

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

January 5, 2009

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 8:03 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Bill Tierney, Council Vice President Anthony Patterson, and Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Carlos Lizanne, Mark Matulef, and Nicole Hinds. Council Members Tartaro, Atteberry, and Dudrow were absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones, Director of Code Enforcement Hampton, and City Clerk Barber.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Council Vice President Patterson moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda as amended. Note for the record, Mayor Gardiner requested that a presentation by EYA be added to the agenda. The motion passed, unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Council President Tierney moved that the Mayor and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2008. The motion passed, unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Aakash Thakkar, Vice President of EYA, provided a brief update on the EYA development project that is on-going in the City of Hyattsville. Mr. Thakkar highlighted new businesses that have signed on to the EYA development project. Mr. Thakkar closed by responding to comments and questions given by the Mayor and Council on the EYA project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Nina Faye, a Hyattsville resident, addressed the Mayor and Council with comments on the proposed commercial vehicle ordinance being addressed by the Council. Ms. Faye asked for clarification as there have been many versions in circulation. She asked which one would be addressed at the public meeting.

ADMINISTRATION:

City Administrator Murphy reported to the Mayor and Council on the department's work on the City's ADA Plan which had been removed and has now been returned to the FY09 Goals and Outputs. The department is taking steps to review and update the information. Ms. Murphy announced that Mary Ellen Harding has been officially placed in the new position of Accountant in the Office of Finance.

Assistant City Administrator Jones provided an update on positions that are currently open within the City. Mr. Jones closed by providing information on the City's website re-design project.

Director of Code Enforcement Hampton presented to the Mayor and Council comments provided from his director's monthly report on the departments FY09 Goals and Outputs. Mr. Hampton closed his report by responding to questions of clarification given by the Mayor and Council.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council President Tierney moved that the Mayor and Council adopt the circulated 2009 City Council Meeting Schedule (subject to revision and change); approving a change to the City Personnel Manual Section III Employee Benefits, 2. Holidays, deleting Columbus Day and adding Veteran's Day (retaining the same number of City observed paid employee holidays); and selecting January 21, 2009 as the second City Council Meeting for the month of January (Motion # 04-01-09). The motion passed unanimously.

Council Vice President Patterson moved that the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2009-01, an Ordinance whereby the City Council repeals Section A125-19 (Cable television Commission) and Section A125-20 (Basic Service Rates and Charges) of the Hyattsville City Code which deletes all references of the Cable Television Commission (First Reading)(Motion# 01-01-09). The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hinds moved that the Mayor and Council accept, appropriate, and authorize the expenditure of \$110,800 awarded to the City by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Parks and Playgrounds program in accordance with the terms of the grant subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney (Motion# 02-01-09). The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Matulef moved to authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA) in support of Light Rail Transit as the Purple Line option that would create the highest ridership, shortest transit times, and offer the best opportunity for investment in transit-oriented development (Motion# 03-01-09). The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:*Creation of Task Force for BB&T Building*

Mayor Gardiner opened the discussion of the proposed BB&T Task Force. He provided the Council with a proposed motion for consideration at a future meeting that included potential task force members. The Mayor and Council discussed having all wards represented on the committee. Another suggestion given was to have business owners and representatives of church organizations serve on the committee. Mayor Gardiner requested that the Council e-mail him names of potential task force members. Mayor Gardiner noted that the item would be placed on the next Council Agenda for further discussion and possible action.

City Code Chapter 114: Traffic and Parking Discussion on scheduling Public Meeting

The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length with input from City staff on what direction the City wants to take with moving this issue forward.

Protection of City Seal and City Logo

The Mayor and Council briefly discussed the issue. Mayor Gardiner noted that City Attorney Colaresi will be present at the next Council Meeting and would be able to respond to the Council comments and concerns on the issue.

Article VIII: Public Way and Sidewalk Improvement

City Administrator Murphy related to the Mayor and Council comments received on the issue of the Article VIII: Public Way and Sidewalk Improvements from residents throughout the City.

Financial Disclosure Forms for 2008

City Clerk Barber advised the Mayor and Council that Federal Disclosure Forms for 2008 had been provided to them in their weekly packets dated 1/2/2009. The Mayor and Members of the Council were advised to return the completed forms to the City Clerk.

Mayor Gardiner took a moment to review the forthcoming community notices and events.

Council President Tierney moved that the Council close the Council Meeting of January 5, 2009, to discuss a personnel matter involving the authorization of the City Administrator to negotiate terms of the contract of the City Treasurer position (Motion # 05-01-09). A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

1-05-09

2009 - 4

The Council Meeting of January 5, 2009, ended at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk