

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING, VOTING SESSION, WORK SESSION  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022**

**MINUTES**

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

**Also present:** City Manager Fox, Acting Deputy City Manager Grigsby, Acting Deputy City Manager Clark, Economic Development Manager Kowler, Acting City Planner Freeman, and City Clerk Carpenter

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

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE**

Ms. Stewart read a letter from Cedric Davis a member of Pam Larson's family. She said Ms. Larson passed away in August. She announced that her celebration of life was on October 22. Ms. Stewart provided an update on future agendas.

**FOR THE RECORD**

Ms. Stewart recognized Indigenous Peoples Day and National Walk and Roll School Day. She read the proclamations.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Public Hearing on Charter Amendment to Update the Charter Amendment Process**

There were no public comments.

**2. Public Hearing on Charter Amendment to Update the Personnel Appeals Process**

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Reginald Ruffin, Kansas Lane, commented on the importance of keeping rent control in Takoma park. He said that corporate interests do not put community first. He asked to keep community first.

Dr. Ninala talked about his ties to Takoma Park. He said that he and his wife opened a Frontline Medical Center clinic in Takoma Park and he offered to help people who do not have health insurance and people without sufficient insurance.

Paul Huebner, Ward 3, asked how the Mayor will address city finances and budget deficit. He commented on the increase in FTEs and city property taxes.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Seamens noted that he was on the board of directors of Frontline Medical Center. He said he thought it was important to let people know that the clinic was right outside the City boundaries and that the clinic provided services to people without healthcare.

Mr. Smith commented that he did not vote for the current budget. He said that the Co-Op released its annual report and reported that 22% of their shoppers make \$50,000/year. He said that the Co-Op was thought of being an expensive place to shop. Mr. Smith stated that the Co-Op was an important institution and the City needed to do everything possible to help them and establish other smaller Co-Ops within the City.

Ms. Kostiuk thanked residents and Dr. Ninaly for introducing the clinic. She reported that there was a meeting on Sligo Mill Avenue sidewalks request. She also reported that she and Ms. Stewart were coordinating with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to organize a walkthrough of the Eastern Avenue project and raise some of the concerns expressed by residents.

Ms. Dyballa announced that the Piney Branch pool was scheduled to reopen this weekend. She announced her outdoor office hours to meet with community members at Forest Park, Jackson Point Park, Sligo Creek, and Colby Park. She also announced the Merrell forum at Long Branch Sligo by the neighborhood association and the Dorothy's Woods cleanup.

Ms. Searcy said she was excited about Dr. Ninaly's clinic. She reminded the public about the Crossroads Farmers Market. She thanked the Crossroads Executive Director and Mr. Frye for meeting with her and State staff to discuss tree replanting strategies and the purpleline. She reported that the Hillwood Manor playground was still under construction.

Ms. Stewart announced that Washington Adventist Healthcare opened their primary care with embedded behavioral healthcare. She thanked Dr. Ninaly. She thanked Mr. Ruffin for his comment. She said she was in full support of rent control. She said she would be happy to walk through the budget with Mr. Huebner. Ms. Stewart said that the City needed to diversify the revenues the City receives. She said she hoped that efforts can be expanded and have a stable financial outlook.

### **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Fox shared that almost 600 people came to the Community Center for the Chromebook giveaway sponsored by Montgomery Connects and the City of Takoma Park. He said the next two events would take place on November 5 and November 12. He announced that the Library was opening on this week at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue.

### **VOTING SESSION**

**3. Ordinance Amending the FY23 Budget to Receive Grant Funding from the State to Provide to the 112 Lee Avenue Tenant Association**

Mr. Kowler presented an ordinance to support the grant application to the State to support the Lee Avenue project. He said the State agreed to make an early award. He said the ordinance would allow the City to receive and disburse the grant money.

Ms. Stewart thanked staff, the City Manager, HCD Director Eubanks, Mr. Seamens, and Delegate Charkoudian for their work on this project. She said that State decided to double the grant money for the project. She said the grant would allow tenants of the Lee Avenue apartment the opportunity to purchase the building through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law.

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

**Ordinance 2022-42 (attached)**

**4. Resolution Regarding Labor Consultant**

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

**Resolution 2022-39 (attached)**

**5. First Reading Charter Amendment Resolution to Update the Charter Amendment Process**

There was no further discussion.

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

**CAR 2022-01 (attached)**

**6. First Reading Charter Amendment Resolution to Update the Personnel Appeals Process**

There was no further discussion.

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

**CAR 2022-02 (attached)**

**7. First Reading Ordinance Amending the Ethics Ordinance**

There was no further discussion.

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

**Ordinance 2022-43 (attached)**

**8. Second Reading Ordinance Authorizing Installation of a Speed Hump**

There was no further discussion.

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

**Ordinance 2022-41 (attached)**

**WORK SESSION**

**9. Presentation on City Staff Review of the Complete Safe Streets Committee Recommendations and an Overview of Relevant City, County, and State Policies and Initiatives Related to Pedestrian and Roadway**

Mr. Freeman thanked the Complete Safe Streets Committee for their thoughtful recommendations. Mr. Freeman gave a brief overview of the committee and the committee's recommendations. He said the committee was formed with the purpose of providing advice to the Council on transportation related issues including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safety and traffic issues and transit services as well encourage residents to use other mean of travel other than driving.

Mr. Smith suggested talking to graduate students to do the GIS mapping.

Ms. Dyballa said that she prepared a draft resolution for review by the Council, the public, and staff.

Ms. Searcy recommended identifying opportunities to streamline projects as it relates to speed humps and sidewalks. She said that an equitable process was important to think about as the City considers options.

Ms. Kostiuk commented on GIS mapping. She suggesting using for now an existing map where staff can add repairs and related items to the map. Ms. Kostiuk agreed with Ms. Searcy that the sidewalk and traffic calming request policies were not equitable.

Mr. Kovar said that the City needed to restart the meetings with the State Highway Administration

Ms. Stewart said she agreed with her colleagues. She asked that a whereas clause be added regarding the number of state highways and the number of problem areas identified by the County on those highways. She also suggesting adding a resolve clause mentioning that the current Council started the periodic meeting with SHA to encourage the next Council to schedule meetings.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The City Council adjourned for the evening at 9:20 p.m.