

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
FINAL MEETING OF THE OUTGOING CITY COUNCIL AND
SWEARING-IN OF THE NEW CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (OUTGOING COUNCIL)

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

Also Present: City Manager Fox, Acting Deputy City Manager Grigsby, City Clerk Carpenter

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Rosenblum, Ward 3, thanked Kacy Kostiuk for her leadership and attention to constituent services over the past five years.

Robert Lanza, Ward 1, thanked Peter Kovar for his exemplary service as a Councilmember, particularly for his office hours and blog.

Troy Jacobs thanked Kate Stewart, Peter Kovar, Jarrett Smith, and Kacy Kostiuk for their service and welcomed the new City Council. He also commented on the recent City election, and said he is convinced that ranked-choice voting enhanced the discussion of issues.

Kelly Gibson, Ward 2, expressed appreciation to Kate Stewart for her service. She remarked on the positive style of leadership that women bring to elected office.

Carter Dougherty, Ward 1, thanked the outgoing City Council. To Mayor Stewart, he remarked on her public policy skills and people skills, patience and strength.

Laura Barclay, Old Takoma Business Association and Ward 3 resident, thanked the outgoing City Council and particularly Mayor Stewart for her leadership, dedication, and efforts on behalf of small businesses in Takoma Park.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of May-October 2022 were unanimously adopted upon motion by Councilmember Kostiuk and second by Councilmember Searcy.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Dyballa remarked that she enjoyed working with her Council colleagues for the past years and would miss them. She reported that there will be a four-way stop sign installed at Ethan Allen and Elm Avenue.

Councilmember Kostiuk said it has been an honor representing Ward 3 for the past five years. She thanked her family, City staff, her Council colleagues, and thanked Mayor Stewart for her leadership and for encouraging women to run for office. She hopes the new Council will be as collaborative and respectful as the current Council and encouraged them to proceed with updating the sidewalk and traffic calming process.

Mayor-Elect Searcy thanked her Council colleagues and appreciated that the Council has been solution-oriented even when there has been disagreement. She thanked Mayor Stewart for encouraging her to run for Council and said she looks forward to working with her as the County Council representative.

Councilmember Seamens said it has been a pleasure working with the Council. He wished everyone well and said he feels this has been one of the best Councils he has served on.

Councilmember Kovar thanked voters and residents of Ward 1. He expressed appreciation for staff and his Council colleagues. He thanked his family for their support. He remarked that the Council worked on public engagement and inclusion and noted that there is always more to do there.

Councilmember Dyballa presented gifts to outgoing Councilmembers and Councilmember Seamens presented the gavel to the Mayor.

Mayor Stewart thanked the whole community, the City staff, her family, and her Council colleagues. She made remarks about each of her Council colleagues.

ADJOURNMENT

The final meeting of the City Council was adjourned.

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SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL

Ms. Karen A. Bushell, Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, administered the oath of office to Mayor Searcy.

Mayor Searcy administered the oath of office to Councilmembers Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Honzak. Councilmember Small was sworn in over Zoom.

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CITY COUNCIL**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Searcy, Councilmember Fulcher, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Gibson, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Honzak, Councilmember Small (by Zoom)

Also Present: City Manager Fox, Acting Deputy City Manager Grigsby, City Clerk Carpenter

Mayor Searcy called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arthur David Olson welcomed the new Council. He remarked on the budget process and encouraged the Council to provide direction to the City Manager to propose a reduction of effort budget.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Dyballa welcomed her new colleagues.

Councilmember Gibson thanked his family and thanked Mimi Diez and Alex Hadden, the other candidates who ran for office in the ward. He thanked Kacy Kostiuik for her service, thanked the Board of Elections, and thanked the voters of Ward 3. He said he hopes to make Takoma Park a stronger and more resilient as a community and as an ecosystem and habitat where we live. He referenced the public comment on the budget, saying that it is a huge task and under the Mayor's leadership the Council will make some tough decisions.

Councilmember Seamens said he looks forward to working with the new Council. He thanked his wife and residents of Ward 4, as well as the Board of Elections.

Councilmember Honzak thanked her family and all the residents of Ward 5 in attendance in the Auditorium. She thanked Jarrett Smith for his years of service. She thanked Yared Tebabu and A.J. Campbell, the other candidates who ran for office. She said she hopes they continue to remain engaged.

Councilmember Small thanked his wife and campaign staff. He said he looks forward to working with the Council. He thanked Mike Moore, Raju Charles, and Ambrose Agosse for a spirited campaign. He thanked Mayor Searcy for her representation of Ward 6.

Councilmember Fulcher thanked her family and friends for their support. She thanked candidates Mark Sherman and Elizabeth Wallace, and said she looks forward to working with them in the future. She thanked the voters of Ward 1 and said she looks forward to working with the new Council.

Mayor Searcy thanked the residents of Takoma Park, including those that disagreed with her but took the time to talk through the issues. She thanked her family and the residents who worked to support her.

FOR THE RECORD

Mayor Searcy read the proclamations.

Proclamation Designating Terry Seamens as Mayor Pro Tempore (attached)

Proclamation Recognizing Municipal Government Works Month (attached)

VOTING SESSION

1. A. **Resolution 2022-42 Recognizing Peter Kovar (attached)**
- B. **Resolution 2022-43 Recognizing Kacy Kostiuk (attached)**
- C. **Resolution 2022-44 Recognizing Jarrett Smith (attached)**
- D. **Resolution 2022-45 Recognizing Kate Stewart (attached)**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.