

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Monday, April 25, 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, Finance Director Cheung, Chief DeVaul, Deputy Chief Andy Powell, Public Works Director Braithwaite, Recreation Director Clark, Traffic Supervisor Kyle Robison, City Clerk Carpenter

The City Council convened at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Rubin, Ward 1, said that he served on the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. Mr. Rubin commented on the cost of policing and stated that Takoma Park was one of the most expensive. He reminded the Council that the Task Force was against keeping the K-9 unit. He urged the Council to look at the Task Force's report again.

Paul Huebner, Ward 3, commented on a County Council meeting he attended. He said that there are no new services in Takoma Park and a proposed tax increase. He recommended that each department be instructed to identify cuts.

Sue Miller, Ward 3, spoke in opposition to police dogs in Takoma Park.

Cristy Lopez, Takoma Park resident, briefed the Council on her work experience with law enforcement. She commented on the cost to train and maintain K-9 dogs, the cost of possible lawsuits, and the unpredictability of dogs. She also commented on the racially applied aspect of the use of police dogs. Ms. Lopez was in opposition of the Takoma Park police department K-9 unit.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

1. Capital Budget

Mr. Fox explained that he and staff would be giving an overview of the budget context, equipment replacement, infrastructure improvements, facilities investments and the budget schedule.

Ms. Stewart announced that next week the Council would be discussing budget reconciliation items and requested Council to provide requests as soon as possible.

2. Presentation on Police K-9 Units and License Plate Readers

Chief DeVaul explained that information regarding the canine policy, an executive summary providing an overview of the Takoma park police K-9 program, a list of significant canine cases, and additional relevant information was distributed in advance to the Council.

He introduced K-9 Sergeant Mary Davis, a nationally recognized expert canine trainer and handler who also trained canines for Takoma Park Police. She provided to Council an overview of the different uses of canine training and was available to answer any questions.

Chief DeVaul introduced Sergeant Keith Johnson from the Maryland State Police, Traffic Supervisor Kyle Robison, and Deputy Chief Andy Powell to provide information on the License Plate Reader program, how it is used, and the information it collects. (Presentation attached.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 10:52 p.m.