

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

May 12, 2008

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 Krista Atteberry (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), Council Vice President Marc Tartaro (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), and Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Carlos Lizanne (arrived at 8:28 p.m.), Mark Matulef, Nicole Hinds, Bill Tierney, and Anthony Patterson. Council Member Douglas Dudrow was absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones, City Treasurer Oliphant, and City Clerk Barber.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council Member Matulef moved to amend the agenda by removing Motion# 73-04-08 (Hyattsville Life & Times Contract Renewal for Fiscal Year 2009) from the May 12, 2008 Council Meeting Agenda. The motion failed by only having the support of four Council Members (Council Members Matulef, Perry, Frazier, and Tierney).

Mayor Gardiner moved that the Council approve the agenda as amended with Mayor Gardiner requesting a slight re-order of the items. The motion passed, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Martha Yager, 4019 Kennedy Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; she stated her support of the Hyattsville Life and Times newspaper; she noted that it fosters a sense of community for Hyattsville.

Mr. Ben Lipovsky, 6213 42nd Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed building acquisition in the FY09 Budget; he stated his concerns with the issue.

Mr. Tom Eichmann, 3401 Stanford Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his support of the renewal of the Hyattsville Life and Times Contract and his concerns about the lack of public awareness for The City of Hyattsville with-out a paper.

Ms. Lavon Jackson Leslie, 6215 42nd Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council; she stated her concerns with the taxes she pays for her Hyattsville home.

Ms. Nina Faye, 4004 Queensbury Road, addressed the Mayor and Council; she objected to the proposed property acquisition in the FY09 Budget and stated her concerns about the

quality and accuracies of the Hyattsville Life and Times. She stated she was not in support of the Hyattsville Life and Times contract renewal.

Mr. Chris Condayan, 4009 Kennedy Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his support of the Hyattsville Life and Times contract. He noted that the Hyattsville Life and Times is an unbiased forum that the public can use for communicative purposes and that it highlights the progress of The City of Hyattsville.

Mr. Steven Clements, 4017 Kennedy Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his support of the Hyattsville Life and Times contracts, due to it enhancing the sense of community. He noted that Hyattsville Life and Times have made progressive steps in reaching it's initial goals. He commented on the best value for small business advertising.

Mr. Matthew McKnight, 4013 Oglethorpe Street, Vice President of the Hyattsville Life and Times board addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his support of the Hyattsville Life and Times contract. He noted comparisons from other area community papers and how the distribution of the Hyattsville Life and Times is more effective.

Mr. Philip Houle, 4034 Hamilton Street, addressed the Mayor and Council, he strongly recommend that the City of Hyattsville renew the Hyattsville Life and Times contract for 1 year. He suggested that the consequences of not renewing the Hyattsville Life and Times contract would be negative and a replacement would be less desirable.

Ms. Jessica Wilson, 6212 43rd Street, addressed Mayor and Council; she stated her support of the Hyattsville Life and Times Contract and noted it's value as a public relations tool.

Ms. Paula Minaert, 4026 Hamilton Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; she stated her support for the Hyattsville Life and Times contract renewal and noted it builds a sense of community.

Ms. Rebekah Burkhart, 4024 Hamilton Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; she stated her support for the Hyattsville Life and Times and the role it plays in the demographic for the students at the University of Maryland.

Mr. Timothy Hunt, 3407 Pennsylvania Street, a board member of the Hyattsville Life and Times, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his support for the renewal of the Hyattsville Life and Times and it's impact on the visibility of the insert, "The Hyattsville Reporter". The Hyattsville Life and Times helps the community stay up to date on current events in the City of Hyattsville.

Mr. Scott Wilson, 6100 Block of 42nd Place, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed acquisition of property; he stated his concerns with the City handling real-estate. He addressed the Hyattsville Life and Times, and noted the benefit to the community.

Mr. Robert Croslin, 4004 Kennedy Street, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his comments on the negative aspects of the Hyattsville Life and Times and asked that the Mayor and Council demand that the paper have an unbiased and non-political view-point. Mr. Croslin noted if the taxpayers funds are used it should become a City paper and the board should be elected by the City Council. He also suggested a less expensive method of delivery be considered for The Hyattsville Reporter.

Ms. Sarah Nemeth, 4020 Hamilton Street, Editor of the Hyattsville Life and Times, addressed the Mayor and Council; she noted that she had personally selected the board. She encourages submittals, and has direct interest in the Hyattsville Life and Times relationship with the City. She stated that she or Mr. Chris Currie, the Board President, could be contacted in regards to concerns or future publications.

