

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

April 21, 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, and Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Mark Matulef, Nicole Hinds, Carlos Lizanne, Anthony Patterson, and Bill Tierney. Council Vice President Marc Tartaro and Council Members Paula Perry, and Douglas Dudrow were absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones, Chief of Police Holland, Director of Recreation Mood, Director of Code Enforcement Hampton, City Treasurer Oliphant, Community Development Manager Chandler and City Clerk Barber.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council President Atteberry moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed, unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Status of Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department – President Matt Davy

Mr. Matt Davy, President of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department provided a detailed report by use of power point to the Mayor and Council. Kevin Essor, Chairman Board of Directors and Dave Hang, Chief of Station assisted in this presentation. The report consisted of an overview of the department that included information on staff activities, day to day procedures, and updates on the department's current equipment. The presentation also included the 2007 Year in review. Mr. Davy noted the calls for service received as well as what vehicles were used for each call. He was pleased to report that a grant from the AFG to support the replacement of the Heavy Rescue Squad Machine was awarded to the department. President Davy noted what the Hyattsville station provides to Hyattsville and the surrounding areas with regards to fire apparatus equipment that is housed at the Hyattsville station (rescue company, Engine Company, Ladder Company, and an ambulance company). President Davy closed his report to the Mayor and Council by reviewing the current finances of the Fire Station and a FY09 budget request for annual grant amount of \$100,000 instead of the \$45,000 being proposed by the City in the FY09 Budget for a building addition and to be reinstated in the Hyattsville Charter and Code.

Mid-City Development Update – Mr. Tom Farasy

Mr. Tom Farasy and Mr. Ed Gibbs addressed the Mayor and Council. They provided an update on the project “Mosaic at Metro” (Belcrest Center) which is located on the WMATA property and being developed by Mid-City Development. Mr. Farasy provided copies of a letter that was submitted to the Mayor and Council requesting a phase-in of City taxes for the project.

FY07 Audit Report – Ms. Diane Mock

Ms. Diane Mock, with the accounting firm of Bridgett Mock and Associates, P.A., presented to the Mayor and Council an in-depth overview and review of the FY07 Audit Report. Ms. Mock provided two additional informational memos to provide additional clarification of the FY07 Audit Report to the Mayor and Council. City Treasurer Oliphant and Ms. Mock responded to questions of clarifications asked by the Mayor and Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council President Atteberry moved that the Mayor and Council approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2008 as presented. The motion passed, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Matthew McKnight, 4013 Oglethorpe Street, Vice President of the Hyattsville Life and Times Newspaper Board of Directors, addressed the Mayor and Council on the Life & Times Contract Renewal (discussion item Motion# 73-04-08). He stated his support and requested the contract be renewed.

Mr. Ben Lipovsky, 6213 42nd Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council on the proposed Real Property Tax Rate in the FY09 Budget. Mr. Lipovsky raised questions to the Mayor and Council about the proposed property acquisition in the FY09 Budget and the lack of information available. Mr. Lipovsky noted he would like the Council to reduce the real property tax rate for FY09 to 55.3% (s.i.c) by eliminating the proposed property acquisition in the FY09 Budget.

Mr. David Marshall of the 6000 Block of 37th Avenue addressed the Mayor and Council with several citizen concerns and public safety issues. Mr. David Marshall stated his family’s opposition to the proposed purchase of a new trash compactor for the City’s Department of Public Works, and their opposition with the request from the Mid-City development for a proposed tax reduction on the development project. Mr. Marshall closed his comments by addressing the FY09 City of Hyattsville Budget Open House held on Saturday, April 19, 2008, in regard to getting public participation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Administrator Murphy gave a brief review of the written report provided to the Mayor and Council in their weekly council packet. Ms. Murphy summarized information on the FY09 budget, the upcoming personnel committee meeting; and current staffing levels of the City.

Chief of Police Holland provide an in-depth overview to the Mayor and Council; in his report he summarized the departments Goals and Output for FY08. Chief Holland provided a brief review of the 1st quarter crime statistic report for 2008 with comparisons made to the previous year and noted the current staffing level for the department. Chief Holland provided an update on the recent incidents that were documented in media to the Mayor and Council. Chief Holland closed his report by responding to questions of clarification asked by the Mayor and Council.

Director of Recreation and the Arts Mood reported to the Mayor and Council; a written report submitted to the Mayor and Council in their weekly packet; she provided a brief overview of the upcoming events in the City highlighting the upcoming 122nd Annual Parade and Festival (May 10, 2008) and the Summer Jam Events which start on May 2, 2008.

