

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

September 17, 2007

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:32 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Krista Atteberry, Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Carlos Lizanne (arrived at 7:33 p.m.), Mark Matulef, Nicole Hinds, Bill Tierney, Douglas Dudrow, and Anthony Patterson (arrived at 8:05 p.m.). Council Vice President Marc Tartaro and Council Member Paula Perry were absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Chief of Police Holland, Director of Recreation and the Arts Mood, City Treasurer Oliphant, Director of Code Enforcement Hampton, and City Clerk Barber.

PRESENTATIONS:

Children's Logo Contest – Winner

Ms. Quincy Baker was the winner of the Children's Logo Contest and was recognized by the City. She was and presented a certificate of appreciation along with a monetary prize by Mayor Gardiner on behalf of the City Council.

Update on Invasive Plant Removal Project at Magruder Park – Dr. Mark Imlay

Dr. Mark Imlay provided a brief update to the Mayor and Council on the efforts of the Invasive Plant Removal Project at Magruder Park. Dr. Imlay provided an in-depth list of accomplishments for the project to date that was given to the Mayor and Council as a hand-out prior to the meeting.

Proclamation of Appreciation - Mr. Jonas L. Thomas

A Proclamation of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Jonas L. Thomas by the Mayor on behalf of the Council and the City of Hyattsville for his many dedicated years of service as a Hyattsville Board of Election Supervisor.

EYA Presentation – East Village

Mr. Larry Taub, an attorney with the law offices of O'Malley, Miles, Nylen and Gilmore, P.A, representing EYA, addressed the Mayor and Council on EYA's proposed development in Hyattsville titled "East Village". Mr. Taub noted that the "West Village" development across the street is coming along well, and EYA is now moving forward with development plans for the east side. Mr. Aakash Thakkar, a development executive for

EYA, provided a brief overview of the proposed development of the "East Village" being done by EYA along Route One in Hyattsville. Mr. Thakkar responded to questions of clarification given by the Mayor and Council on the proposed development of the project.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council President Atteberry requested that a motion be added as a consent item on the Special Council Meeting Agenda of September 17, 2007, for a letter to be sent to the Prince George's County School Board regarding a new elementary school in the Hyattsville area. **Council Member Matulef moved that the Mayor and Council approve the agenda as amended.** The motion passed, unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council President Atteberry moved that the Mayor and Council approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2007. The motion passed, unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Administrator Murphy reported to the Mayor and Council that she had recently attended the 2007 Governor's Conference with Community Development Manager Chandler, where information on grants for municipalities was obtained for the City.

Chief Holland reported to the Mayor and Council that he had attended the annual Chiefs of Police Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. Chief Holland provided a brief overview of the current staff for the department. The Police Department currently has 39 sworn positions with an authorized level of 40; the department is currently working to fill a vacant Captain position. Chief Holland noted the many community outreach programs that happened over the summer months, and others being planned for the remainder of the year. Chief Holland closed his report by responding to questions of clarification given by the Mayor and Council.

Director of Recreation and the Arts Mood reported to the Mayor and Council while providing an overview of the events held during the summer months sponsored by the Recreation and the Arts Department. Director Mood provided updated information on the upcoming International Street Festival scheduled for Saturday September 22, 2007, at 31st and Hamilton Street and is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. with fireworks at dusk.

City Treasurer Oliphant provided a brief report to the Mayor and Council on issues being addressed by his office; he also noted that the auditors have begun their work on the City's annual audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no requests to address the Mayor and Council.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council President Atteberry moved that the Mayor and Council approve the following items as consent: (1) to authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City a proclamation of appreciation to Mr. Jonas Thomas for his many years of services as a Board of Election Supervisor for the City of Hyattsville; (2) to authorize the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City a proclamation in recognition for Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15, 2007 until October 15, 2007) (Bilingual Proclamation); (3) to declare the month of October 2007 as Code Compliance Month in the City of Hyattsville. I further move that the Mayor and Council pass a proclamation in support of this national recognition; (4) to accept, appropriate and authorize expenditure of \$200,000 received in a cash grant from Target Inc.; (5) to send a letter to the Prince George's County Board of Education regarding the City's support for a new elementary school for the Hyattsville area. The motion passed, unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Council Member Matulef moved that the Mayor and Council accept the request for exception from the strict application of the City's front yard impervious surface restrictions requested by Julio B. & Maria C. Gomez at 5702 40th Avenue in Ward 2. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. Ms. Jacqueline Gomez, a resident of 5702 40th Avenue and Director of Code Enforcement Hampton at Mayor Gardiner's request addressed the Mayor and Council on the issue. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion failed with Council Member Matulef voting for and Council President Atteberry, and Council Members Frazier, Hinds, Tierney, Dudrow, and Patterson voting against. Council Member Lizanne abstained.

Council Member Tierney moved that the Mayor and Council approve the following Mayoral appointments to the interview panel to review applications, interview candidates, and make recommendations to the Council regarding the hiring of the Assistant City Administrator:

**Elaine Murphy, City Administrator
Bob Oliphant, City Treasurer
Bill Gardiner, Mayor
Rosalyn Clemens (City resident and senior manager for the Department of Housing and Community Development)
Krista Atteberry, Council President
Bill Tierney, Councilman**

Alternates:

**Chief Doug Holland
Anthony Patterson, Councilman
Peter Shapiro, resident and former County Councilman**

The alternates would be available if one or more of the regular members were unavailable for an interview. The panel would make it clear to the candidates that some members of the panel may not participate in every interview. The motion passed, unanimously.

Note for the Record: Council Member Matulef left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Council Member Patterson moved that the Mayor and Council close the meeting to discuss a personnel matter and the terms of employment and compensation of individual City employees considering an employment contract and legal issues. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion to close the Council Meeting of September 17, 2007 passed, unanimously.

Note for the Record: The Mayor and Council went into closed session at 9:30 p.m.

Council President Atteberry moved that the Mayor and Council return to open session to adjourn the Council Meeting of September 17, 2007. The motion passed, unanimously.

Note: The Mayor and Council returned to open session the Council Meeting of September 17, 2007 at 10:40 p.m.

Council President Atteberry moved to adjourn the Council Meeting of September 17, 2007. The motion passed, unanimously.

The Council Meeting of September 17, 2007 ended at 10:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk

William F. Gardiner, Mayor