

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VOTING SESSION AND WORK SESSION
Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Stewart, Councilmember Kovar, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Kostiuk, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Searcy, Councilmember Smith

Also present: City Manager Fox, Deputy City Manager Clarke, and Assistant City Clerk Nalvarte

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

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Kostiuk announced that she was not running for re-election. She stated that she found it to be a great honor to serve as a council member. She reported that she was attending the Maryland Municipal League conference. She reported that the Transportation Planning Board would be voting on long range transportation plans that includes all transportation plans for the region between now and 2045. She stated that she would be voting against the project because of the inclusion of the plans to expand 270.

Ms. Searcy reported that she would also be attending the Maryland Municipal League conference. She thanked Delegate Charkutian for organizing a walkthrough of the crossroads area with Maryland Department of Transportation and Chesapeake Bay Trust. She reported that traffic calming designs were ready for Hopewell, Larch, and Kentland Avenues and community meeting was scheduled for June 23 at 7:00 p.m. She reminded the public about the Summer Mercado event on June 25th.

Ms. Dyballa thanked City TV for their help getting her connected. She recognized Crossing Guard Day and thanked the City's crossing guards for their work. She commented on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on New Hampshire Avenue and that there would be several meetings scheduled in the next few weeks. She announced the Friends of the Library's annual meeting was scheduled to take place tomorrow night and the Long Branch Sligo Neighborhood Association was having their community meeting about the Minor Master Plan on Tuesday.

Mr. Kovar commented on a tour of the small conservation area near the Takoma Park Middle School and Darwin Avenue. He said that the County agreed to work on improving the maintenance of trees in the area. Mr. Kovar said that the County also took look at the exposed tree roots at Ed Wilhelm field. He said that the County determined that the trees were healthy. He commented on the boundary stones on Maple Avenue but would be put back up. He announced a Pride Day event in Old Town on Sunday.

Mr. Smith reported on the webinar he attended on HR-28 the reparations bill. He said that he joined national leaders to advocate for President Biden to sign an executive order. He congratulated his niece who graduated from high school. He announced that he attended a sustainable event in Ward 5 to discuss transitioning from gas to electric.

Ms. Stewart recognized Crossing Guard Day and thanked the City's crossing guards for their work. She informed the public that residents interested in registering to run for City office can do so starting on Monday with the City Clerk's office.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

No comments.

VOTING SESSION

1. Single Reading Ordinance Awarding FY23 Community Quality of Life Grants

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

Ordinance 2022 – (attached)

WORK SESSION

2. Post 2022 Session Wrap-Up, 2023 Legislative Priorities, and MML Legislative Action Requests

Suhani Chitalia and Anne Ciekot gave a presentation on the Maryland General Assembly 2022 session highlights and on the Council priorities from this year and moving forward into 2023. She also gave an overview of the anticipated opportunities in 2023 session. Ms. Chitalia stated that the MML legislative action request deadline was July 1.

Mr. Smith said that he would like to reduce the number of lobbying bills. He said he would like the City to support bills that pass. He requested of the Council to meet with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates before the start of the session to discuss their agenda and the City's agenda.

Ms. Kostiuik asked about the bills that did not pass and the reasons why they did not pass. She asked if there were bills that the Council should focus on again and other that the Council should not focus their time on.

Ms. Cietok explained that each bill had its reasons for successfully passing and other not. She said that the reasons for unsuccessful bills were not an indication of Takoma Park was picking the wrong issues.

Mr. Kovar stated that he wanted the Council to continue to support the renter legislation. He said that in some cases the Council could cut back on some of the bills but that some bills may be worth supporting as they may yield something more valuable down the road.

Ms. Searcy asked about bills that the City supported but were not successful.

Ms. Cietok stated that the Council priorities were broad and they tried to figure out what bills fit with those priorities. She said that the subcommittee was helpful in providing direction.

Ms. Dyballa commented on the energy bill for low-income for public housing that was vetoed by the Governor. She said that there was not any major climate legislation this year and the Council has been asking MML to focus on climate for several years. Ms. Dyballa suggested giving the energy bill a rest in

the coming year. She stated that vision zero, transit, and rental housing were things the Council would like to see.

Ms. Stewart said that the subgroup worked really well this past year. She agreed that the Council should start thinking about what to include in the MML legislation action request regarding housing. She agreed with Ms. Dyballa on supporting bills relating to vision zero. Ms. Stewart said that she would like to take a look at the cannabis legislation and the revenue it could produce.

Mr. Smith agreed with supporting the cannabis legislation. He said that he would like to see the sales tax and revenue possibilities for municipalities. Mr. Smith said that he would also like to see the Council support once again the condo HOA fund bill.

Ms. Stewart said that there was a work session next week to discuss the legislation action requests again.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 8:27 p.m.