

COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

January 24, 2005

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:34 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Stuart Eisenberg, Council Vice President Paula Perry, and Council Members, Scott Wilson (7:40 p.m.), Christopher Currie (7:46 p.m.), and Scott Wythe. Council Member Doug Dudrow, Ruth Ann Frazier, Jon Lewis, Mary Elwood, and Carlos Lizanne were absent

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Director of Public Works Henry, Director of Recreation and Parks Hager, City Treasurer Oliphant, Supervisor of Code Enforcement Hampton, and City Clerk Barber.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

City Administrator Murphy briefed the Mayor and Council on the development of an RFQ for the 4318 Gallatin Building, and asked if the HYCDC would be a partner in the RFQ process or would the City be going forward alone in the process. Ms. Murphy noted the time sensitive nature of this matter. Ms. Murphy addressed the recent snow storm in Hyattsville, and felt the City handled the recent snow storm well.

Supervisor of Code Enforcement Hampton addressed the Mayor and Council; he reminded the listening audience and Council Members of requirements in the City Code regarding the removal of snow from the City right-of-way. The department staff has been placing reminder notices to residents and business owners who have not cleared their walkways from the last snowfall. Mr. Hampton also advised that the office staff are currently inspecting and sending out the business licenses renewals for FY06.

Director of Public Work Henry reported to the Mayor and Council that the City's leaf collection officially ended on Friday, January 7, 2005, but the department will continue to canvas the city through the 14th of January. Mr. Henry reviewed the City's snow removal process and memorandum of understandings the City of Hyattsville has with other area municipalities.

Mayor Gardiner requested that City Treasurer Oliphant provide comment on current agenda items before the City Council's discussion. City Treasurer Oliphant discussed the Hyattsville Resolution 2005-03 (Charter Amendment) C5-23(A) (1) at length with the Mayor and Council and a brief discussion of the City's debt services. City Treasurer Oliphant requested he would like to review the proposed resolution with the City Attorney for clarifications.

City Treasurer Oliphant provided his thoughts and views to the Mayor and Council on the City's proposed budget guidelines and the City's proposed process for the upcoming FY06 budget process.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Development of the Hyattsville Legacy Trail System

Council Member Currie moved that the Mayor and Council adopt the following preliminary implementation measures for the Hyattsville Legacy Trail System: (1) authorize discussions between City Staff and public and private parties to explore methods and resources that are mutually beneficial to the City's desired development of the Hiker-Biker Trail; for example, authorize staff or Task Force discussions with State Highway Administration (SHA) on options to establish the Hiker-Biker Trail below the Flatiron Building; (2) approve the preliminary route for the Hiker-Biker Trail. Use the Study Route for the Historic Walking Tour to encourage additional review and public comment; (3) direct staff to continue to pursue funding for the Hiker-Biker Trail and Northwest Branch access spur, including researching available grant funding and other financial, planning, and technical assistance programs; (4) direct the Department of Public Works to develop a three-year plan for Historic Walking Tour sidewalk and street crossing construction and reconstruction – to be reflected in the City's sidewalk replacement plans. As sidewalks and roads are replaced plans should be developed for appropriate materials, signage, and walkways to appropriately incorporate the Walking Tour. Direct the appropriate City staff to obtain cost estimates for conducting a topological survey of the Hiker-Biker trail and prepare budget proposals for the use of available Community Legacy funds in Fiscal Year 2005 and the upcoming Fiscal Year 2006 budget and to seek contributions and grant funding for such a survey; (5) incorporate design, development, and financial requirements for the Historic Walking Trail and Legacy Hiker-Biker Trail in other strategic documents including the Community Legacy Revitalization Plan etc.; (6) conduct a public meeting to discuss the above issues. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length.

Ms. Maria Casarella, 5301 41st Avenue addressed the Mayor and Council with concerns of the Historic Walking Tour path being on their street. Ms. Casarella presented the Mayor and Council with a petition from the residents of 41st Avenue (between Jefferson Street and Hamilton Street) requesting the Historic Walking Tour not be brought down 41st Avenue.

Council Member Currie moved to table the motion to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Hyattsville Resolution 2005-03 (Charter Amendment) C5-23(A) (1)

Council President Eisenberg moved that the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Resolution 2005-03 (Charter Amendment) C5-23(A)(1), A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, as amended), to amend the Charter of the said City, said Charter being a part of the public local laws of Maryland (1963 Edition, as amended), which Article contains in whole or in part the Charter of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, whereby the Mayor and City Council restates the cap on borrowing to conform to current State assessment practice and raises the cap on borrowing from two percent (2%) to four percent (4%) of assessed valuation of real property. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. **Council President Eisenberg moved to table the motion.** The motion to table failed. Council President Eisenberg requested that this issue be placed on the next Council Work Session. **Council Member Wilson amended to motion to leave the cap at 2%.** The amendment failed with Council President Eisenberg and Council Member Wythe voting against. **The Council then voted on the original motion.** The motion failed with Council President Eisenberg, Council Vice President Perry, and Council Member Wythe voting for and Council Member Wilson voting against. Council Member Currie abstained.

Resolution of Support of PGCMA's Building Livable Municipalities Legislative Agenda for 2005

Council Vice President Perry moved that the Mayor and Council approve sending a resolution of support to PGCMA's Building Livable Municipalities Legislative Agenda 2005. The motion passed, unanimously.

Budget Priorities Poll

Council Member Currie would like to develop and conduct a survey of City residents on FY06 budget priorities. The survey should be included in the Hyattsville Reporter and also posted on the City Website. The Mayor shall appoint a task force of Council and City staff to create the survey instrument, which shall be presented to the Council for approval for a time certain. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue and length and voiced comments and concerns on creating a survey. Mayor Gardiner requested Council Member Currie obtain more information and cost information for creating a survey. No formal motion was given on the issue.

Budget Guidelines and Public Discussion Process

Mayor Gardiner provided the Council with a Budget Guidelines document he would like the Council and Staff to follow. Mayor Gardiner noted that a Budget Schedule for the FY06 Budget would be finalized and then presented at the scheduled Budget Work Session on Monday, January 31, 2005. The Mayor and Council discussed the issues of department presentation of their budgets and input from the public on the entire City's budget process.

Gateway Arts Sector Plan

Council President Eisenberg discussed with a letter received from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning concerning the application for revision of the Gateway Arts Sector Plan in reference to the Town Center Character Area part of the plan. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. **Council President Eisenberg moved that the Mayor and Council send a letter of support for the existing plan and request more information on the proposed changes to the Character Area plan of the Gateway Arts Sector Plan and allow for additional time for the City to give comments.** The motion failed. **Council President Eisenberg moved that Mayor and Council motion to correspond to request more time for additional input from the City.** The motion passed, unanimously.

Council President Eisenberg moved that the Mayor and Council adjourn the Council Work Session of January 24, 2005. The motion passed, unanimously.

The Council Work Session of Monday, January 24, 2005 adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk

William F. Gardiner, Mayor