

**CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2009**

QUORUM:

A meeting of The Mayor and Common Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1838 Emerald Hill Lane, Westminster, Maryland on the evening of October 26, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Halstad; Council Members Pecoraro, Albert, Wack, and Chiavacci; City Administrator and Acting City Clerk Wolf; Director of Public Works Glass, Chief of Police Spaulding, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development Review Beyard; and City Attorney Walsh were present. Acting City Treasurer Ehlers and Director of Recreation and Parks Schroers were excused from attending.

Mayor Utz read the Mayoral Recognition of Barbara Rodbell for her service on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. He also announced his new appointment of Kevin Wagman and reappointment of Kristen McMasters to the Westminster Historic District Commission. The Common Council unanimously confirmed.

Nancy Hernandez of the Community Media Center introduced herself to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Hernandez has been assigned to Westminster to assist in the production of Internet and television programs that will be more beneficial and accessible to residents in the city.

MINUTES:

Upon Motion of Mr. Chiavacci, seconded by Mrs. Albert and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2009 were approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Pecoraro moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which consisted of the appointment of Acting City Clerk, the continuation of General Code services to update City Code, and the September 2009 Departmental Operating Reports. Dr. Wack seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Utz reported on the Main Street Roundtable meetings that have been held. The meetings have been extremely well-attended and they are getting great feedback. At the end of the initial round of meetings, an action plan will be drafted. Also, he reported on Mr. Chiavacci's success in his meetings with the Technology Center and businesses along Route 140.

Finally, Mayor Utz reported on the MML Fall Conference he attended in Rocky Gap, MD. The MML is very concerned as to what is going on with the financial crisis of the

State. The weekend conference was devoted to what towns/cities could do to support themselves. It was announced that the State is not finished, there will be budget cuts coming up before the session begins and possible additional larger cuts at the completion of the session.

BIDS:

Mr. Glass announced the City was the recipient of \$821,000 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City original applied for \$400,000 in May to fund replacing residents' water meters, but due to complicated requirements and stringent deadlines, some applications were cut, which increased the available funding to the City. The increase is sufficient to install "wireless" read capable meters for the remainder of the City's meter inventory and to cover the costs associated with the project.

Three bids were received and read aloud on September 8th ranging from \$817,139.19 to \$1,043,752.00. The project will be awarded to Benjamin Franklin/PHS Burgemeister Bell Inc., who submitted the lowest bid. The city received project approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment on October 13th.

Mr. Glass recommended that the Mayor and Council accept the bid of Benjamin Franklin/PHS Burgemeister Bell, Inc. in the amount of \$817,139.19 to complete the Water Meter Replacement Project and authorize the Mayor to execute the Notice of Award and Contractual Documents. Upon Motion of Dr. Wack, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, Mr. Glass' recommendations were approved.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Dr. Wack summarized Resolution No. R09-9, which would authorize the State mandated changes to the Debt Management Policies. The new policy will be a more detailed disclosure of specifics of how the City manages its debt. Mr. Chiavacci moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Pecoraro seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Mr. Chiavacci reported that he has gotten very positive feedback with businesses he has met with out at the Airpark and feels it has been well worth the time. The businesses are pleased with the City's services.

Mr. Halstad took the opportunity to recognize Laurell Taylor's passing and he asked that her family be kept in everyone's prayers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None as of October 23, 2009

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pecoraro summarized the six-month status report of the Tri-Street Area Advisory Committee, which convened to address neighborhood issues and concerns in the area of Pennsylvania Avenue, Union Street, and West Main Street. The report provides a status under each of the recommendations and highlights the specific actions that have been completed. Full copies of the report are available at 56 West Main Street at the Department of Planning, Zoning, and Development.

Mayor Utz announced the creation and new appointments of the Arts and Culture Task Force. New appointments included Councilwoman Albert, Sandy Oxx, Beth Gerl, Sue Bloom, Jackie Finch, Lyndi McNulty, Ed Maiello, Lou Chang, Lloyd Helt, Pamela Zappardino, Sarah DeLuca, and Bob Coffey. Pamela Zappardino will serve as the Chairman of the Task Force

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Spaulding reported that with the upcoming Halloween celebrations, the Police department will have additional patrols, enhanced DUI enforcement, and will work with McDaniel College Department of Campus Safety on party patrols at the college. He announced that there will be a Community Meeting on October 30th in St. Paul's Community Room at 7:00 pm to discuss the crime issues in the area of West Green, Westmoreland, and Chase Streets. Chief Spaulding also mentioned that the Carroll County Health Department will be holding nine H1N1 flu shot clinics for high-priority individuals, subject to vaccine availability.

Ms. Wolf reported that the Flu Shot Clinic held on October 1st was very successful and encouraged those who have not received their flu shot to schedule their vaccination. Also, Ms. Wolf stated that on November 5th, the City will be holding its annual Employee Expo where employees can, at no cost, get their blood pressure and cholesterol checked. Finally, Ms. Wolf announced that the auditors have begun working on the City's audit and the staff is looking at options for the upcoming budget reductions. The Finance Committee is planning to meeting and discuss some of these options and develop contingency plans.

Mr. Walsh also took the opportunity to express his condolences and memories of Laurell.

Fire Company President and C.E.O. Bill Brehm reported on calls during the preceding month. He stated that the Fire Department participated in the drunk driving awareness program that was held at Winters Mill High School. Mr. Brehm also reported that the department recently held a luncheon for Bill Lippard. Mr. Lippard was awarded the Defense of Freedom medal as a result of his injuries received during an insurgent attack while as a contractor in Iraq. Mayor Utz attended the event and proclaimed October 22, 2009 as "Bill Lippard Day." Finally, Mr. Brehm stated that the black flags are flying at the Department due to the loss of member Charlie McGee.

Ms. Wolf gave the fire and police departments recognition for the outstanding and efficient job they did handle the accident at John Street and Winters Alley that involved

a city employee.

Mr. Chiavacci stated that he felt the drunk driving program at Winter's Mill was very successful.

Mayor Utz presented his recommendation that Halloween Trick or Treating take place on Saturday, October 31 between dusk and 8:00 P.M. and that it be restricted to children 12 and under. The Common Council unanimously confirmed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Angela Mikey, of 595 Rich Mar Street, inquired about a place on the website to get ideas and make suggestions on the budget cuts. Dr. Wack replied that the budget document is not on the website yet, but should be up there soon.

Sandy Oxx, Executive Director of the Carroll County Arts Council, announced that Mayor Utz will be a guest celebrity in the Maryland Ensemble Theatre's "Fun Company" presentation of Romeo & Harriet at the Carroll Art Center. Sergeant Keith Benfer, Harry Sirinakis, Tom Hill are also scheduled for guest appearances.

Josie Velasquez-Jeznach, of 450 East Green Street, commended the police department and fire department on their excellent job at the Winter's Mill drunk driving awareness program.

Lori Graham, of 118 Pennsylvania Avenue, updated the Council on the status of the Electric Parade. There are currently 49 floats that are lit and approximately 72 total entries. Ms. Graham also reported that the Fallfest Board met to discuss the 2010 charities, which included the Westminster Lions Club, Access Carroll (new), the Taneytown Lions Club (new), and the Carroll County Youth Services Bureau. The Board decided not to host the Fallfest Gala for 2010 due to the expense of the tickets. Instead, there will be two or three smaller events.

Beatrice Wolfe expressed her thoughts and memories on Laurell Taylor.

ADJOURN

Council President Halstad adjourned the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Fahey