

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

MINUTES

Minutes adopted Sept. 6, 2023.

Present: Mayor Searcy, Councilmember Fulcher, Councilmember Dyballa, Councilmember Gibson, Councilmember Seamens, Councilmember Honzak, Councilmember Small

Also Present: Acting City Manager Grigsby, City Clerk Carpenter, HCD Director Eubanks, Economic Development Manager Kowler (by Zoom)

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Mayor Searcy said the Mapping Segregation Project had to be rescheduled at the County's request. She also noted the addition of a resolution designating David Eubanks as Acting City Manager.

FOR THE RECORD: Proclamation of Women's History Month (attached)

Mayor Searcy read the proclamation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ann Ciekot, Legislative Advocate, provided the update by Zoom.

SWEARING IN OF ETHICS COMMISSIONER

Mayor Searcy swore in Ethics Commissioner Mark Samburg (via Zoom).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Elrich, Ward 5, commented that she looks forward to hearing about the budget transparency products that the City obtained. She thanked those who helped prepare the site for the food forest at Takoma Park Elementary School.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson thanked Ms. Elrich. He said that the Food Forest Group and the Takoma Park Elementary School Garden Club received \$1,500 in grants to prepare the soil, provide seeds and curriculum information to teach the kids how to plant.

Mr. Small commented on Women's History Month and Black History Month. He reminded everyone that there were upcoming events regarding the Purple Line and barriers. He encouraged the members of the community who are affected by the barriers to speak to their community association or to contact him. He stated that he wanted to impress upon the community that there were internal matters taking place during the budget process and asked for people to be reasonable.

Mr. Seamens stated that the new boiler for the Piney Branch Pool arrived and that pool will reopen soon.

Ms. Dyballa thanked staff for trucking out mulch to the Food Forest Group and Takoma Park Elementary School Garden event.

Ms. Fulcher announced that the Youth Council forum would take place on March 9 at 5:30 p.m. *(The City Clerk informed Ms. Fulcher that the Youth Council forum was postponed to a date to be determined.)* She also announced that there would be a Ward 1 meeting to discuss the budget on March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Azalea Room. She stated that she would be attending the Taking Nature Black Conference next week.

Ms. Honzak stated that she was excited about the new coffee shop, hair salon, and dog grooming business opening on Erie and Flower Avenues. She announced a March 13th Ward 5 community public safety meeting.

Ms. Searcy stated she testified on the just cause eviction bill in Annapolis. She reported events and meetings she attended over the weekend. She encouraged the community to share any historical photos they may have of Takoma Park with Historic Takoma. She said that there was an important story to tell particularly as it relates to the Black community in the City of Takoma Park and the value of the contributions that so many people of color made in the community.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Eubanks provided an update on the Library project. He stated that incremental progress was being made despite the lack of permits. He said that the City was waiting for Montgomery County Department of Permitting Service. He reported that the USPS mailbox located behind the Community Center was moved to the Grant Avenue side of the building, near the basketball court.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

City Council meeting minutes from January 18 and January 11 were adopted unanimously upon motion by Councilmember Honzak and second by Councilmember Small.

VOTING SESSION

First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on Second Avenue

Mr. Small moved the First Reading Ordinance Approving Installation of Traffic Calming on Second Avenue. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion carried (VOTING FOR: Searcy, Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Honzak; ABSTAIN: Small).

First Reading Ordinance 2023-3 (attached)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Gibson moved adoption of the consent agenda. Mr. Small seconded the motion. The motion passed (VOTING FOR: Searcy, Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Honzak, Small).

Resolution 2023-9 Providing for Appointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2023-9 (attached)

Resolution Providing for Appointments to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee

Resolution 2023-10 (attached)

Resolution Designating an Acting City Manager for the City of Takoma Park

Ms. Searcy announced that the City Council will be appointing Housing and Community Development Director, David Eubanks, as Acting City Manager for signing purposes.

Mr. Seamens moved the resolution. Mr. Small seconded the motion. The motion was adopted (VOTING FOR: Searcy, Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Honzak, Small).

Resolution 2023-11 (attached)

Mr. Small stated that it was a wonderful experience working with Ms. Grigsby and Mr. Clark. He said he was very excited about the prospect of David Eubanks coming into the new position.

Mr. Seamens concurred with the comments made by Mr. Small.

Ms. Dyballa thanked Mr. Grigsby and Mr. Clark for their role as Acting Deputy City Managers.

Ms. Searcy thanked Ms. Grigsby and Mr. Clark for all the work they did in that last few months as Acting Deputy City Managers.

WORK SESSION

Proposed Temporary Street Closures for Events on Laurel Avenue and Anne Street

Mr. Kowler presented a proposal to temporarily close Laurel Avenue or Anne Street for a total of 12 scheduled events. He explained that the adoption of the resolution would allow the City to close the City managed streets, Laurel and Anne Streets. He stated that the resolution included a one-day closure of the D.C. bound lane of Laurel Avenue between Carroll and Eastern Avenues. Mr. Kowler explained that the closure would allow the City to conduct a traffic count to gather data to understand the impact on the current temporary street closure and the potential temporary street closure of the D.C. bound lane. He clarified that the traffic count was not a traffic study. He said the count would produce information that could help with future traffic studies.

Ms. Searcy stated that a resolution for the temporary closure would be presented before the Council for a vote at the next Council meeting.

FY 2023 Budget Amendment No. 5

Ms. Cheung gave an overview on the proposed budget amendment. She explained that the amendment was changed since it was last presented before Council a month ago.

Mr. Small thanked Ms. Cheung for the information. He stated that the information provided to the Council was very well done.

Ms. Dyballa asked for an update on the plan for community participation in the next phase of the Maple Avenue project. She also asked about salary savings related to the vacant positions and costs related to the acting positions.

Ms. Searcy stated that an ordinance would be presented at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 10:20 PM.