City Treasurer Oliphant reported to the Mayor and Council with a brief update on the City finances, he noted that there were no bills to be signed by Council due to a server being down.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council President Atteberry moved that the following items be moved as consent: (1) to declare April 25, 2008, as National Arbor Day in the City of Hyattsville, and to further move that the Mayor and Council pass a proclamation in support of this national recognition (Motion# 71-04-08); (2) subject to the City Attorney's review and approval of the final lease documents, authorize the City Administrator to enter into a lease/purchase contract with Government Vehicle Leasing Company of Penrose, Colorado for the lease/purchase funding for the new trash compactor truck being acquired by the Department of Public Works. The purchase price of \$160,248.38 is being financed over a term of three (3) years, at an effective annual interest rate of three point eight percent (3.80%) with a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250.00) document fee payable at the inception of the lease term and twelve (12) payments of fourteen thousand, fifty three dollars and 15 cents (\$14,053.15), due quarterly in advance, for total financing costs of eight thousand six hundred three dollars and forty-two cents (\$8,603.42) (Motion# 72-04-08). The motion passed, unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council Member Frazier moved that the Mayor and Council approve the recommended Construction firm, Boblits Enterprises, to provide services as outlined in the 4318 Gallatin St. Phased Roofs Replacement RFP and the firm's proposal response dated April 11, 2008, and to authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with the selected firm for these services as specified, subject to the City Attorney's review and approval of the contract documents. Community Development Manager Chandler addressed the Mayor and Council and provided a brief overview of the bids received and provided information on the selection. Mr. Chandler noted an informational memorandum on the RFP process had been given to the Mayor and Council in their weekly packet. Mr. Eisenburg, Executive Director of Hyattsville Community Development Corporation was present and responded to questions and comments from the Mayor and Council with regards to the proposed recommendation. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. The motion passed with Council Member Matulef voting against.

Council Member Matulef moved that the City Council accept the March 2008 report of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Environment Committees and schedule discussions at a meeting or meetings no later than May 31, 2008, for the purpose of adopting any or all of the respective recommendations for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Waste Reduction. The City Council commends the service of residents who volunteered their time, research skills, and energy in the preparation of the proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Master Plan and Waste Reduction recommendations. Furthermore, the City Council directs the following:

(1) The City Administrator will direct the appropriate Department heads and other staff to prepare a series of four lists to facilitate Council discussion and staff action: (a) recommendations of the two committees that have been approved, implemented, and/or planned already, and report back to the Council; (b) recommendations that could be feasibly included in FY 2009 Goals and Outputs (to be completed during FY 2009, or substantially undertaken) and corresponding appropriations based on committee recommendations; (c) recommendations that would require further Council action of a policy-making nature as concern actions by the City of Hyattsville; and (d) recommendations that would require further Council action to approve correspondence or other communication with Federal, State, County, or other non-City of Hyattsville governmental bodies. The City Administrator will report the lists and any other recommendations to the Council no later than May 5, 2008.

(2) The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee will make further recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian use and safety of the West Hyattsville and Prince George's Plaza Metro stations – with a focus on actions that could be taken by the Washington Metropolitan [A] Transit Authority (WMATA). In light of WMATA's receipt of a technical assistance grant from M-NCPPC, the Council and City Administrator will facilitate opportunities for representatives of the Committee to participate in WMATA efforts to increase safety at the Prince George's Plaza metro station. As needed, Council President Atteberry and Council Member Matulef will serve as

liaisons to WMATA safety initiatives.

(3) A committee consisting of Council President Atteberry, Council Member Matulef, and representatives of the two committees will meet prior to the Council's discussion of the recommendations to prepare a discussion agenda based on the recommendations, and will be available to facilitate the Council discussion.

(4) When the Council takes up the recommendations, it will discuss and select from among alternative means of conducting outreach to and obtaining feedback from residents who live along the proposed Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes. Options include outreach and polling by City Staff and/or Council Members and conducting one or more public meetings (Motion# 66-04-08). The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. Council Member Matulef noted he had been in touch with the leadership of the bike and pedestrian safety committee prior to bring the issue forward to Council. The Mayor and Council discussed needing to have a master plan for the bike and pedestrian committee. The motion failed with Council Member Matulef voting for and Council President Atteberry, and Council Members Frazier, Lizanne, Hinds, Tierney, and Patterson voting against.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Motion# 73-04-08 Hyattsville Life and Times Contract Renewal for Fiscal Year 2009

The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. Council Members provided feedback for items of concerns and possible options for the future. Concern raised in regards to the communication plan and managing content with residents. Suggested methods of getting information to residents include a larger total communication package. The request for the supporting documents of the Motion that the money be fronted in two payments was brought forward. The Mayor and Council noted that they would like to see more input from the public in regards to the best methods on providing and delivering City information to residents.

Mayor Gardiner noted the lateness of the hour and requested that the scheduled closed session for Monday, April 21, 2008 be moved to Monday, April 28, 2008.

Mayor Gardiner closed the meeting by reviewing for the Council the upcoming meetings and events for the coming week.

Council Member Matulef moved to adjourn the Council Meeting of April 21, 2008.
The motion passed, unanimously.

The Council Meeting of April 21, 2008 ended at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk