

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**CITY COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING
VOTING SESSION AND WORK SESSION**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Minutes**

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, and Deputy Chief Powell

The City Council convened at 7:35 PM via Zoom.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Ms. Stewart provided an update on future agendas. Ms. Stewart acknowledged what was happening in the Ukraine and sent prayers and thoughts to the Ukrainian people.

Ms. Stewart swore-in Michael Mulé to the Ethics Commission.

FOR THE RECORD

Ms. Stewart presented the Women’s History Month Proclamation. (Proclamation attached.)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Suhani Chitalia provided a legislative update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON VOTING ITEMS AND OTHER MATTER

Paul Huebner, Carroll Ave, commented on use of ARPA funds. He requested information on the Library project and Atrium constructions costs. Ms. Huebner said that he would like to get answers to all of his questions.

Dawn Reeves, Glenside Drive, stated the she was happy to see that the traffic calming proposal was being approved for Glenside Drive and thanked the Council.

Priscilla Labovitz, Ward 1, commented on the Lunch and Learn Program. She urged the Council to fund the program with \$45,000 as it has done in the past years.

Barbara Whitney, Crescent Place, commented on the workshop, *What's Wrong with English Ivy and other Invasive Species*. She thanked the Council for supporting resident-initiated efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Kovar thanked the residents for their comments. He followed up the comments made by Ms. Stewart regarding the events happening in the Ukraine. He stated that he would like to introduce a resolution to express solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Ms. Kostiuk stated that she was in support of a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Ukraine. She thanked the residents for their comments. She stated that she was concerned about the potential traffic volume at Lincoln and Carroll Avenue due to Sligo Creek Parkway being closed for trail renovations. She announced that the Sligo Mill sidewalk request process was moving on to the design phase.

Ms. Dyballa commented on the Sligo Creek Parkway closure and concerns about traffic.

Mr. Smith thanked the residents for their comments. He urged the Council to support the request for Lunch and Learn. He stated that he was in support of the resolution regarding the Ukraine. He said that the Council could also mention other countries like the Sudan, Ethiopia, and other parts of the world that were fighting for democracy.

Ms. Searcy thanked the residents for their comments. She commented on the Glenside traffic calming. She said that she concurred with Mr. Smith's comments regarding the Lunch and Learn program and was in support of the funding request. Ms. Searcy said that she was in support of the resolution regarding the Ukraine.

She thanked staff for dealing with the street light signal timing issue on New Hampshire Avenue.

Ms. Stewart gave an update on the Council subcommittee and City staff work on addressing the Adventist Healthcare proposal presented in November. She said that there would be an updated proposal that would be presented to Council. Ms. Stewart thanked staff for helping refugees staying in Prince George's County to use the Library computer facility and connecting them with services that provide COVID tests and masks.

Ms. Stewart provided an update on tax duplication. The municipalities had a huge victory this week as the County Council took two actions: to provide the municipalities the funding that was not received this year, but should have been received, and they adopted a new formula that the City has been advocating for. By June the City will have over another \$400,000 from the County. She thanked the Deputy City Manager who has been working on this issue and everyone who has worked on this over the years.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Fox commented on tax duplication and thanked Deputy City Manager Clarke, the County Executive and his staff, as well as the other municipalities for all their work.

VOTING SESSION

1. Second Reading Ordinance Approving the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Budget Amendment

Ms. Dyballa moved the ordinance. Mr. Kovar seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, Searcy).

Ordinance 2022-3 (attached)

2. First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on the 7900 Block of Glenside Drive

Ms. Searcy moved the ordinance. Ms. Dyballa seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, Searcy).

Ordinance 2022-4 (attached)

3. First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on the 6700-6800 Blocks of Prince Georges Avenue

Ms. Dyballa moved the ordinance. Ms. Kostiuk seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, Searcy).

Ordinance 2022-5 (attached)

4. First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on the 6400-6500 Blocks of Fourth Avenue

Ms. Kostiuk moved the ordinance. Ms. Searcy seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, Searcy).

Ordinance 2022-6 (attached)

WORK SESSION

5. Procurement of Police Mobile Data Terminals

Deputy Chief Powell explained that the mobile data terminals are the computers (Panasonic Toughbooks) that allow officers to work in the field and use computer aided dispatch. The

computers also can track the officers' whereabouts. He explained that the technology must be upgraded in order to continue to work with the Montgomery County system.

The Council was in support of upgrading the system. Ms. Stewart said that the ordinance would be presented at the next City Council meeting voting session.

6. Adoption of a Redistricting Plan

Kate from Flo Analytics gave a brief presentation on the Map Y and May Y-1 options. Map Y-1 incorporated her recommendation to move the Lincoln, Jefferson and Carroll block into Ward 5 in order to increase the Ward 5 population and reduce the Ward 4 population. She provided statistics for the options at high, low, and medium estimated populations.

After discussion, the majority of the Council supported continuing with Map Y, which will be included in the ordinance for consideration at first reading on March 9.

ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning the meeting, Ms. Stewart reminded the Council and public that on March 9 the Council will resume in person meetings.

The City Council adjourned for the evening at 8:52 PM.