

COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

June 1, 2009

Mayor Bill Gardiner called the meeting of the Council to order at 8:06 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Present were Mayor Bill Gardiner, Council President Marc Tartaro, Council Vice President Bill Tierney, Council Members Ruth Ann Frazier, Paula Perry, Matthew McKnight, Nicole Hinds Mofor (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Douglas Dudrow and David Hiles (arrived at 8:17 p.m.), Council Members Anthony Patterson and Carlos Lizanne were absent.

Also present were City Administrator Murphy, Assistant City Administrator Jones, Director of Public Works Henry, Director of Recreation Mulkey, City Attorney Colaresi, and City Clerk Barber.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Council President Tartaro moved that the Mayor and Council approve, as amended, the agenda of June 1, 2009. Mayor Gardiner requested additional time be given for presentations by Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Justin Ross from the 22nd District and adding Motion# 112-06-09 as a discussion item. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Gardiner presented a plaque to Mr. Bill Anonsen for his years of dedicated service to the City of Hyattsville as the City's cable television manager.

General Assembly Report

Senator Paul Pinsky presented to the Mayor and Council an in-depth overview of the legislation proposed and adopted by Maryland's General Assembly this session. Senator Pinsky provided the key highlights from the session and effects to the state and municipalities. He addressed the many issues discussed during the session such as the death penalty, banning people from text messaging while driving, speed cameras, electric regulation and deregulation, progression of the purple line metro rail, school budgets, and zoning and planning.

Delegate Justin Ross discussed the budget, public education, drunk drivers, protective orders for domestic violence, early voting for the State of Maryland and highway user funds.

Senator Pinsky and Delegate Ross both responded to questions of clarification given by the Mayor and Council on relevant issues addressed during this year's General Assembly.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Judith Robinson, a Ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed tax breaks to EYA and Mosaic at Metro developments. Ms. Robinson addressed her concerns with the City's proposal that would give tax breaks to new homeowners and exclude people who have owned older homes in the City. Ms. Robinson closed her comments by stating her support for leaving the City's trash collection to two times a week and stated her opposition to reducing City services and raising taxes.

Mr. Ben Lipovsky, a Ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council; he stated his concerns with the proposed date set for the Ward 3 Special Election by the City's Board of Elections.

Ms. Nina Faye, a Ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the Ward 3 Special Election and the City's trash collection. Ms. Faye stated that the City workers do a great job and she does not want to lose the twice weekly trash collection. Ms. Faye closed her comments by noting that if her services are cut, she wants to see taxes cut as well.

Mr. Timothy Hunt, a Ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council; he noted that residents should decide how many days trash will be collected per week. Mr. Hunt also commented and noted his recommendation that the City should reject EYA's request to give new homeowners a waiver on their taxes.

Mr. David Marshall, a Ward 3 resident, stated how the EYA tax break request is not fair and equitable to all homeowners. Mr. Marshall provided comments on the following items: proposed Special Election dates, the FY10 Budget and the City's process, and the recent presentation given by TATC when recommendations for the City were provided to the Mayor and Council for their consideration.

Mr. Scott Wilson, a Ward 3 resident, addressed the Mayor and Council with his comments of concerns relating to the City's proposal to change the trash collection policy; EYA's request for a proposed tax break; and the proposed date selected for the Special Ward 3 Election.

CONSENT ITEM:

Council President Tartaro moved that the Mayor and Council adopt, as emergency legislation, Hyattsville Ordinance 2009-07, which provides for the registration of voters and the appointment of Election Officers and other election matters for the Special Ward 3 Election of the City of Hyattsville on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 (Motion# 109-06-09). The Mayor and Council discussed the issue at length. City Clerk Barber, at the request of Mayor Gardiner, provided a summary of the Board of Supervisor of Elections recommendation and selection of the date for the Ward 3 Special Election. City Attorney Colaresi provided clarification to the Mayor and Council on the City's elections practices and processes. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion failed with Council President Tartaro, Council Vice President Tierney, and Council Members Hinds, Dudrow,

and Mayor Gardiner voting for and Council Members Frazier, Perry, Hiles and McKnight voting against.

Council President Tartaro moved that the Mayor and Council accept, upon review by the City Attorney, the proposal submitted by West Recreation in the amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for amenities to be purchased for the Melrose Park Soccer Field, and authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract (Motion# 110-06-09). Director of Recreation Mulkey provided a brief overview and summary on the motion to the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Tartaro moved to authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to Prince George's County stating the City of Hyattsville's support of Prince George's Suite "Our Town" shop local campaign project and requesting the County's support for it. The City Attorney will review the letter (Motion# 107-05-09). The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

Director of Recreation Mulkey presented the Mayor and Council with a proposal for the department's reorganization. Director Mulkey's presentation highlighted the need for additional administrative support and proposed ideas for camps, specialized programs, the call-a-bus program and senior programming (monthly outings and fitness offerings).

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Pilot Once-a-week Trash Collection

The Mayor and Council discussed at length the proposed pilot once-a-week trash collection for the City. Council President Tartaro provided written changes to the proposal before the Council for discussion by the Mayor and Council. Director of Public Works Henry responded to comments and concerns on collection and education to the residents regarding the proposed changes in trash collection. Director Henry noted that the month of July has the highest amount of trash. Mayor Gardiner noted that the item will be brought back to the Council with the proposed amendments included at the Special Council Meeting of June 8, 2009, for additional discussion and possible adoption.

FY10 Budget

Assistant City Administrator Jones addressed the Mayor and Council on the current FY10 Budget and the City's process. Mr. Jones advised that included in the FY10 Budget the City intends to include a FTE schedule to be adopted along with the FY10 Budget. City Administrator Murphy responded to comments on the City's FY10 Budget and the request for recommendations to Council prior the adoption of the FY10 Budget.

Purchase of Laptop Computers -

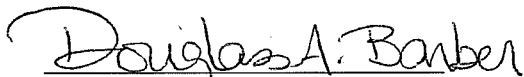
Council Member McKnight moved that the Mayor and Council approve the purchase of twelve laptop computers from GHA Technologies Incorporated using a state of Maryland contract, conforming to specifications of the Dell Latitude “productivity package” with 14.1” screen, 4 gig of ram minimum, 100 gig hard drive minimum, wireless in motherboard, DVD +/- RW drive, USB mouse, and normal City PC platform configuration of software and licenses (\$10,607.00), plus carrying cases for an amount not to exceed \$ 14,000 (Motion# 112-06-09). The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Gardiner noted the City will hold a Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 8, 2009, primarily for the adoption of the FY10 Budget.

Council President Tartaro moved that the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of June 1, 2009, to discuss legal and personnel issues (Motion# 111-06-09). A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council Meeting of June 1, 2009, ended at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas A. Barber, City Clerk