

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
Monday, May 2, 2022**

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, City Clerk Carpenter

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angela Cangliosi thanked the Council for the role they played in making Takoma Park what it is today. She commented on the budget process. She said that there was no reason why a community like Takoma Park should have higher tax rates and higher assessments.

Paul Huebner, Ward 3, read several recommendations to stem the proposed budget. He urged the Council to consider the recommendations and to cut the tax rate to the constant yield rate.

Tom Gagliardo concurred with Mr. Huebner's comments. He asked why there was such a large tax increase after the City received a generous amount of ARPA funds. He asked the Council to consider the recommendations made by Mr. Huebner.

Sue Miller, Ward 3, started that the budget process was broken. She said that she was opposed to a tax increase. She said that the ARPA funds were misspent on additional staff and renovations. She recommended starting the next budget process with resident recommendations and expertise.

Megan Scribner, Ward 1, commented on the budget and she said she was opposed to a tax increase. She recommended a conducting a detailed budget survey to get resident feedback.

Byrne Kelley stated that a systematic change the current form of government needs to take place. Wants to change the form of government.

Bob Dreher stated that his property taxes have become the second largest expense. He said that if the taxes continue to increase residents will be driven out of the City. He urged the Council to direct the City Manager to prepare a level budget.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

1. Reconciliation

Ms. Stewart explained that the reconciliation list contained proposed changes to the budget from the City Council after hearing from City staff and residents. She said that after discussing

the reconciliation list, the final list would be given to staff to prepare the budget documents. Ms. Stewart said that the Council would then vote on the budget in a two-reading ordinance.

Ms. Clarke provided an overview of the reconciliation list and the Council discussed each of the items.

Ms. Stewart took a hand vote on reconciliation list items.

- Decreasing housing reserve contribution by \$100,000 was not supported by the Council.
- Reducing city sidewalks by \$160,000 was not supported by the Council.
- Cutting the commercial corridor improvements from the budget was not supported by the Council.
- Allocating the ARPA funds for the commercial improvements was supported by majority of the Council.
- Cutting the entire amount of \$350,000 for the SHA sidewalks was not supported by the Council.
- Reducing the facility maintenance reserve contribution by \$72,000 was supported by majority of the Council.

Mr. Smith stated that he will not be supporting the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 9:24 p.m.