Mr. David Marshall, 6000 Block of 37th Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council; he noted the items on the proposed agenda for May 12, 2008. He also commented on the proposed tax rate for the FY09 Budget. Mr. Marshall remarked on the proposed property acquisition in the FY09 Budget, and requested more information about this matter. Mr. Marshall closed his comment by adding that he supports the community based newspaper.

Mr. Tom Lopresti, 5221 42nd Place, addressed the Mayor and Council about the taxes that the residents of Hyattsville pay. He commented that he would like to see more information on the FY09 Budget to help provide him better clarification.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Administrator Murphy provided a brief report to the Mayor and Council regarding the roof replacement project at 4318 Gallatin, she noted she would provide the information to the Mayor and Council by e-mail, but wanted to brief the Council on the issue.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council Vice President Tartaro moved that the Mayor and Council renew the contract with The Hyattsville Life & Times for FY 2009, at a cost of \$1,975 per month or \$23,700 pending the approval of the City Attorney. The contract will provide for the City's purchase of four pages of advertisement space once per month beginning July 2008 and ending June 2009. The four pages of ad space per month allows the City to insert its community newsletter, The Hyattsville Reporter, as the one of the two issues published by the City per month (Motion#73-04-08). The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. **Council Member Tierney moved to table Motion#73-04-08.** A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion to table failed with Council Member Frazier, Perry, Matulef, and Tierney voting for and Council President Atteberry, Council Vice President Tartaro, and Council Members Lizanne, Hinds and Patterson voting against. The Council then voted on the motion as presented. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed with Council President Atteberry, Council Vice President

Tartaro, and Council Members Lizanne, Hinds, Patterson, and Mayor Gardiner voting for and Council Members Frazier, Perry, Matulef, and Tierney voting against.

Council President Atteberry moved that the Council approve the following items relative to the City's Personnel Committee: (1) Mission: The Personnel Committee is charged with conducting regular general review of the personnel policies of the City of Hyattsville to assure the policies remain appropriate and consistent with best practices in the human resources field, and making recommendations for changes to the Mayor and City Council. The City Council may also assign the Personnel Committee specific requests related to the City's personnel policies and practices, as appropriate; (2) Meeting Schedule: The committee shall meet at least two times a year. The committee shall be chaired by the Mayor or a chair selected by the Mayor from among the public members; (3) Membership: The Personnel Committee shall be no smaller than five nor larger than 13 members, and shall be comprised as follows: the Mayor (non-voting), two Council members (non-voting), and up to six public members; and the following members of the staff: The City Administrator or designee (non-voting); the Police Chief (or designee), the Director of Public Works (or designee), a member of the administrative staff (including Code Enforcement, Recreation & the Arts, and Finance) appointed by the City Administrator, and a member of the Hyattsville Fraternal Order of Police. The City Attorney and other consultants shall attend Personnel Committee meetings as appropriate. Generally the appointed public members will have background and experience in human resources; and (4) Appointments: Council members Mark Matulef and Bill Tierney. Public: Marsha Moulton (Ward 3), Jim Groves (Ward 2), David Marshall (Ward 3), Chris Hinojosa (Ward 2). 2 additional public members need to be appointed. These appointments shall be effective May 12, 2008 and shall terminate June 30, 2010 (Motion#80-05-08). The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. The motion passed with Council Member Tierney abstaining.

Council Vice President Tartaro moved the Mayor and City Council 1) authorize the reclassification of the Community Development coordinator Position from the current Grade of 114 to Grade 115 per the recommendations of the City's human resources consultant (Karen Lehr of Clear Management) and 2) approve the placement of the incumbent in this position to the new grade on the same step (3) that is currently held (Motion#56-04-08). The motion passed with Council President Atteberry, and Council Members Perry and Matulef voting against.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FY09 Budget Discussion (Draft Budget Resolution)

Mayor Gardiner provided a brief overview of how the budget in the "Draft" Budget Resolution presented tonight differed from the last version of the budget that had been distributed for consideration. City Treasurer Oliphant provided some additional information, primarily for clarification. There was discussion about how the budget process should proceed from this point forward. City Treasurer Oliphant noted the current status of the City's financials and the projected financials for FY09.

Discussion of Scheduling a Council Work Session for Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Council Member Perry moved that the Mayor and Council schedule a Special Council Works Session for Wednesday, May 14, 2008 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to discuss the FY09 Budget. The motion passed, unanimously.

Council Member Frazier moved to adjourn the Special Council Meeting of May 12, 2008. The motion passed, unanimously.

The Special Council Meeting of May 12, 2008 ended at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk