



PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 7 2016

7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order on March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Martin presiding and the following Councilmembers present: Councilmember's, Gamatoria, Worrell, Glenn, Hitchings, Martin and Craig were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor William Martin and the opening prayer was given by Pastor Rick Haynes.

A motion was made by Council Member Glenn and seconded by Council President Gamatoria to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2016; motion carries 6-0

RECOGNITIONS: (Presented by Mayor Martin)

Student of the Month recognitions were presented to:

Havre de Grace Elementary School: Larry Clayton

Meadowvale Elementary School: Wuntimah Zakari

Havre de Grace Middle School: Autumn Twombly

Havre de Grace High School: Alyssa Forero

PRESENTATIONS:

Black Rocket Stars: Havre de Grace Lego League

PROCALMATIONS: None

APPOINTMENTS:

A motion was made by Council Member Martin and seconded by Council Member Craig to approve the re-appointment of Bharat Patel to the Tourism Advisory Board; motion carries 6-0

A motion was made by Council Member Glenn and seconded by Council Member Craig to approve the re-appointments for Bruce Lyon and John Narvell to the Marina Commission; motion carries 6-0

A motion was made by Council Member Worrell and seconded by Council Member Martin to approve the appointment of Kathleen Lee to the Historic Preservation Commission; motion carries 6-0

OATH OF OFFICE:

Mayor Martin administered the Oath of Office to Kathleen Lee.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Wayne Dougherty: Mr. Dougherty does not agree with the proposed legislation to have council meetings outside of City Hall.

RESOLUTIONS:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 34 AND 28 OF THE CITY CHARTER TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ALLOW FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF CITY HALL FOR THREE MEETINGS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2016.

A motion was made by Council President Gamatoria and seconded by Council Member Hitchings to introduce Resolution 2016-03; motion carries 6-0

After the header was read and assigned a number, a motion was made by Council President Gamatoria and seconded by Council Member Hitchings to adopt 2016-03;

Under the question;

Comments:

Council President Gamatoria likes the concept of taking the Council Meetings to the people.

Council Member Worrell supports the Resolution but questioned the cost associated with the offsite meetings.

Council Member Craig stated he will be voting against the Resolution. The City Charter states when meetings take place. Suggested to keep regular meetings and add additional meetings to be held offsite.

Council Member Glenn likes the concept of taking meetings to the people.

Council Member Martin stated he would like more community involvement and would like to take Council meetings to the public.

Council Member Hitchings: Feels that having Council meetings offsite would be best served for extenuating circumstances.

Mayor Martin added this is a way to showcase the City with having different locations of the Council Meeting.

Motion passes 4-2 with Council Members Craig and Hitchings opposing the vote.

ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Events (Presented by Ms. Scott)

A motion was made by Council Member Hitchings and seconded by Council Member Worrell to approve First Fridays, May-Oct 2016; motion carries 6-0

A motion was made by Council Member Hitchings and seconded by Council Member Worrell to approve the Bunny Run 5K; March 26, 2016; motion carries 6-0

A motion was made by Council Member Worrell and seconded by Council Member Hitchings to approve Bike to Work Day; May 17, 2016; motion carries 6-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Patrick Sypolt- Director of Administration:

On Sunday, February 28th marked the end of the season for our inaugural ice rink season. I am very pleased to announce that despite some inhospitable weather, including the "Snowmageddon Storm" that our rink saw over 1,700 skaters. It supported 8 different agencies within our City. Total revenues exceeded \$21,000.00.

Maryland Safe Boating Classes are being offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Maritime Museum on March 12th and 13th. Contact the museum for further details.

On Saturday March 19th, the Lion's Club will be hosting their annual Bull, Shrimp and Oyster Roast at the Community Center. Doors open at 5:30, food served until 8:00. DJ music from 8:00 until 10:00. Don't forget to move your clocks forward on Sunday, March 13th as Daylight Savings Time begins.

Mrs. Adrean Troy; Director of Economic Development;

Absent: Maternity Leave

Mr. Neal Mills: Director of Planning:

Mr. Mills stated the Family Dollar on Revolution St now has their Use and Occupancy.

Mr. George DeHority; Director of Finance:

No Report

Mr. Tim Whittie; Director of Public Works:

Mr. Whittie announced the "Spring Clean Up" Days.

Chief Walter; Police Department

Chief Walter thanked everyone for their support.

Chief Walter reminded everyone to be mindful of pedestrian traffic.

Business from Mayor Martin:

Mayor Martin announced that Adrean Troy and her newest addition are both doing well.

Mayor Martin states the 23rd Annual Banquet for the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment will be held on March 11, 2016 at the Bayou.

The Concord Point Lighthouse will be sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day cocktail party at the Vandiver Inn on March 15, 2016.

Mayor Martin announced that the Promenade Grille will open March 19, 2016. Also stated that the upgrades to the seating area is completely paid for by Mr. Caro.

Mayor Martin spoke about Erie Street and referenced the number of accidents along the Route 40 Corridor since the closing entrance to Route 40 off of Erie St. Five years later and increased accidents, the City is working with the State to find long term solutions.

