

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

February 25, 2008

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:36 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Krista Atteberry (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Council Vice President Marc Tartaro (arrived at 8:06 p.m.), and Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Carlos Lizanne, Mark Matulef, Bill Tierney, and Anthony Patterson. Council Members Nicole Hinds and Douglas Dudrow were absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones, Chief of Police Holland, City Treasurer Oliphant (arrived at 8:08 p.m. / left at 8:26 p.m.), City Attorney Colaresi (arrived at 7:39 p.m.) and City Clerk Barber.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Council Member Perry moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed, unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. David Marshall, 6000 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council about his concern with the number of closed sessions the Council has been having. He also expressed that he is not happy with the summaries provided from these meetings. Mayor Gardiner provided a response on the reasons (personnel and real-estate), as per state statues, the City has been going into Closed Sessions.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM:**

#### *Collective Bargaining*

Mayor Gardiner opened the discussion and provided a brief history of the previous discussions the City has had concerning Collective Bargaining over the last couple of years. Mayor Gardiner stated how he would like the Council to proceed while addressing this issue and also the process which the Mayor and Council can follow. Mayor Gardiner noted that two area municipalities (Greenbelt and Mount Rainier) have collective bargaining, and said the City could review their program as it moves forward in the discussion on Collective Bargaining.

Patrick O'Hagan, President of Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) Lodge #119, addressed the Mayor and Council on Collective Bargaining. He said that for over five years the F.O.P. has been trying to obtain Collective Bargaining for the Hyattsville officers. President

O'Hagan provided a brief overview to give clarification on what Collective Bargaining means and what it would bring to the police officers of Hyattsville. President O'Hagan expressed that Collective Bargaining would open the lines of communication between the F.O.P and the City.

City Administrator Murphy and Chief of Police Holland responded to comments made by F.O.P. President O'Hagan regarding the specialty pay document that was recently provided to all employees. President O'Hagan expressed the F.O.P's concern regarding having a F.O.P member not be identified as participants in the decision making related to the criteria for the specialty pay bonuses for City employees. The Mayor and Council asked questions for clarification to all the parties involved.

The Mayor and Council requested President O'Hagan to outline the of the role of F.O.P. President O'Hagan responded that the F.O.P. is not only a fraternal organization, but is also a charitable organization with emphasis placed on public safety. The F.O.P provides legal counsel for its members involved in occurrences related to sworn officers.

Mr. Michael Marshall, the F.O.P Attorney, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding Collective Bargaining.

Ms. Melinda Miles, Mayor of Mount Rainier, spoke on the issue at the request of Mayor Gardiner based on her experience with obtaining and continuing to provide collective bargaining. Mayor Miles provided pros and cons on the issue of Collective Bargaining. Mayor Gardiner thanked Mayor Miles for her input and for attending the meeting.

Mr. John Rogers, President of the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police, addressed the Mayor and Council. He spoke of his years of experience with dealing with Collective Bargaining and identified some pros and cons faced by his organization and the City of Greenbelt.

**Council Member Perry moved that the Mayor and Council close the meeting of February 25, 2008, to discuss legal matters related to litigation and property acquisition with the City Attorney.** A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed, unanimously. (Motion# 33-02-08)

Note for the Record: Mayor Gardiner noted that Council would not be coming back into open session after the closed session.

The Council Meeting of February 25, 2008, ended at 9:35 p.m.

The Mayor and Council went into Closed Session at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk