

**PROCEEDINGS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2007  
CITY OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on April 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Fred Cullum presiding and the following members present: Councilmen Wayne Dougherty, Gary Wasielewski, Stephen Gamatoria, Garrett Lyttle and Jim Miller. Mayor John P. Corrieri, Jr. was absent due to illness.

Council President Cullum led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Lonna Smith of Webster United Church of Christ

Council President Cullum announced the **Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 884 Concerning the General Fee Schedule**. No questions or comments were presented.

Council President Cullum announced the **Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 887 Concerning Water & Sewer Rates**. No questions or comments were presented.

The Public Hearing closed and the Council Meeting resumed according to the Agenda.

On motion by Councilmen Wasielewski and Gamatoria and, on four affirmative votes, the Minutes of March 19, 2007 were approved. Councilman Miller abstained due to his absence at the last meeting.

On motion by Councilmen Dougherty and Lyttle and, on five affirmative votes, the Minutes of the Closed Session of March 5, 2007 were approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

Barney and Karen Mills announced that hand rails need to be installed at St. John's Towers to assist the elderly walking through the corridors. He has a commitment from 84 Lumber to donate some supplies and needs assistance with installation. Mr. Mills hoped that AmeriCorp and other organizations would be available to participate. Mr. and Mrs. Mills presented their personal check for \$594.44 to Mr. Mitchell, President of the Board of Directors for St. John's Towers, to cover the cost for one floor and

challenged citizens, organizations, and businesses to make the same contribution to assist with remaining corridors needing the hand rails.

Council President Cullum presented a Proclamation to Councilman Wasielewski on behalf of the Mayor and City Council declaring April to be Municipal Government Works Month. Councilman Wasielewski announced that there are many programs to recognize Municipal Government Works Month including the “If I Were Mayor” contest for fourth grade students. Also, there is an “Out and About” contest for the month of April. Forms are available at the Tourism Office and the front desk at City Hall.

Albert Henry, Director of Economic Development and Planning, presented a PowerPoint Presentation regarding rental properties in Havre de Grace. The Code Enforcement team always takes pictures when responding to a complaint. He displayed many instances of code infractions and explained the process for compliance. He discussed the responsibilities of his department and progress being made to remedy health hazards, safety issues, and non-compliant landlords and sometimes occupants. He distributed a helpful outline for home improvements and upkeep.

## **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Joe Kochenderfer of Tydings Road expressed concern that the River Walk Project has a lease for City right-of-way that is causing him concern and further attention should be given to this issue.

Allen Fair of Concord Cove expressed concern regarding any Rental Property Ordinance. Landlords incur many expenses and cannot be passed onto the tenant. He appreciated the presentation on rental properties but does not believe additional costs and annual mandatory inspections should be incurred by the landlords.

Chad Tate of Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce spoke about the need for dialogue on the proposed Rental Property Ordinance and thinks this issue is going in the right directions if all parties are allowed open discussion. He expressed appreciation for the meetings scheduled to review landlord and tenant concerns.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

On motion by Councilmen Wasielewski and Lyttle and, on a roll call of five affirmative votes, **introduction of Charter Resolution No. 261 Concerning Charter Amendment for the First 2007 Annexation Regarding the Green Property** was approved. Councilman Wasielewski stated that no enclave is allowed by State law and this resolution would remedy this situation at the Green Property off Bulle Rock Parkway. One correction to the resolution was noted regarding a name change and notice will be published in the Record Newspaper on April 13 and 20, 2007.

**Resolution No. 2007-11 Concerning Lease Of City Property To The Conits Group, Inc. for the River Walk Project** will be presented at a later date.

## ORDINANCES

**Ordinance No. 886 Concerning Residential Rental Property** will be presented at a later date. Councilman Miller announced two meetings are scheduled for public attendance to discuss landlord and tenant issues. The meetings will be in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on April 4 and 18, 2007.

On motion by Councilman Wasielewski and Gamatoria and, on five affirmative votes, **introduction for first reading of Ordinance No. 888 Concerning the Historic Preservation Commission** was approved. On motion by Councilmen Lyttle and Wasielewski and, on a roll call of five affirmative votes, **the first reading of Ordinance No. 888** was approved. Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Lyttle discussed issues regarding the Independence Day Celebration. He read the recent News Release announcing the preparation by the Police Department. Additional officers have been secured for the event. He thanked Chief Walter, Major Van Gilder, Councilman Dougherty, and Harford County Sheriff Jesse Bane for the coordination and assistance to provide the protection needed for a safe and enjoyable Independence Day Celebration. The K-9 Unit, Community Action, and Gang Suppression Unit will all be available and no additional charges will be incurred.

## NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Councilmen Gamatoria and Miller and, on five affirmative votes, **Friday Concerts in the Park sponsored by Havre de Grace Arts Commission at Tydings Park from 7:30 to approximately 9:00 p.m. on June 1, 8, 15, 22 and July 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2007** was approved.

On motion by Councilmen Miller and Dougherty and, on five affirmative votes, **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Harford Hospice Regatta sponsored by Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation at the lot adjacent to Concord Point Lighthouse behind the Maritime Museum on Friday, June 1, 2007 from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m.** was approved.

Councilman Miller noted that trees had been planted in the way of the tent needed for this and other events at this site. He announced that the trees were freshly planted and would be removed immediately to save the trees and replant elsewhere.

On motion by Councilmen Miller and Wasielewski and, on a roll call of five affirmative votes, **the closure of Commerce Street at Tydings Park approximately five minutes before the Memorial Day Ceremony begins at the Pavilion to quiet the area for the speakers and presenters at the Ceremony** was approved.

## **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

None presented.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR**

None presented.

## **BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL**

Council President Cullum attended many committee meetings, the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Community Activity Center, and the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Stack & Store on Route 40. He complimented Mr. and Mrs. Friedman on the very nice Stack & Store building and appreciated their support and generosity to the community. He stated that the Community Activity Center has been a long time coming but is a very nice complex and better than he expected. He believes that the \$6,000,000 facility will be well used by the community and is a great addition to The City of Havre de Grace.

Councilman Miller attended many meetings and announced that the Parks & Marina Committee is working on improvements to David Craig Park and North Park. He reminded candidates that election signs are limited to two feet by three feet (six square feet total) and some are too close to the curb. He reminded citizens that additional parking is available at David Craig Park and the American Legion parking lot.

Councilman Lytle invited citizens to attend the Friday Concerts in the Park at Tydings Park. He attended many meetings, the dedication of the new fire equipment at House #3, and the ribbon cutting at the new Community Activity Center. He was pleased to hear from H.C. Executive David Craig that there is still a plan to build a community swimming pool at this site.

Councilman Gamatoria reminded citizens about the flushing of hydrants and to be sure to run the faucet until water runs clear. The Havre de Grace Homeowners Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. He congratulated Al Henry for being selected as the 2007 District Director's Unsung Hero of the Year. Bricks are available for purchase for the Buy A Brick program to support the Harris Field project. He congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Friedman for the new Stack & Store on Route 40 and thanked them for being very involved and very generous to the community. He stated that the May 8, 2007 election includes four candidates for mayor and nine candidates for City Council. Mayor Correrri, Council President Cullum, Councilmen Dougherty and Wasielewski all vie for the Mayoral seat. He thanked many for assistance with the Heli Port installation and is planning a dedication meeting. He announced that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will have a Preparedness Fair regarding emergency preparation on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at 3636 Level Road.

Councilman Dougherty attended many meetings, the dedication of the new fire equipment at House #3, the ribbon cutting at the new Community Activity Center, Citizen Care Gala, the Lion's Club Bull & Oyster Roast and the Martha Lewis Bull Roast. He mentioned that Roy Mentzer and Don Mathis each had a lounge named after them at the Community Activity Center. New fire equipment will be dedicated at House #1 on April 21, 2007, the Boys & Girls Club dinner will be May 3, 2007, and the Havre de Grace Chamber luncheon will be April 12, 2007. Main Street elected new board members. Mr. and Mrs. Friedman from Stack & Store generously donated to the new Ben Carson Reading Room and are very involved in the community. The Young at Heart organization will move the Wednesday weekly meeting to the new Community Activity Center.

Councilman Wasielewski expressed his gratification that senior and youth citizens will have the opportunity to interact at the new Community Activity Center. He and Chief Walter have scheduled a Citizen Meeting for April 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss crime prevention and safety. He stated that the Planning Committee has been very busy working on several issues including the Green property annexation and the rental property ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.