

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VOTING SESSION AND WORK SESSION
Wednesday, May 4, 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, Chief DeVaul, Public Works Director Braithwaite, and City Clerk Carpenter

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Ms. Stewart provided an update on future agendas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Jane Muchui, Ward 2, commented on difficulties with filing for property tax credits with the state. She spoke against increasing property taxes. She commented on reparations and supportive housing for people with developmental disabilities.

Paul Huebner commented on the budget. He made budget cut recommendations

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Seamens requested an update from staff regarding the tenants from 7610 Maple Avenue. He stated that the tenants will have to leave the hotel on May 10th.

Mr. Fox replied that the County has been in communication with staff and staff will be meeting with the tenant tomorrow.

Ms. Kostiuk addressed Mr. Huebner's concerns about rent stabilization increase. She reminded Council that she had suggested allocating funds from the housing reserve to help support renters that were facing increased rent. She thanked staff for dealing with the car part that was left in a yard on Eastern Avenue.

Ms. Searcy reminded the public about the Crossroads Market.

Mr. Kovar supported exploring the use of housing reserve to assist those facing rent increase. He requested a work session to discuss the budget process. Mr. Kovar said there was confusion on the stormwater credit program. He asked for clarification for the public.

Ms. Stewart said that she spoke at the Washington Adventist University graduation. She congratulated the students that graduated. She also thanked Small Things Matter for their global youth awareness day.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Fox suggested that it would be helpful to have the Council establish a finance committee for the next budget process. He wished the public a happy Mother's Day. He announced that the Hometown media awards committee awarded the City won an award for overall excellence in governmental access. He also announced that as of Thursday, April 28, the recreation center and community center were officially licensed through the Maryland Department of Health. Mr. Fox acknowledge city clerk office and all city staff for public service recognition week. He recognized Mental Health Awareness Month and urged the community to check in on each other. He also recognized Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

VOTING SESSION

1. First Reading Ordinance Approving FY 2022 Budget Amendment No. 4

Ms. Stewart stated that there were two in depth work session on this budget amendment. She said that there were no changes since the last work session.

Ms. Kostiuik moved the First Reading Ordinance. Ms. Dyballa seconded the motion. (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuik, Smith; VOTING AGAINT: Searcy and Semens)

First Reading Ordinance 2022-13 (attached)

2. Resolution Authorizing Temporary Street Closures in Support of the 2022 Old Takoma Business Association Event Calendar

There was no further discussion on this item.

Ms. Kostiuik moved the Resolution. Mr. Kovar seconded the motion (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuik, Smith, Searcy, Seamens)

Resolution 2022-12 (attached)

WORK SESSION

3. Procurement - Purchase of a Vehicle for the Police Special Assignment Team

Mr. Fox explained that the City budgeted for the purchase of an unmarked Hybrid Ford F-150. He said that the purchase was to continue to meet the City's sustainability goals and the Chief of Police goals to replace all gas-powered fleet vehicles with energy efficient vehicles.

4. Presentation of Design Plans for Community Center Renovation

Ms. Braithwaite explained the designs plans for the lower level of the community center was long standing project that changed over the years based on need and funding. Ms. Braithwaite introduced the staff from Bignell Watkins Hasser Architects.

Greg Gilbert and Elizabeth gave a presentation on the current design and the proposed renovations. (Presentation attached)

Ms. Braithwaite explained the next steps. She said that the City would ride on an existing Howard County contract.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 10:29 p.m.