



City of Glenarden
Regular Meeting
June 8, 2015 - 7:30PM
Minutes

Attendees:

President – Carolyn Smallwood
Vice President – Deborah Eason
Councilwoman – Elaine Carter
Councilwoman – Judy Diggs
Councilman – James Herring
Councilwoman – Jennifer Jenkins
Councilwoman – Maxine Phifer
Mayor Dennis Smith
City Manager – Ken Jones
Treasurer – Alvin Bratton

- Call to Order at 7:31pm
- Invocation led by Rev. Gray
- Roll Call

Councilwoman Elaine Carter - Present
Councilman Judy Diggs – Present
Councilman James Herring – Present
Councilwoman Jennifer Jenkins – Present
Councilwoman Maxine Phifer - Present
Councilwoman Deborah Eason - Present
Councilwoman Carolyn Smallwood - Present

We have a Quorum

- Motion to Adopt Agenda

Motion by Councilman Herring to adopt agenda - Seconded by Councilwoman Smallwood

Councilwoman Diggs - Yes
Councilwoman Eason - Yes
Councilman Herring - Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins - Yes
Councilwoman Phifer - Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood - Yes
Councilwoman Carter - Yes

7 Yes

Agenda Approved

Announcement:

Councilwoman Carter – Acknowledge and congratulate Councilwoman Maxine Phifer that was elected by the Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) as the newly elected President

- Presentation
 - Grace Fielder c/o G.E. Fielder & Associates
 - Reviewed a pending item from MNCPPC – 2nd amendment for the Conceptual Cite Plan for WTC
 - Draft memo response to City Manager, Ken Jones – See attached
 - Is it too late for the city to provide its response?
 - The City should provide a response.
 - Councilman Herring notes the CSP is stripping away the town center concept.
 - Mr. Duffy wants to meet with the Council

- Councilwoman Jenkins said Mr. Duffy questioned why he has not been able to address the Council and COG residents - City needs to hear the other side from the developers
 - City Manager – notes to that Mr. Gibbs asked if he could meet with the Council to offer his CSP change/revision information
 - Meeting should be done as soon as possible, within the next 2 weeks; June 18th and the city has time to give a letter of response.
 - July 2nd is the hearing date
 - Councilman Herring notes that the City should not settle for substandard development
 - Original Conceptual Site Plan was approved in 2006
 - Set a date and move on with the agenda. All agree that the City should meet with Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Duffy
 - Councilwoman Smallwood agrees to turn this issue over to the City Manager who will negotiate a date for the meeting with developer and Mr. Gibbs and have the Council Clerk Poll the Council to agree with the meeting date
 - Councilwoman Phifer – City received the information package on Friday, May 27th, critical issues from June 1, 2015.
- Citizens Comments on Legislation (two minutes)
 - Mr. Wilson – R-52-2015 is concerned with the Council President elect Maxine Phifer in respect to her leadership abilities. Needs someone to represent the whole city.

○ Mrs. Wilson – R-52-2015 same sentiment as Mr. Wilson.

● Legislation

O-06-2015 – Emergency Ordinance to Set the Real Property Tax Rate and Personal Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2016

Motion by Councilwoman Carter to bring an emergency property tax ordinance of \$0.336 to the floor - Seconded by Councilman Herring

Councilwoman Carter - Yes

Councilwoman Diggs – Yes

Councilman Eason – Yes

Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes

Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes

Councilwoman Herring – Yes

Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

7 Yes

Approved

Council Phifer – notes to have the tax rate be \$0.331, which was set and approved by the State. And does not want to move forward with the \$0.336 tax rate, which will be an increase in taxes. Also, offers an amendment that the tax rate be \$0.331.

Councilwoman Jenkins offers to move forward with the vote for \$0.336 and if that fails bring forth the tax rate of \$0.331.

Councilwoman Carter question is what is the per household difference with \$0.331 and \$0.336 dollar amount?

Mr. Bratton – \$0.331 is \$13.00 per year is the average for most homes is the difference.

Councilwoman Phifer – County taxes are going up. Why tax or burden our citizens.

Councilwoman Smallwood – Need equipment for Public Works to do a better job and to accommodate for staff. And offers that \$0.336 will not be a tax increase, it would be a revenue increase.

Councilwoman Carter – understand Councilwoman Phifer reasoning; however, we have a budget based on \$.0336, and plans to exercise the fiduciary responsibility and hold Administration to the course of action.

Mayor Smith maintains the \$0.336 tax rate.

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – No
Councilman Eason – No
Councilwoman Jenkins – No
Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes
Councilwoman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – No

3 Yes 4 No's

Failed

Motion by Councilwoman Carter to bring an emergency ordinance property tax of \$0.331 to the floor - Seconded by Councilwoman Phifer

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood – No
Councilwoman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

6 Yes 1 No

Approved

Motion by Councilwoman Jenkins with an emergency ordinance property tax of \$0.331 - Seconded by Councilwoman Phifer

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes

Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood – No
Councilwoman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

6 Yes 1 No

Approved

R-51-2015 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Glenarden, Maryland to Break for Recess

Motion by Councilman Herring to motion to adopt - Seconded by Councilwoman Eason

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – No
Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes
Councilman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – No

5 Yes 2 No

Approved

R-52-2015 – A Resolution to Select the City Council President

Motion by Councilwoman Carter to motion to adopt - Seconded by Councilwoman Eason

Councilwoman Carter – officially nominate the individuals on the floor

Councilwoman Smallwood offers that the first name is Maxine Phifer and second name is Deborah Eason for Council President.

