff – Ward 3

Third Place: Maeve Monahan – Ward 2

(Photos attached.)

FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Seamens presented and read the mayoral proclamations declaring June 4, 2021 National Gun Violence Awareness Day and June Immigrant Heritage Month.

Proclamation of June 4, 2021 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day (attached)

Proclamation of June as Immigrant Heritage Month (attached)

Vita Larkin and Jared B. Hughes of Montgomery County's local chapter of Moms Demand Action thanked the Council for its recognition of June 4th as Gun Violence Awareness Day.

PRESENTATION

1. Grants Review Committee Recommendations on FY 2022 Community Quality of Life Grants

Grant Coordinator Hale presented program overview of Community Quality of Life Grants. She also introduced the Grants Review Committee who gave their grant recommendations to the Council (attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Stephanie Roodman – Presented on behalf of Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) on the Hillwood Manor project and application for tree removal.
- Rick Weiss– Commented in opposition to NDC.
- Bob Dreher – Commented in opposition to NDC and questioned Council's commitment to the community.
- Tom Gagliardo– Stated that he has not received answers for previously submitted questions regarding the NDC development.
- Sue Miller – Requested summaries of closed meetings and spoke against NDC.
- Colleen Cordes – Spoke on behalf of Community Vision for Takoma and opposed zoning proposal ZTA 19-07 (cell phone towers in residential areas).
- Mary Muchui – Expressed concern at Takoma Park Co-op's apparent gentrification and at Council's desire to only "help rich people".

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kovar: Commented on Takoma Junction Project and events attended including the Opera Truck performance. He encouraged the public discussion of Hillwood Manor project and tree removal.

Councilmember Searcy: Commented on meetings attended and upcoming events. Ms. Searcy thanked Montgomery Housing Partnership for their presentation and discussed Hillwood Manor designs and survey.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Ludlow's comments are attached.

VOTING SESSION

2. Single Reading Ordinance Approving Purchase of Police Mobile and Field Radios

Ms. Dyballa moved adoption of the ordinance. Ms. Kostiuk seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Searcy). Mayor Stewart and Councilmember Smith were absent for the vote.

Ordinance 2021-23 (attached)

WORK SESSION

3. Discussion of Reauthorization of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority

Executive Director of Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority Kayleigh Gunnoud discussed the Commercial District Management Authority (CDMA) (presentation attached). Economic Development Manager Samira Cook Gaines also provided further details.

4. Extension of Contract for Auditing Services

City Manager Ludlow requested a two-year extension of the current contract provider at the request of the City's Finance Director.

5. Resumption Rescinding Resolutions 2020-12 and 2020-18 Regarding Quasi-Judicial Proceedings by the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees

Due to changes in the pandemic, City Manager Ludlow explained that the resolutions, originally passed during the height of the Covid-19 epidemic, are no longer relevant and should be rescinded. The City Manager also suggested a hybrid model of meeting virtually and in-person.

6. Rescission of City Manager's Emergency Authority

City Manager Ludlow stated that it was appropriate to end her emergency authority given that she has not needed to use said powers for quite some time (letter attached).

ADJOURN

The City Council adjourned for the evening at approximately 9:50 p.m.