

## **COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

April 16, 2012

Mayor Marc Tartaro called the meeting of the Council to order at 8:04 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Marc Tartaro, Council President Matthew McKnight, Council Vice President David Hiles, Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Carlos Lizanne Timothy Hunt, Candace Hollingsworth, Shani Warner, Nicole Hinds, and Eric Wingard.

Also present were City Treasurer Stookey, Human Resources Director Vermillion, Acting Recreation & the Arts Director Sandel, Executive Assistant Preston, and City Clerk Barber.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda of Monday, April 16, 2012, as presented.** The motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jacqueline Joyner, a ward 2 resident and Ashley Smith addressed the Mayor and Council to propose that the City install more recycling cans. The students stated that both of them grew up in Hyattsville and knew first hand what some streets and parks looked like as a result of excess trash. The Mayor advised the students to follow up with Abby Sandel.

Patrick O'Hagan, Hyattsville FOP President, addressed the Mayor and Council to announce that the FOP was bringing a carnival back, May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup>. He acknowledged that he met with the Mayor and HR director on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the historical and long term perspectives of the FOP with regard to the health insurance provided by the City of Hyattsville. O'Hagan stated that the FOP neither supports nor opposes the proposed health insurance motion. However, if the measure passed, they asked that Council monitor it and ensure proper follow up. He also asked that employee input be given in advance of the comprehensive pay and benefits study that is linked to the motion.

David Marshall, a ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council to express his opposition to the health insurance motion. He believed that it was premature and that there needed to be a more inclusive process for residents and staff. He suggested that Council revisit this motion for the next budget cycle. This would give time for both sides to reexamine the issues.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council approve the following items as consent: (1) to schedule a Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. to discuss official City business (Motion# 79-04-12); (2) to authorize the Acting City Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission regarding the maintenance and management of the Hiker-Biker Trail located in the City of Hyattsville's right-of-way, upon the legal review and approval by the City Attorney (Motion# 80-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council accept employee health insurance as presented in the proposed budget to be effective July 1, 2012. I further move that an actuarial study be completed, in conjunction with a comprehensive salary and benefit study, and a plan developed to provide for post-employment health insurance benefits by FY14 (Motion# 82-04-12). Mayor and Council discussed the employee health insurance motion at length. The motion passed with Mayor Tartaro, Council President McKnight, Council Vice President Hiles, Council Members Perry, Warner, and Wingard for it, Council Members Frazier, Hunt, and Hollingsworth against it, and one abstention from Council Member Lizanne.**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council accept the Legislative Departments/Divisions as presented in the proposed FY13 Budget (Motion# 83-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council accept the General Government Departments/Divisions as presented in the proposed FY13 Budget (Motion# 84-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council accept the donation to the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department as presented in the proposed FY13 Budget (Motion# 81-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM:**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council accept the Community Services Departments/Divisions as presented in the proposed FY13 Budget (Motion# 85-04-12). Acting Recreation and the Arts Director, Abby Sandel addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the changes in the organizational chart for the proposed Community Services Department. She provided examples of how supporting this measure would be beneficial to the City. Those examples included lessening the work load on the City Administrator with fewer direct reports and the ability to provide more robust products with regard to events and community outreach. The motion passed with Council Member Perry voting against it, and one abstention from Council Member Hunt.**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of Monday, April 16, 2012, to discuss personnel issues (Motion# 78-04-12). A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Tartaro noted that the Council would possibly return to an open session depending on the outcome of the closed session.

The Mayor and Council went into the closed session at 9:36 p.m.

Mayor Tartaro and Council returned to open session at 10:10 p.m.

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council appoint Ms. Elaine Stookey, City Treasurer, as Acting City Administrator beginning Saturday, April 21, 2012, and subject to review by Council no later than May 21, 2012. Furthermore, the Council directs Ms. Stookey to present an interim management plan no later than May 14, 2012. Ms Stookey will perform these duties without additional compensation. Ms. Stookey's appointment will continue through her presentation of an interim management plan, at which point Council may act to appoint her on an interim basis until the conclusion of a City Administrator search. The interim appointments and salary adjustments for other personnel in the Police Department serving in acting capacities will also end effective Friday, April 20, 2012. As part of the interim management plan, Police Chief Douglas Holland will perform a weekly review of invoices for payment, performing the duties that the Treasurer typically manages for the City Administrator, in order to provide adequate internal controls. Chief Holland will also perform some additional administrative duties related to special projects. In the absence of Ms. Stookey, Chief Holland will serve as Acting City Administrator. Chief Holland will not be compensated for these additional duties (Motion# 86-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council appoint Ms. Ellarose Preston, Administrative Aide III, to the position of Acting City Clerk, and that the Mayor and Council authorize the Acting City Administrator to approve a salary increase of \$900.00 per month for Ms. Ellarose Preston upon her assumption of duties as Acting City Clerk for the time period from April 20, 2012 through July 19, 2012, or for the period Ms. Preston successfully serves in the capacity of Acting City Clerk (Motion# 87-04-12). The motion passed unanimously.**

**Council Member Perry moved to adjourn the council meeting of April 16, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Council Meeting of April 16, 2012 ended at 10:20 p.m.

04-16-12

2012 -73

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ellarose Preston, Executive Assistant

*Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c) (2), this statement is included in these minutes:*

*A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held at 9:36 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2012, in the City of Hyattsville Municipal Building, Third Floor Council Chambers.*

Present were Mayor Marc Tartaro, Council President Matthew McKnight, Council Vice President David Hiles, Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Carlos Lizanne, Timothy Hunt, Candace Hollingsworth, Shani Warner, and Eric Wingard. Council Member Nicole Hinds was absent.

Also present were Acting City Administrator Holland, and Director of Human Resources Vermillion.

*On a motion made as follows by Council President McKnight: **Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of Monday, April 16, 2012, to discuss personnel issues** (Motion# 78-04-12). A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed unanimously. *The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1) – To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The closed session ended at 10:10 p.m.**