

COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

July 11, 2005

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 7:35 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 (8:30 p.m.), Jon Lewis, Mary Elwood, Carlos Lizanne (7:55 p.m.), Marc Tartaro (8:01 p.m.), Mark Matulef, and Krista Atteberry (7:40 p.m.).

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Chief of Police Holland, City Treasurer Oliphant, City Attorney Colaresi, and City Clerk Barber.

PRESENTATIONS:

West Hyattsville Transit Oriented Development Plan

Mr. Bill Washburn from M-NCPPC addressed the Mayor and Council on the West Hyattsville Transit Oriented Development Plan. He briefly discussed the preliminary draft of the West Hyattsville Transit Oriented development plan and provided a status update on the project. Mr. Washburn provided a preliminary timeline processes for public comment on the preliminary West Hyattsville Transit Oriented Development Plan. Mr. Washburn responded to questions given by the Mayor and Council.

Development of the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station

Ms. Jennifer Rademaker and Mr. Harvey Taylor addressed the Mayor and Council with an updated overview of the development project at the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station (22 acre parcel around the Metro Station) Mr. Taylor provided a brief review of each phase of the project as the following: Phase I (residential) Phase II (retail) Phase III (office) Mr. Taylor submitted the preliminary proposal over five years ago, WMATA, Parking and Planning have been considered as all parties into the design and development of the plans and deal and they look forward to the ground breaking in the fall. Mr. Keenan Rice addressed the proposed taxing district for the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station development. A declaration of intent prior to the issuance of the bond will have to be done prior to a bond issuance (proposed date of bond issuance is March 2006). The City would not be responsible for the repayment of the bond. Ms. Rademaker explained that he County required two changes: (1) make each side of the retail facility more visually interesting so there is no "back" wall and; (2) improve sidewalk continuity and pedestrian access to the Giant shopping center.

Prince George's County Human Relation Commission

Ms. Peggy Magee, Executive Director of the Prince Georges' County Human Relation Commission addressed the Mayor and Council, she introduced some of her staff, and mentioned that there are a lot people who live and work in Prince George's County that do not know that the agency exists. Ms. Magee wanted to make the citizens of Hyattsville aware of the agency. Ms. Magee provided an overview of the agency.

Washington Gas Watch Alliance

Mr. Stuart Eisenberg addressed the Mayor and Council on the Washington Gas Watch Alliance and provided a brief overview of the organization and their mission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Corporal Ron Santos addressed the Mayor and Council on the current salaries issues raised by the Hyattsville Police Department. He addressed the concerns with not having a proper salary.

Officer Stephen Bachert addressed the Mayor and Council on the salaries of the Hyattsville Police Department.

Sgt. Gary Blakes addressed the Mayor and Council, on the salaries of the Hyattsville Police Department. He is a 15 year officer, and noted that the agency is in crisis.

Mr. David Marshall, 6000 Block of 37th Avenue, addressed the Mayor and Council, regarding the Hyattsville Police Department salary increases and what is needed.

Officer Mike Anis is a fifteen month officer for Hyattsville and takes great pride in working in Hyattsville, but the salary of the police department needs to be addressed.

Ms. Linn Taylor 5709 39th Avenue, chair of the personnel committee, she would like to see a commitment from the City, and put some money in the officers hands, she stated we are never going to meet Montgomery and Prince George's County police salaries but we need to find a happy medium.

CITY STAFF REPORTS:

City Administrator Murphy addressed the Mayor and Council, she provided an update on the recent issue regarding the tax statements for University Hills' residents; the issue has been addressed and the County will be re-issuing the tax statements. Ms. Murphy also advised of a recent misunderstanding between the County and the City regarding the collection of trash for the University Hills area residents. The issue has been resolved. A final note by Ms. Murphy was that the City was very close to having Giant Foods signing the consent to be annexed.

Chief Holland addressed the Mayor and Council on ongoing issues being addressed by the Police Department. Chief Holland addressed the recent bombing in London and as a result the threat level for mass transit has been elevated at our Metro Stations from Yellow to Orange. Chief Holland briefed the Mayor and Council on upcoming events being sponsored by the Hyattsville Police Department. Chief Holland discussed at length the issue of salaries for the Hyattsville Department. Chief Holland responded to questions asked by the Mayor and Council.

City Treasurer Oliphant, addressed the Mayor and Council, regarding issues the City's finance office is currently working on. City Treasurer Oliphant noted he had been responding to calls from residents in the University Hills area on their tax bills.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Proclamation of Appreciation for Lester and Sharon Sweeting

Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council approve the following consent agenda as the following: (1) to adopt a proclamation of appreciation for Sharon and Lester Sweeting. The motion passed, unanimously.

Hyattsville Resolution 2005-13 (Create a Special Tax District to Facilitate Development at the Prince George's Plaza Metro Station Property

Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2005-13 (Exhibit A and Map) to pursue the creation of a special tax district, entirely within the WMATA property at Prince George's Plaza Metro Station, excluding the proposed residential buildings, to finance the public infrastructure for this project. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. The motion passed with Council Member Frazier voting against and Council Vice President Perry abstaining.

Police Grant Allocation

Council Vice President Perry moved that the Mayor and Council accept an award for financial assistance from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention in accordance with the Byrne Memorial Grant Program and appropriate and authorize the expenditure of an additional \$294,792.00. The funds will be used to procure and install hardware and software to complete a shared records management system (RMS) with the Bladensburg, Greenbelt, Mount Rainier and Riverdale Park Police Departments, procure a back-up server for the RMS, to procure and install radio frequency translators that will be used to

interconnect the existing radio systems maintained by the five municipal police partner agencies, and to procure a contract to maintain Mitretek Systems as the technical services consultant. The motion passed, unanimously.

Olive Garden – DSP- 99044/04

Council President Wythe moved that the Mayor and Council **Mayor and Council submit to M-NCPPC correspondence supporting and recommending the approval of DSP-99044/04 Prince George’s Plaza Olive Garden with the following improvements: (1) improved pedestrian access and safety with the addition of a crosswalk East-West Highway (MD 410); (2) conformance to the 1998 Prince George’s Plaza Transit District Development Plan (TDDP) regarding the design of crosswalks and sidewalks; (3) removal of the wall in front of the restaurant; (4) visual integration of concrete loading area in the parking lot with the surrounding asphalt.** The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at great length. Ms. Darsey Nicklasson, Community Development Manager provided clarification to the Mayor and Council on the DSP-99044/04 for the Olive Garden at Prince George’s Plaza. **Council President Wythe accepted a friendly amendment to include and add item #5 to state “Further examination of the traffic flow along East-West Highway and in item #1 add “a count-down pedestrian light”** Mayor Gardiner allowed Mr. Marshall to address the Mayor and Council on the issue. Mr. David Marshall, 6000 Block of 37th Avenue addressed the Mayor and Council and stated his concerns on the issue. **Council Member Matulef moved to amend the motion to have item # 3 removed from the motion.** A roll call vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment failed with Council Vice President Perry, and Council Members Frazier, Lizanne, and Matulef voting for and Council President Wythe, and Council Members Currie, Lewis, Elwood, Tartaro, and Atteberry voting against. The Mayor and Council then voted on the motion that included the friendly amendment. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed with Council President Wythe and Council Members Currie, Lewis, Elwood, Tartaro, Matulef, and Atteberry voting for and Council Vice President Perry, and Council Member Frazier voting against. Council Member Lizanne abstaining.

Council Vice President Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Council Member Matulef voting against.

The Council Work Session of July 11, 2005 ended at 10:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Douglass A. Barber, City Clerk

William F. Gardiner, Mayor