

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

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

MINUTES

Minutes adopted Nov. 17, 2021

CLOSED SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

The City Council convened at 6:00 PM on Zoom to vote to go into closed session to discuss matters related to collective bargaining with AFSCME Local 3399. The meeting was closed pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(9). Ms. Kostiuk moved to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Seamens. VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Kostiuk, and Seamens; ABSENT: Dyballa, Smith, and Searcy.

Present for the Closed Session: Mayor Stewart, Councilmembers Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, and Searcy; Attorney Garrett Wozniak, City Manager Fox, Deputy City Manager Clarke, Human Resources Director Smith, City Clerk Carpenter. The Council was briefed on the status of the negotiations. No actions were taken and no votes were recorded. The closed session was adjourned at 7:05 PM. The Council did not reconvene in open session.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Kovar, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Kostiuk, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Searcy

Also Present: City Manager Fox, Deputy City Manager Clarke, City Clerk Carpenter, Public Works Director Braithwaite, City Attorney Cornbrooks, Human Resources Director Tracy Smith, Police Chief DeVaul, HCD Director Cross, Finance Director Cheung

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM on Zoom

PRESENTATION AND WORK SESSION

1. Presentation on Redistricting Process and Discussion of Redistricting Criteria

Ms. Carpenter introduced Kate Doiron from FLOAnalytics and Joseph Moorman from Bloom Planning to describe the redistricting process, schedule, and plans for community engagement. The presentation is attached.

Councilmembers asked questions and made suggestions.

The Council reviewed a draft resolution outlining criteria to be used in the redistricting process.

The Council recessed at 7:15 PM and reconvened for the regular meeting at 7:30 PM.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Mayor Stewart provided an update on future agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON VOTING ITEMS

Arthur David Olson spoke against term limits for committee members.

David Blockstein urged the Council to choose the electric street sweeper rather than the diesel version.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. J. Campbell commented on registered rental units and the problems they cause.

Arthur David Olson urged the Council not to revise the contractor's redistricting recommendations, to use redistricting to advance the City's equity goals, and use the 2010 Census data for the dormitories on the Washington Adventist University campus.

Randy Gibson spoke on the urgent action needed to address climate change.

Buddy Daniels announced the memorial celebration for Pat Loveless.

Linda Kolko urged the Council to use the ARPA funds to prioritize urgent human needs, race equity, and reimagining public safety.

Robert Dreher commented against the Planning Board extension granted to the Takoma Junction development project.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Seamens asked staff to address the problem with unregistered rental units; recognized Mr. Olson's remarks about the drop in population of the dorms at Washington Adventist University and agreed it should be considered by the Council.

Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. Seamens' comments and also commented on the serious human needs of residents in the community.

Ms. Kostiuk reported that she attended the opening of the new Montessori school in the community; announced the upcoming Play Day; and reported on actions taken and discussions at the Transportation Planning Board meeting.

Ms. Dyballa noted the recent Sweep the Creek cleanup at Becca Lilly Park; reported on the COG Climate and Energy Policy Committee meeting, the recent Chesapeake Bay Climate Committee meeting where new design standards for stormwater programs were discussed; and County Council Committee action on the International Green Building Code proposal.

Ms. Searcy commented on the facade improvements at the Takoma Langley Crossroads retail center, a new mural, and completed design work on the Hillwood Manor Playground. She provided an update on financial support being sought by Montgomery Housing Partnership for the Hillwood Manor Apartment rehabilitation, urged residents to volunteer for City committees, and requested an update on staff review of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force recommendations.

Mr. Kovar noted recent delays in delivery of the Takoma Park Newsletter and expressed interest in seeing additional ARPA funds distributed to help the community with urgent needs.

Ms. Stewart suggested that people comment on the design of the playground at Sligo Creek and Kennebec, expressed appreciation for the new Montessori school that has opened and thanked County Council President Hucker's staff for assistance in clearing some hurdles for the school. She noted a number of new businesses have opened in Old Town and at the Crossroads. Ms. Stewart noted that she, City Manager Fox, Councilmember and Mrs. Seamens attend the Washington Adventist University Gala where Congressman Raskin received an award.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Fox reported on an upcoming flu and COVID-19 vaccination opportunity and noted upcoming open space workshops being conducted by the planning staff.

VOTING SESSION

2. First Reading Ordinance Code Amendment – Boards and Committees

Councilmember Dyballa moved the ordinance. Councilmember Searcy seconded the motion.

Mr. Kovar asked for clarification that the facade regulations being removed from the Code along with the Facade Advisory Board elimination would not weaken the City's ability to enforce certain standards.

Mr. Cornbrooks agreed to review the language further but cautioned against accidentally leaving language that might conflict with other sections of the Code.

The vote on the ordinance passed (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuik, Seamens, Smith, Searcy; VOTING NO: Smith).

First Reading Ordinance 2021-39 (attached)

3. Resolution Establishing a Sustainable Investment and Banking Task Force

Ms. Dyballa moved adoption of the resolution. Councilmember Kovar seconded.

Mr. Kovar suggested a number of amendments to the resolution, all of which passed.

The Task Force will be asked to report back to Council by February 28, 2022.

The vote on the resolution carried (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuik, Seamens, Smith, Searcy).

Resolution 2021-31 (attached)

4. Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing Purchase of an EV Street Sweeper

Councilmember Smith moved adoption of the ordinance; Councilmember Dyballa seconded the motion.

Councilmembers asked additional questions, discussed whether there could be viable alternative uses for the funds, and made statements explaining why they would be supporting the ordinance or not supporting it.

The vote on the motion passed (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Smith; VOTING NO: Kostiuik, Seamens, Searcy.)

Ordinance 2021-38 (attached)

WORK SESSION

5. Discussion of FY22 Budget Amendment No. 2

City Manager Fox presented information on the proposed budget amendment. (Presentation attached.)

6. Discussion of Ordinance Designating Juneteenth as an Annual Day of Remembrance and a Paid City Holiday (Amending Takoma Park Code, Personnel Chapter, 4.04.320 Holiday Leave)

There was support for taking the ordinance to a vote at the next meeting.

Mayor Stewart thanked the Council for engaging in respectful dialogue and discussion about issues where the Council does not agree (as with, for example, the EV street sweeper item).

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at approximately 10:00 PM.