

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VOTING SESSION AND CLOSED SESSION
Wednesday, May 18, 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, and City Clerk Carpenter

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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Ms. Stewart asked for a moment of silence to express the City's condolences and sympathies to the community in Buffalo that experienced a massacre at Tops Grocery store. Ms. Stewart provided an update on future agendas.

FOR THE RECORD

Ms. Stewart read the proclamation of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

Faith Smith updated the Council on the proposed voter registration event to bring awareness to the community more specifically the youth to vote in City elections. She said that the Youth Council decided to hold the event on May 21 at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Jane Muchui thanked the Council that voted to keep the tax rate down. She stated that she received her check from the City and the County. Ms. Muchui commented on the affordable housing and reparations.

Mark Hessel commented on rent control. He said that a landlord applied for Fair Return Rent Increase. As the landlord's attorney, he said that he was concerned that the application was not processed by the City due to there not being a rent analyst available. Mr. Hessel said that he wanted to bring this issue to the attention of the public and Council and urged the Council to address the issue.

Bob Dreher, Ward 3, spoke on behalf of Community Vision. He said that the City should focus on how to terminate the development agreement with NDC.

Byrne Kelly, Ward 3, stated that CVT was in favor of developing the Junction parking lot. He made several development recommendations for the junction area. Mr. Kelly spoke in support of hiring professionals within the community and reinvesting in the community. He stated the Council did not reduce the taxes and failed to recognize the assessments increased.

Paul Huebner, Ward 3, commented on the Takoma Junction project. He spoke in support of ending the contract with NDC.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Seamens asked the City Manager and the Housing Director to look into an issue regarding a displaced longtime City resident with special needs.

Mr. Smith announced a community zoom meeting taking place on March 24 at 7:30 pm to discuss the minor master plan.

Ms. Searcy stated that she had the opportunity to help distribute food at Hampshire Towers with Delegate Wilkins and Small Things Matter.

Mr. Kovar commented on the shooting in Buffalo. He stated that he attended the Council of Government Transportation Planning Board meeting. He said that the board was working on greenhouse gas reduction goals and strategies and would vote on them next month.

Ms. Dyballa announced that there was a meeting scheduled for June 14 hosted by the Lon-Branch Sligo neighborhood to discuss the minor master plan.

Ms. Kostiuk stated that she was on her way to attend a conference in North Carolina called Welcoming Interactive where she hoped to learn more about how to make the City more welcoming to immigrants and refugees. She said she attended a National League of Cities meeting focused on infrastructure partnership and the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Ms. Stewart asked the City Manager to brief the Council on the landlord issue mentioned by Mr. Hessel.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

VOTING SESSION

1. Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Tax Rates

There was no further discussion on the agenda item.

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

Ordinance 2022-14 (attached)

COUNCIL VOTE TO CONVENE AS THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Mr. Seamens moved to convene as the stormwater management board. Ms. Searcy seconded the motion. (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Searcy, Smith)

2. Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Stormwater Management Budget

There was no further discussion on the agenda item.

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

Ordinance 2022-15 (attached)

3. Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2023 Budget

There was no further discussion on the agenda item.

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

Ordinance 2022-16 (attached)

4. Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Use \$250,000 from the Multi-Family Housing Rehabilitation Project in ARPA to Support the Renovation of Hillwood Manor Apartments at 1100 Linden Avenue (FY 2023)

Mr. Fox explained that this ordinance was an amendment to the ordinance the Council voted on in November.

Ms. Dyballa wanted to clarify for the public that ARPA money set aside for multi-family building rehabilitation could be used this month.

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

Ordinance 2022-18(attached)

5. Resolution Approving the Closure of Anne Street for the Summer Mercado

Ms. Searcy asked the community to come out to the event.

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

Resolutions 2022-13 (attached)

VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

The City Council will vote to convene in closed session on Wednesday, May 18, to consult with counsel to receive legal advice related to Neighborhood Development Company and Takoma Junction. The meeting will be closed pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7). When the closed session ends, the City Council will not reconvene in open session.

Mr. Seamens moved to go into closed session. Ms. Searcy seconded the motion. (VOTING FOR: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Searcy, Smith)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 8:11 p.m.