Commented that many streets in HDG have 30 foot roads and the mistake was made five years ago when Erie Street was closed to right hand turns onto Route 40. We need to alleviate congestion at other Route 40 intersections and hope this is a short term plan. Effective tomorrow Erie Street will be open to two way traffic.

Business from Council:

Council Member Hitchings:

Council Member Hitchings congratulated the Student of the Month recipients and congratulated all the volunteers who were re-appointed and appointed.

Council Member Hitchings announced that Troop 965 will be having their annual spaghetti dinner.

Council Member Hitchings reflected on the life and character of First Lady Nancy Reagan

Attended the Boy Scout Blue and Gold Banquet at the American Legion.

Council Member Hitchings attended the Upper Chesapeake Meetings.

The Tydings Park Commission will be giving their report on March 21, 2016.

Council Member Glenn:

Council Member Glenn congratulated the Student of the Month recipients and the Black Rocket Stars Lego League.

Council Member Glenn also thanked Joseph's Department Store for their generous donation to each Student of the Month.

Council Member Glenn also thanked the volunteers who were re-appointed and appointed tonight.

Council Member Glenn congratulated Alex Lloyd and Jacob Sweigart for placing in the State Wrestling.

Council Member Glenn attended the Upper Chesapeake meetings and expressed his concerns.

Council Member Glenn did speak to the residents on Erie St and listened to their concern. The City is trying to alleviate traffic congestion and traffic concerns throughout the entire City.

Council Member D. Martin:

Council Member Martin will be attending the Lighthouse Fundraiser on March 15 and the Chamber Lunch March 17.

Council Member Martin praised the Havre de Grace Police Department.

Council Member Worrell:

Council Member Worrell attended the EDAB meeting, Upper Chesapeake Meeting, the Blue and Gold Dinner and the Pancake Breakfast. Visited the Boys and Girls Club for Dr. Seuss Month

Council Member recognized Carolyn Evans for the Athena Award

Council Member Worrell stated the Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held tomorrow at 7pm as well as the Green Team at 7pm at the Police Department.

The Greater Excellence in Education Gala will be held on April 2, 2016.

The GAME (Generic Assistance Information Network) will be held at Fallston Community Center on April 9.

Council Member Craig:

Council Member Craig thanked the Havre de Grace High School for the Zombie Prom Musical.

Council President Gamatoria:

A Development request by Stanley Lewis concerning Chesapeake Villages was discussed and based on conversations there are two options that have to do with land swap or land trades.

Council President Gamatoria proffered a motion to authorize an Ordinance to allow Option 1 or 2

Council Member Hitchings recused himself from any vote or discussion and stepped off the Dias since he is on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Martin asked for a motion- a motion was not brought to the table.

Council President Gamatoria stated the budget will be presented at the next council meeting.

Council President Gamatoria stated that Erie Street is an issue however the current decision may or may not be short term but the City had to do something to help alleviate the traffic congestion. The City will be sending a letter to SHA formally stating the City's position on this.

Council President Gamatoria thanked and congratulated the Student of the Month and the thanked the Black Rocket Stars for attending the Council meeting.

Council President Gamatoria thanked Dana Caro for being a good steward and tenant- Promenade Grille. This is will be a great addition for him, the citizens and the City.

The Wage and Benefit Commission will meet tomorrow and the Water and Sewer Commission will meet on Friday at 3pm.

Council President Gamatoria sends condolences to the family of Russell Barnes who passed away.

Council President Gamatoria wished a Happy 88th Birthday to his Father.

Comments from Citizens:

Camay Murphy 564 Green St:

Would like the City to consider a rent free space for a Black History Month exhibit for February 2017

Stanley Lewis: Would like to know how to move forward?

Council President Gamatoria said the land swap ideas were not receptive by City Council.

Council is not interested in the land swaps.

William Allen; 814 Market St.: Mr. Allen is on the Board for Upper Chesapeake Hospital; stated Harford Memorial Hospital has been downsizing for some time. The mission of HMM is no longer suitable to modern health care. The question remains what is suitable for this area?

Marion Hamilton: 850 Erie St; recommended to open Legion Drive to help with the congestion on Erie Street.

Barry Kline 813 S. Adams St: Would like to propose a ramp fee structure. Feels the current manual system is out of date and inefficient.

Agnes Minor; 835 Erie St. Thanked CP Gamatoria and CP Glenn for their comments and would like Council to have alternated methods on Erie St.

Bryan Myers; 815 Erie St. Is not happy with Erie St. being opened and feels the Mayor and Council can do something about this. Is concerned with the safety of the residents and children on Erie St.

Molly Maslin 817 Erie St. Ms. Maslin does not agree with the opening of Erie St.

Zach Coyle 818 Erie St; Mr. Coyle feels that opening Erie St. is a public safety issue.

Kurt Smith; 120 S. Union Ave; Feels that Erie St is an issue however will become a bigger issue when cyclist are allowed to travel on the bridge as of July 1.

A motion was made by Council Member Craig and seconded by Council President Gamatoria to adjourn at 9:47 pm. Motion carries 6-0.