

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
Mayor and Common Council Meeting of August 10, 2009

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 August 10, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Halstad; Council Members Albert, Pecoraro, and Chiavacci; City Administrator Wolf; Director of Public Works Glass, Chief of Police Spaulding, Director of Planning, Development, and Review Beyard, and Director of Administrative Services and Acting City Treasurer Ehlers; City Attorney Walsh; and City Clerk Taylor were present. Council Member Wack and Director of Recreation and Parks Schroers were excused from attending.

MINUTES:

Upon Motion of Mrs. Albert, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2009 were approved.

BIDS:

Mr. Beyard summarized the bid to evaluate the energy efficiency of City facilities received from Patuxent Environmental Group, Inc., in the amount of \$19,200. He recommended that the Mayor and Common Council accept the bid. Upon Motion of Pecoraro, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, the bid was accepted.

Mr. Beyard next summarized bids received to complete the Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Project. The Project was initially intended to be funded by two Community Legacy grants totaling \$275,000 and a total of \$45,200 from local General Fund and Special Capital Benefit Assessment funds. He recommended

that the Mayor and Common Council accept the base bid and certain alternates from Justice Excavating, as follows: base bid - \$236,575.10; Alternate 3 - \$25,515.00; Alternate 4 - \$2,300.00; and Alternate 5 - \$5,934.00. Additionally, Mr. Beyard recommended that the Mayor and Council approve an additional appropriation of \$31,514.00 from the Special Capital Benefit Assessment Fund and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract for the work. Upon Motion of Mr. Chiavacci, seconded by Mrs. Albert and unanimously passed, Mr. Beyard's recommendations were approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Pecoraro moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which consisted of a grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Administration FY '09 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Administration Grant Program in the amount of \$13,882.00. Mr. Chiavacci seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Utz reported that the Ravens Training Camp has generated much positive publicity for the City. He further reported on his recent attendance at an ice cream social sponsored by Edy's Ice Cream at the Westminster Fire Company in honor of Megan Webb and her family. He noted that he, Mr. Chiavacci, and Ms. Wolf recently attended a lengthy and productive meeting with representatives of the County's Economic Development Department. Mr. Utz reported that an international group of chaplains visited him on the preceding Friday. They are training to respond to emergency situations. Finally, Mr. Utz observed that water and sewer bills soon will be able to be paid online.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Mr. Pecoraro reported on a recent article about former Tree Commission Member Steve Allgeier.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Beyard summarized Ordinance No. 807, which would deed certain portions of Krider's Church road to Bolton Development LLC, in exchange for portions of Meadow Creek Road, in order for the City to realign Krider's Church Road and eliminate its access to Maryland Route No. 97. Upon Motion of Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, the Ordinance was adopted.

Mr. Beyard next summarized Resolution No. R09-6, which would authorize the City to apply for Community Legacy Funding for Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Pecoraro moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Albert seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Glass summarized proposed Resolution R09-7, which would implement Ordinance No. 806 by approving regulations of the Department of Public Works for the rebate program for replacement of older toilets that use excessive water. Mr. Glass remarked that the savings in water usage will be considerable. Mrs. Albert moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Chiavacci seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Ms. Wolf gave updates on several important County projects: the Health Department plan of action for the possible outbreak of swine flu; the new waste incinerator in which Carroll County is a 40 percent partner; and the County's use of stimulus funds to purchase 35-gallon recycling containers. Mr. Chiavacci and Mr. Pecoraro suggested that the City explore piggybacking on the County's purchase agreement for the containers.

Chief Spaulding reported that the Police Department is working closely with the Health Department to prepare for a possible major flu outbreak. The

Chief also reported that the Police Department has received a grant to assess the level of potential danger to victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Ehlers reported that the benefit assessment module will be converted to the Eden System software in September. He also noted that the Finance Department is preparing for the upcoming annual audit.

Mr. Beyard reported a recent increase in building permits and special benefit assessment revenues.

Mr. Glass reported that the Department has received all necessary approvals to use \$400,000.00 in stimulus funds for water meters. He further reported that the start-up date for the Roop's Mill Well is August 17, 2009.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

City resident Jim Lorditch requested that the City issue residents of Riley Court parking permits in order to alleviate parking problems caused by users of the Jaycee Park. Mr. Chiavacci stated that he would communicate with the Westminster Recreation Council about the issue while City staff considers the feasibility of restricting parking on the Court.

City resident and Chair of the Holiday Parade Lyndi McNulty gave an update on preparations for the event. She advised that 31 floats have signed up so far.

Council President Halstad adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Laurell E. Taylor
City Clerk