

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

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 24, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Pro Tempore Albert; Council Members Pecoraro, Wack, and Chiavacci; City Administrator 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 President Halstad, Acting City Treasurer Ehlers, and City Clerk Taylor were excused from attending.

Chief Spaulding introduced Ms. Megan Webb and her family. Ms. Webb wrote an award-winning essay concerning life in the community and has also participated in the Shop-with-a-Cop program. Ms. Webb presented framed pictures to the Mayor and Common Council and to the Police Department in recognition for help the family received from the program and from the community over the past year.

MINUTES:

Upon Motion of Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Mr. Chiavacci and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of August 10, 2009 were approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Ms. Wolf noted that the first item on the Consent Calendar, Monthly Departmental Operating Reports, would be electronically distributed on a monthly

basis for approval by the Mayor and Common Council and that they would be subsequently placed on the City website.

Chief Spaulding summarized the second item, which would authorize the City to dispose of property obtained by a credit card theft/fraud scheme and to distribute the proceeds as restitution to victims of the scheme.

Dr. Wack moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Mr. Chiavacci seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Utz announced that, with the assistance of the City Administrator, he was initiating a series of roundtable discussions with downtown business owners to discuss their ideas, suggestions, and concerns. The first meeting would take place in the near future. The Mayor reported on a recent meeting with residents of South Colonial Avenue to discuss findings of a traffic study in the neighborhood. The Mayor also reported on recent meetings with the Director of the Carroll County Health Department and the City's representative from the Constellation Energy Group.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Dr. Wack thanked Mr. Glass for a brochure regarding rodents. Dr. Wack reported that cable franchise negotiations would soon begin. Finally, Dr. Wack noted that State budget cuts, which the State Board of Public Works is expected to approve Wednesday, will require the City to cut its budget as well. He observed that the Finance Committee welcomes all input, public and private.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pecoraro moved to hold a closed session immediately following the regular session in order to discuss the acquisition of real property and to consult with counsel pursuant to subsections 10-508 (a)(3) and (a)(7) of the State

Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Mr. Chiavacci seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Ms. Wolf reported that the Police Department has a detailed plan in place for dealing with a possible pandemic during the upcoming flu season and that the other City Departments are developing plans. The City Newsletter will contain updates.

Ms. Wolf further reported that the State Board of Public Works is expected to cut some 25 percent of funds for local governments at its August 26, 2009 meeting. The largest cuts are expected from funding for Police Aid and Highway User Revenues.

Chief Spaulding reported that the Police Department has joined CrimeReports.com. The system is very current and thorough. It will replace the Police Department's daily media updates and will enable citizens to access crime statistics in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Beyard gave an update on the Episcopal Housing project, which the Historic District Commission has reviewed.

Mr. Glass reported that the toilet replacement project has been quite successful. The initial 50 toilet rebates were allotted within a few hours of the commencement of the program. Mr. Glass further advised that the Roop's Mill Well is anticipated to start producing water in September and that the annual Roadway Paving Contract does not yet have a firm starting date.

Mr. Schroers reported on the conclusion of various summer programs. He further noted upcoming events in the Department of Recreation and Parks.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

City resident and business owner Lori Graham reported on the progress of

plans for the Westminster Fallfest and the Holiday Parade and related activities.

Dr. Wack introduced Dr. Lisa Berger of Cologne, Germany who is working temporarily at Access Carroll.

Mr. Chiavacci moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pecoraro seconded and Council President Pro Tem Albert adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Laurell E. Taylor
City Clerk