

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

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Minutes

Minutes adopted Sept. 6, 2023.

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

Absent: Councilmember Small

Also present: Acting Deputy City Manager Eubanks, Planning and Community Development Manager Grigsby, Finance Director Cheung, and City Clerk Carpenter

The City Council convened at 7:33 PM in the Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA / AGENDA SCHEDULING UPDATE

Ms. Searcy provided an update on future agendas.

FOR THE RECORD:

Proclamation of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

Ms. Searcy read the proclamation (attached).

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON VOTING ITEMS

Karen Elrich, Ward 5, noted that on page two of the draft resolution on the Minor Master Plan it states to retain and improve the existing stock of affordable housing with no net loss of affordable. She thought we should have more affordable housing .

Tom Gagliardo, Ward 1, thanked Ms. Fulcher for the EYA meeting. He urged the Council to not allow existing parks to be used for any other purpose and the emphasize the need for zoning that promotes workforce, affordable, and subsidized housing. He asked the Council to recognize the public members that come to the meetings to comment. Mr. Gagliardo asked about the community's role in the City Manager selection process. He said that the community had the right to know the selection process. He stated that he was formally objecting the closed meeting on May 31st and the closed meeting on June 8th. He asked what was so secret. He noted that there was no mention of the budget in the newsletter.

Jacquie Moore noted that the minor master plan was posted before the draft resolution and that the draft resolution was not posted until 1:45 PM. She said that the standard public feedback form was activated prior to the draft resolution. She stated that a transparent government was the pathway to good government. Ms. Moore commented on the selection process of a City Manager. Ms. Moore requested to have signs made to facilitate the street sweeping process. She asked about the budget resolution introduced by Ms. Dyballa.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Weiss, Ward 3, asked the City Council what was the evidence for the grant proposal to state that the partial closure of Laurel Avenue to date had no measurable negative impact on local traffic operations. He commented on traffic patterns. He stated that the traffic study must include all of the streets and intersections that were most likely to negatively affected. He said that supplemental funds should be provided if the grant monies were not enough to conduct a complete study.

David Reed, Ward 2, Environmental Economist and President of Long Branch Sligo, commented on the minor master plan amendment. He stated that he was representing the Climate Action Coffee group and Takoma Stormwater Solutions who have organized three public discussions on the minor master plan and they have encouraged commercial development and diverse housing opportunities. He urged the Council to delay the vote and to demand another month to engage the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson commented on events he attended. He announced that a Zoom meeting on the traffic study and streetery would take place next Thursday at 7 PM. He commented on the minor master plan and stated that the plan was not satisfactory to him and that there may be a solution to the timing of the plan.

Ms. Honzak concurred with Mr. Gibson's comments on the minor master plan. She thanked everyone including Ms. Dyballa, Mr. Eubanks, and Ms. Searcy for coming out to the Ward 5 community event. She announced upcoming events.

Mr. Seamens stated that he appreciated when residents paid attention to what the Council does. He thanked the residents for their comments.

Ms. Dyballa thanked City staff for the Belford Avenue sidewalk process. She thanked the residents that emailed her and stopped her on the street to comment on the minor master plan. She said that her policy was to reply to comments or questions in 24 or 48 hours if possible.

Mr. Fulcher thanked those who came out to the EYA meeting. She commented on events attended.

Ms. Searcy thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting. She said that the Council tries to be responsive. She thanked Ms. Honzak for the Ward 5 event. She said that Ms. Fulcher did a wonderful job with the EYA meeting. She commented on events she attended.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Eubanks commented on upcoming events. He gave a brief update on the purple line. He said that there would be parking restrictions near the University Boulevard work zone. (Comments attached.)

VOTING SESSION

Resolution Commenting on the Minor Master Plan Amendment

Ms. Grigsby gave a brief overview and introduced members of the County Planning Team.

Ms. Melissa Williams from Montgomery Planning gave a brief overview of what was done by the planning staff since May and the overall process. She said that the Montgomery Planning was there to request a resolution of support to give us permission to move the working draft through the process. She explained that they would submit the resolution along with the presentation that was provided to the Council on May 24th to the Planning Board. She said that upon approval the documents become public hearing documents. She said that the anticipated public hearing date was July 13th. She said that copies of the plan would be available online and at the Montgomery County Planning office and that notifications of the public hearing would go out through various forms of communication to ensure that the public was notified.

Ms. Williams explained that all testimony would be collated and included in the work sessions at the Planning Board in September. She said that they would come back to the City Council with the Planning Board's draft and ask the Council to support moving the Planning Board document to the County Executive and County Council. She said that the County Council would hold a public hearing and that another plan may be drafted based on that public hearing and be presented as a final draft. She said that the final version of the plan would be developed and another resolution would be requested from the City Council.

Ms. Searcy thanked Ms. Williams for the briefing.

Ms. Dyballa clarified that the resolution was not to approve the draft plan but to approve that the draft plan move through the County process.

Ms. Williams responded that the Council was supporting the working draft to become the public hearing draft plan. She said that Council was accepting that the work done was substantial enough to open it up to the public record.

Ms. Dyballa stated that the Council was approving a process, not a plan.

Mr. Seamens asked what would be the downside if a 30-day delay was requested.

Ms. Williams said that the public hearing would then take place in September.

Mr. Seamens said that he would like for his residents to have more time to review the document. He asked for additional information that addresses the stormwater issues.

Ms. Searcy said that she wanted to move forward with the resolution to open the record and to keep it open longer to allow more time for residents to submit their comments.

Ms. Honzak said that she felt comfortable moving forward with the resolution.

Mr. Seamens said that he would support moving forward but that he would like to see the appendices

Mr. Gibson supported a delay to the public hearing to give the Council more time to articulate the priorities.

Ms. Fulcher supported delaying the minor master plan public hearing.

Mr. Hisel-McCoy said that keeping the record open until September needed to be in the resolution.

The draft resolution was revised to request that the public hearing be held in September, that the record be opened as soon as possible, and that the record remain open for at least two weeks after the public hearing.

Ms. Honzak moved the resolution. Ms. Dyballa seconded the motion.

The resolution was adopted. (VOTING FOR: Searcy, Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Honzak; ABSENT: Small.)

**Resolution 2023-16
(attached)**

PRESENTATION/WORK SESSION

2. Quarterly Financial Report (3rd Quarter – January 1 to March 31, 2023)

Mr. Eubanks presented the quarterly financial report. (Report attached).

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourn for the evening at 11:39 PM.