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – No

Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood – No
Councilman Herring – No
Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

4 Yes 3 No's

Approved

R-53-2015 – A Resolution to Select the City Vice Council President

Motion by Councilman Herring to motion to adopt James Herring as
Council Vice President - Seconded by Councilwoman Diggs

Councilwoman Carter - No
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – No
Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes
Councilman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – No

4 Yes 3 No's

Approved

R-54-2015 A Resolution to Issue Building Permits for Construction of Single
Family Dwellings on Seven Lots in the Woodmore Towne Center at
Glenarden

Motion by Councilwoman Jenkins to motion – Seconded by
Councilman Herring

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes
Councilman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

7 Yes

Approved

Election Board nominee legislation for Ms. Boateng – oversight that it is not on the agenda.

Council Chair called for a 5 minutes recess – to bring the legislation to the floor.

R-55-2015 Resolution to Appoint Arlene Boateng, to the Glenarden Board of Elections

Motion by Councilman Jenkins to motion with amendment –
Seconded by Councilwoman Diggs

Councilwoman Carter - Yes
Councilwoman Diggs – Yes
Councilman Eason – Yes
Councilwoman Jenkins – Yes
Councilwoman Smallwood – Yes
Councilman Herring – Yes
Councilwoman Phifer – Yes

7 Yes

Approved

- Mayor's Report – 2nd safest city in the County – committed to the approach to the safety of our citizens. Looking forward to a more comprehensive program for public safety in the City and surrounding city. Assurance to citizens of the COG.
 - Councilwoman Jenkins addresses the Mayor Smith on the 9212 Gary Lane that caused an issue for neighbor that property that it is connected too and the Jeff Road property. Inquires whether administration or the code enforcement officer has reached out to the resident.

- City Manager & Chief O'Donnell drove past the property and did not recognize the issue of concern.
- City Manager's Report (See Report)
 - VA Memorial – status of compiling names
 - Clean up day, 2 weeks ago May 30th and it was a success
 - Lawn Mowers, need to be replaced
 - Tables and Chairs ordered by Department of Aging – Or may come back to the Council for the purchase
 - MLK Park Grant – contract signed and equipment ordered
 - Follow up meeting June 22, with Penrose:
 - Councilwoman Eason status of VA Memorial name collection – 4-6 weeks for finalization and making sure no duplicate names
 - Councilwoman Phifer – Building repairs needs to be addressed immediately. Also request when was Clean-up Day? Response was on May 30th and flyers were sent out. Lawn Mower repair or replace? Mr. Jones offers that the lawn mower is not repairable but need to be replaced.
 - Councilwoman Phifer notes that common courtesy would be to knock on the door of the home(s), where there was an issue with the weeds and fence. Also, confirms whether the tables and chairs are ordered by Department of Aging or by the City of Glenarden - which is confirmed by the City Manager to be correct, Department of aging will order; and if they don't order the City of Glenarden will order the tables and chairs.

- Councilwoman Diggs ask for follow up on the meeting with Pennrose for the upcoming Public meeting.
 - First Baptist Church of Glenarden at Brightseat Rd. the meeting will take place.
 - This is a Public meeting not a Council Meeting
 - Mailing of notification is by this Friday
 - Budget line up is not identified to date
 - Final Draft to Council by the next day
 - Councilwoman Phifer notes that the City of Glenarden is paying for the mailing for the Public meeting is not a good decision.
 - Ken Jones ask the Council if he can offer the developer the City of Glenarden mailing list to them to announce the meeting to the citizens with a mailer
 - Tree Plan – RFP has not been completed, however, will go out by this Friday.
 - Councilman Herring offers that the next meeting be in the Gold Room and also suggest that the City still offer the flyers to ensure the citizens are alerted of the Public meeting.
 - Councilwoman Smallwood turns the meeting over to Vice Chair Eason and excuse herself from the meeting.
 - Councilman Herring offers to any City of Glenarden employees that threats from anyone, either supervisor or elected official, should not be tolerated.

