



**COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER: 8:10 p.m., Council Chambers, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

- Mayor Marc Tartaro
- Council President Matthew D. McKnight
- Council Vice President David Hiles
- Councilmember Candace B. Hollingsworth
- Councilmember Timothy P. Hunt
- Councilmember Paula J. Perry
- Councilmember Ruth Ann Frazier
- Councilmember Carlos Lizanne

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

- Councilmember Shani N. Warner
- Councilmember Eric Wingard

STAFF PRESENT:

- Elaine Stookey, Acting City Administrator & City Treasurer
- Laura Reams, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Council President McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda of Monday, April 8, 2013. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion to approve the agenda passed; unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Carol A. Kimbell, a Ward 5 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the City's budget for FY14. Ms. Kimball stated that she was against changing employee retirement benefits. Ms. Kimball also criticized the budget process.

Ms. Shirley Fisher, a Ward 5 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the City's budget for FY14. Ms. Fisher also discussed the BB&T building and suggested that the City implement a vacant property tax to bring in revenue.

Mr. Joe Brewer, a City employee, addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the discussion on Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). Mr. Brewer encouraged the Mayor and Council to explore other options for OPEB. Mr. Brewer mentioned that health care costs for employees had risen since the Mayor and Council had placed a cap on health care expenses. Additionally, Mr. Brewer criticized the approval of a motion passed to purchase an administrative vehicle. Mr. Brewer stated his concern with the process by which discussions of OPEB had been held. Mr. Brewer suggested that a potential solution to the budget shortfall would be to raise property taxes.

Mr. David Marshall, a Ward 2 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council in regard to the City's budget for FY14. Mr. Marshall suggested that the ideas from the Fleet Study be implemented, funds allocated to the Arcade building, staff vacancies filled and improvements in resident communications.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**FY14 Budget**

Acting City Administrator Stookey opened the discussion item with a review of the City's revenues. Councilmember Hunt inquired when the Council would receive the budget book and the compensation study. Ms. Stookey responded that the goal was to have a decision on OPEB prior to the budget book distribution and stated that she would let the Mayor and Council know when the compensation study was complete.

There was a discussion regarding various budget items and communication between City staff and Councilmember's. Councilmember Hollingsworth requested to have the adopted FY13 budget posted on the City's website. Councilmember Hollingsworth then discussed with Ms. Stookey the confidence rate for the revenue figures for FY14. After some additional discussion, Mayor Tartaro stated that staff was working on cuts but that the draft budget was pending the OPEB decision.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the following topics: (1) possible revenue sources for the City, (2) the direction and goals of the upcoming council meetings, (3) how the proposed 10-15% cut figure was reached, (4) bonds that the City currently had outstanding, and (5) projects that would require bonding.

Councilmember Hunt moved to adjourn the council meeting. There was not a second.

Council President McKnight asked Ms. Stookey what the outstanding items for the OPEB discussion were and if they would be ready for the next council meeting. Ms. Stookey listed several items and stated that they would be. There was a discussion regarding the validity of the OPEB information presented from other communities. Ms. Stookey stated that the information received was from audited financial statements and the compensation study would provide additional information. Council Vice President Hiles asked the Mayor and Council if there was any interest in exploring a potential property tax raise in order to offset the lost revenue.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Councilmember Hunt moved to adjourn the council meeting. Councilmember Hiles seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Aye's: Hunt, Hiles, McKnight, Hollingsworth, Frazier, Perry, Lizanne

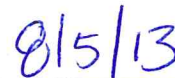
Nay's: Tartaro

The Council meeting of April 8, 2013 ended at 9:33 p.m.

Attest:



Laura Reams, City Clerk



Date of Minutes Approval