

## **COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

May 23, 2005

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:47 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Scott Wythe, Council Vice President Paula Perry, and Council Members, Ruth Ann Frazier, Christopher Currie, Jon Lewis (7:55 p.m.), Mary Elwood, Marc Tartaro, Mark Matulef, and Krista Atteberry. Council Member Carlos Lizanne was absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Chief of Police Holland, Director of Public Works Henry, City Treasurer Oliphant, Supervisor of Code Enforcement Hampton, and City Clerk Barber.

### **CITY STAFF REPORTS:**

City Administrator Murphy addressed the Mayor and Council, by first introducing Ms. Colleen Aistis, the new Hyattsville Volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Aistis gave a brief report on her first volunteer efforts at Magruder Park, at the Trumbule Nature Walk, on Saturday, May 21, 2005 with over 90 volunteer to help remove invasive plants at Magruder Park along the Trumbule Nature Walk. Ms. Aistis gave an overview of her background, at the request of the Mayor. Ms. Murphy continued her report, noting that as of Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> that the City had received an eight percent response on returns to the Budget Survey's and it continues to grow daily. City Administrator Murphy updated the Mayor and Council on the numerous development items going on in the City (Chitlin's Restaurant site plan and the Oliver Garden, site plan).

Supervisor of Code Enforcement Hampton, addressed the Mayor and Council, he noted that along with other department directors he attended the new Council orientation to provide an overview of the Code Enforcement Department. Mr. Hampton noted that the new multi-lingual door hanger's violation notices are currently at the printer and should be in use within the next week. Mr. Hampton also noted as a reminder that permits are required for Yard Sales and that only two permits are allowed for each year.

Director of Public Works Henry reported to the Mayor and Council on meeting he attended with the Mayor, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and DER, regarding the draining conditions at Heirich Park and the swamping conditions Magruder Park; he also noted that he had attended several meeting regarding the Hamilton Street lighting. Mr. Henry advised that the Hamilton Street Project (Phase III) will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Holland reported to the Mayor and Council, that the department has received a grant from the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention award. This grant will go towards the City's Auto Theft Programs with the City's Mutual Aid Agreement.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Brian Gray addressed the Mayor and Council on the City's budget on behalf of the HVFD. The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department submitted to the Mayor and Council their proposed FY06 City of Hyattsville Budget request. The Mayor and Council asked questions on HVFD FY06 Budget request to get a better clarification on their request.

Mr. Marshall, 6000 Block of 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council on the City's current budget schedule. Mr. Marshall would like a clarification on the Budget Survey. Mayor Gardiner responded that the survey was mailed out to every household and is posted on the City's website.

Mr. Ben Liposky, 6213 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council and noted the essential services of the City should be police services, trash collection, fire and safety, he would like to the City to reconsider the HVFD budget request.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

*Proclamation of Appreciation for Jennifer Mendenhall*

**Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council approve the following consent agenda as the following: (1) to recognize Hyattsville resident Jennifer Mendenhall by endorsing a proclamation of appreciation.** The motion passed, unanimously.

*Approval of Donation to Jim Henson School of the Arts, Media, and Communication at Northwestern High School for their Art Expo*

**Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council approve the donation of \$250.00 to the Jim Henson School of the Arts, Media, and Communication at Northwestern High School for their Art Expo.** The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed with Council Vice President Perry voting against.

*FY06 Budget*

Mayor Gardiner noted that the Mayor and Council will officially vote on the proposed real property tax rate at the scheduled Budget Work Session on Tuesday, May 31, 2005. The Mayor and Council discussed the FY06 Budget issue at length. Council Member Matulef provided a list of potential cost saving for the FY06 Budget for the Mayor, Council, and City staffs review. A motion was not given at the meeting on behalf of the FY06 Budget.

*Determination and Disposal of Surplus City Real Property*

**Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council direct the staff to review and refine the proposed guidelines for the determination and disposal of surplus City property. The guideline for use and/or disposition of City property should conform to long-term City interests and needs, as expressed in part by the Community Legacy Plan, the Gateway Arts and Entertainment Sector Map Amendment, the Strategic Parks Plan, and similar plans. The motion passed, unanimously.**

*Partial Implementation of Parking Meter Plan (Ager Road and Hamilton Street)*

**Council Vice President Perry moved that the Mayor and Council authorize City Staff to implement the initial phases of the parking meter plan and to complete the following: (1) update the phased plan to reflect phase 1 as including parking along both sides of Ager Road between Hamilton Street and Nicholson Street (or parts thereof) and both sides of Hamilton Street between Ager Road and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue (or parts thereof); (2) determine feasibility of providing 30 minutes of free parking and \$.50 per hour charges on Hamilton Street (Ager Road fees comparable to WMATA fees); (3) schedule a Public Hearing (date to be determined) for residents and businesses to discuss this proposal, and notify via flyer the businesses and residents impacted (initial phases only); (4) present recommendation and/or changes to Council by September 30, 2005 following input from the businesses and residents.** Mayor Gardiner allowed Mr. Nkosi Yearwood of 5802 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue to address the Mayor and Council on this issue. Mr. Yearwood supports the proposed plan. The motion passed with Council Member Lewis abstaining.

*Hyattsville Resolution 2005-11, a Resolution Condemning Politics of Personal Destruction and Character Assassination*

**Council Member Frazier moved that the Mayor and Council approve Hyattsville Resolution 2005-11, a resolution condemning politics of personal destruction and character assassination. The Mayor and Council discussed the resolution at length. Council Member Matulef amended the motion to add the following: BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the City Council adopt a Code of Ethics that shall include, but not be limited to, the candidates' and their campaign's commitment to public debate on the issues, the distribution of truthful campaign literature that**

**focuses on issues and experience, the placement of campaign signs only with the informed permission of legal property owners or tenants, refraining from the dissemination of rumors and false information, refraining from verbal or written communications attacking a candidate's personality or personal life, and maintaining the highest standards of verbal and written communication.** A roll call vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment failed with Council President Wythe, Council Vice President Perry, and Council Member Frazier, Currie, Elwood, Tartaro, and Atteberry voting against and Council Member Matulef voting for. Council Member Lewis abstained. The Mayor and Council then voted on the original motion. The motion passed with Council Member Lewis abstaining.

**Council Member Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed, unanimously.

The Council Work Session of May 23, 2005 ended at 10:08 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk

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William F. Gardiner, Mayor