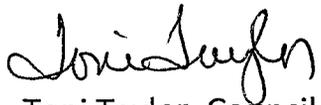
- Chief of Police Report (See report)
 - Brenda Mitchell is new Director of the Public Housing
- City Treasurer's Report (See report)
 - Audit update – Review Draft Audit Report
 - Express confidence in the finance team
 - Final review of the audit report/ draft management
 - 2013 audit is almost done
 - Personal Property collected \$269K
 - Appropriation for the 2015 budget is still pending to come forth to the Council
 - The excess in the snow removal and highway user fund
 - Addressing the issue of speed camera fund – should be located in the general fund revenue
 - The adjustment is to come to the Council – understanding that Council is on recess after tonight until September.
 - Accurate Reports are requested
 - Council needs to know what the financial situation the City is in
 - What Council can do to help the financial situation
 - Help with 2014 audit items
 - Perhaps the Summer interns can assist with organization of the finance office
- Citizen's Comments/Questions (five minutes)
 - John Anderson – Request and Consider Council meetings be cognate of citizen's time.
 - Evaluation of staff working for the City

- Notes there was a City Councilmember was sued – who is going to pay the legal fees
- Elevator Status - turned over the bond to the attorney and she is pursuing the needed elevator.
- Grass cutting equipment should be recognized early on in the season - Poor planning, and poor management.
- Better entry and exiting signs into the City
- Council meetings seating should be addressed – Council backs are to the citizens for the Work session meetings and not enough chairs.
- Leo Wilson – Citizen Police Academy – no citizens patrolling the City.
 - Overspending the budget – roof patch repair for example – \$6K Council was not made aware
 - Request for an apology to Mr. Jones from Councilwoman Jenkins - allegedly said she would slap the City Manager’s face in a public meeting
 - Other allegations was mentioned
 - Which could create a hostile environment
- Mr. Powell - Expand the bus service for bus service at WTC
 - Overall surplus – YTD is the city in the Black?
 - Mr. Bratton indicates the City has a surplus, however, as the years progress the expenditures and revenue will change
 - Preserve the overall surplus
- Ms. Marian White – notes that the Park next to cleaners need to be tidied up on Hayes Street

- Disappointed on Veterans Day dedication – Nothing took place, and suggests that a dedication be planned for veterans.
- Question to the Councilmembers; feel that you have made a difference for the citizens of Glenarden?
 - Councilwoman Carter – individual citizens Ward II and I that had problems that needed to be addressed she brought to the administration’s attention for correcting and also noted she voted for the MLK Park funds.
 - Councilwoman Eason – citizens don’t see the behind the scene for i.e., the matrix, trash contract and snow contract renewed.
 - Councilwoman Diggs – some level of development and growth in the past year from the Mayor and Council and looking forwarded to the new leadership in place.
 - Marianne White notes that Councilman Herring has begun with the trash contract and the cities school concerns.
 - Councilwoman Phifer – PGCMA 4 years with organization and has tried to bring forth the wishes of the citizens.
- Mrs. Celestine Wilson – notes that Councilwoman Jenkins made a statement that she represents home owners, business owners and developers, question is that a conflict of interest?
 - Sorry to hear a hostile environment has been created in City of Glenarden hope a resolution can be brought forth.
 - Historic Society – Question regarding Ward I being declared historical site.

- Councilwoman Eason notes that MNCPP will talk to the citizens about declaration of historical dedication, and advantage of this occurring in the City/Ward. Asked Mr. Winston to get back to the Council for the month of July and August for a meeting.
- Mr. Fields – Glenarden track was schedule to have a dance – which did not happen due to inclement weather. Lost \$6K from vendor contracts/agreements. The Contract with the City for a \$500 security deposit - four Councilmembers agreed to refund the \$500 security deposit to be refunded to the Track Club, which only \$400 was refunded.
 - Councilwoman Phifer motion to give the track club the additional \$100 back to the Track Club - Seconded by the Councilwoman Carter
 - Majority of the Council agreed to cut the check for \$100.00
- Mr. Reid – Senior Citizens – the senior exercise program has been cut.
 - Tables and Chair are not in good condition – need new table and chairs for the seniors
 - Town Hall needs a washing down, sidewalks need replacing, driveway needs repair, tile on steps needs replacing, grass growing through the sidewalk
 - Question to the Mayor – has the tax records been purged?
 - Wants the Council Chair to allow the citizen to ask questions or make statements – the meeting is for the citizens

- Suggest that Hubbard Road needs parking meters installed
 - Suggest direction signage for the Veterans Memorial site
 - Should be able to see the agenda before coming to the meeting
 - Sign on the wall behind the Councilmembers in the Council chambers should be placed into a frame
- Council Comments –
 - Councilwoman Eason – meeting June 18th Mayor’s 2016 FY budget hearing at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.
 - Councilwoman Carter – Thank citizens for the past year – looks forward to citizen coming out to the meetings.
 - Councilwoman Phifer – Thank the citizens for coming out and thank the Councilmembers for the vote of confidence as Council President – And thank the citizens that attended the Open House at the Woodmore Town Community Space that is open for citizens renting for events.
 - Councilman Herring – Thank the citizens for the vote of confidence for him as Vice Chair.
 - Councilwoman Diggs – Thank the citizens for their support and citizen’s commitment. Value her Council Colleagues and appreciate the Council Clerk. Wish everyone a happy and safe summer.
 - Mayor Smith – Especially thanks to the citizens that come out and come out often, and thanks to the Chaplain.
 - Adjourn at 12:05am
 - Submitted by:



Toni Taylor, Council Clerk