

**CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND  
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 23, 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 November 23, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Halstad; Council Members Pecoraro, Albert, and Wack; City Administrator and Acting City Clerk Wolf; Director of Public Works Glass, Chief of Police Spaulding, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development Review Beyard, Director of Recreation and Parks Schroers; and City Attorney Walsh were present. Council member Chiavacci and Acting City Treasure Ehlers were excused from attending.

**MINUTES:**

Upon Motion of Dr. Wack, seconded by Mr. Pecoraro and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of November 9, 2009 were approved.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Mrs. Albert moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which consisted of the approval for Departmental Operating Reports. Mr. Pecoraro seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Utz summarized the discussions and recommendations from the Main Street Roundtable meetings held over the past two months. He also informed the Council that he met with the media and co-chairs of the Electric Holiday Parade regarding the importance of the parade to the City. Also, Mayor Utz stated that he met with the Arts and Culture Task Force during their initial meeting to encourage them and show support. Finally, Mayor Utz reported that he started the Government Awareness classes with the fourth grade class at Carroll Lutheran School.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Mrs. Albert discussed the initial meeting of Arts and Culture Task Force as well as their charges which include (1) to develop an arts, culture, and small business overlay zone; (2) recommend for actions to provide focus to the Carroll Arts Center as an important anchor in the community; and (3) recommends for action to promote and to-be-formed "arts and culture neighborhood" to enhance tourism opportunities and economic development in Westminster.

Dr. Wack informed the Council that he viewed a draft of the quarterly financial reporting document. He stated that it looks great and that it shows the improvement of the information flow and accountability from the new financial system.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None as of November 20, 2009

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Beyard summarized that several roadways in the Village of Meadow Creek have been completed and inspected by the City. He recommended that the Mayor and Council accept the deed that would establish the one-year maintenance period from November 23, 2009 to November 23, 2010. Upon Motion of Dr. Wack, seconded by Mr. Pecoraro and unanimously approved, the deed was accepted.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Ms. Wolf expanded on the Mayor's report of the Government Awareness classes. She reported that last year the MML received over 2,600 "If I were Mayor I would..." essays. She also reported on behalf of Mr. Ehlers that there would be a final audit meeting coming up. Finally, Ms. Wolf explained the Main Street Maryland brochure that was handed out.

Chief Spaulding reported that Lt. Doug Johnston has been selected to attend the February session of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. He also stated that Lt. Chris Ilyes will be attending an upcoming session of the FBI National Academy. Chief Spaulding also reported that construction is underway for the red-light camera sites along Routes 140 and 97, with the intersection of Nursery Road and Route 97 to be completed first. Finally, he stated that the promotional interviews will be going on for the next couple of days for one Sergeant and three Corporal vacancies.

Mr. Beyard stated the Council has each received a copy of the final 2009 Comprehensive Plan that was submitted to the State. A copy of the plan will be available on the City's website and on CD to limit the amount of printed copies. He also reported that the first draft of revisions to the Property Maintenance Code have started to bring it to the current 2009 version.

Mr. Schroers reported on the Department of Recreation and Parks sponsored event, Santa's Treat. This free event is in partnership with the Lion's Club. He also stated that the winner of the Mayor's Cup has been selected, but will not be announced until the end of the parade. Finally, he announced to the Mayor and Council that the City's (Employee) Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Westminster Fire Hall at noon.

President Halstad acknowledged City Attorney Walsh will be retiring after thirty years of

service with the City. He then recommended the cancellation of the December 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Dr. Wack moved to cancel the December 28, 2009 meeting. Mr. Pecoraro seconded and the motion passed unanimously. It was then announced that the December 14, 2009 Council meeting will be televised and held at the John Street Quarters.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Lori Graham, of 118 Pennsylvania Avenue, expressed her concerns to the Mayor and Council regarding how she should handle a recent incident she witnessed on Winters Alley of public disposal of excessive bulk trash. Ms. Graham then updated the Council on the status of the Electric Parade as well as staging time and location.

**ADJOURN:**

Council President Halstad adjourned the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Fahey