

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VOTING SESSION AND WORK SESSION
Wednesday, June 22, 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, Acting Housing and Community Development Director Eubanks, 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

Brendan Smith, Ward 3 resident and President of AFSCME Local 3399, commented on a recent arbitration with a City employee. He said that there was a pattern of mistreatment of City employees by the City Manager and that he hoped the Council would develop a plan of action to address the issue. He urged the Council to adopt a policy that required Council approval of future funds spent on arbitration or the City Manager's denial of employees' agreements would be reversed. He asked what action were the Council willing to make.

Mary Jane Muchui, Boyd Avenue, said that she started Parents of Special Need Adults in 2015. She said that her son was disabled and her house was deteriorating. She stated that nothing has been to done to help her family.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Smith thanked residents who attended the virtual Ward 5 meeting about the City's budget and the difficult decisions residents would have to make.

Ms. Dyballa commented on City committees and announced that the City was accepting applications. She reminded the public to register to vote by June 28.

Ms. Searcy announced a community meeting about the sidewalk and traffic calming at Hopewell, Kentland and Larch Avenues tomorrow at 7 p.m. She also announced that there were a series of open houses on the New Hampshire Avenue bus rapid transit. She said that the sessions with the corridor advisory committee was posted on the Montgomery County website. She reminded the public that the Summer Mercado was on Saturday, June 25.

Ms. Kostiuk reported that the District Department of Transportation held a meeting related to Eastern Avenue rehabilitation project. She said that the Sligo Mill and Eastern Avenues would be upgraded with the installation of signals and pedestrian improvements. She said that the whole corridor project was

scheduled to start in 2026. Ms. Kostiuk also reported on a community meeting with Public Works about a Sligo Mill sidewalk request.

Mr. Kovar announced the Pride Day event in Old Town. He reported the recent presentation from the Urban Forest Manager was posted on the City website. He encourages resident to send comments to the presentation.

Ms. Stewart thanked the Village of Takoma Park hosting the Spring Fling last weekend. She stated that she attended the Washington Adventist University Inaugural Juneteenth event. She reported that the flex dividers were installed at Philadelphia and Piney Brach Avenues. She thanked the commenters and stated that the Council takes the issue Mr. Smith mentioned very seriously. She said that they were committed to developing a process and effective communication. Ms. Stewart said that the Council was looking at a facilitator to review the issues raised by the union.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Fox announced that the public space management plan meeting was on Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

VOTING SESSION

1. Resolution Approving Submission of MML Legislative Action Requests

Smith/Dyballa,

7-0 (SUCH AS)

2. Single Reading Ordinance Approving a Contract for Vegetation Maintenance

Ms. Dyballa proposed a minor revision to include the language “such as” after “promoting legislation.”

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

Ordinance 2022- (attached)

WORK SESSION

3. Request for Council Support of NED Grant Applications (National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund Grants)

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

Ordinance 2022- (attached)

4. Presentation of Organizational Needs and Risk Assessment Study

David Eubank explained that the funds allocated to the National Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) supported the commercial and residential activities and development projects in sustainable communities in Prince George’s County and Montgomery County. He gave a brief presentation of recent NED grant projects in Takoma Park and on three FY23 projects the City was interested in supporting and submitting a NED grant application. (Presentation attached)

5. Presentation of Compensation Study

Mr. Fox introduced Alan Pennington of Matrix Consulting. He stated that the consulting service was acquired in November to evaluate the City's current structure, workforce compensation, determine appropriate staffing levels for the future, determine the efficiencies implemented, and improve service delivery.

Ms. Pennington gave a presentation on the organizational needs and risk assessment study that consisted of 45 recommendations.

Ms. Fox introduced Scott Schreiber of Bolton Partners. He said that their service was acquired in November to do a compensation equity study.

Mr. Schreiber gave a presentation on the compensation study.

Brendan Smith commented on concerns about the study. He requested that the study be reworked to be equitable and fair.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 10:25 p.m.