



City of Glenarden  
Regular Meeting  
June 16, 2014 - 7:30PM  
Minutes

Council President – Carolyn Smallwood  
Council Vice President - Elaine Carter  
Councilwoman – Judy Diggs  
Councilwoman – Deborah Eason  
Councilman – James Herring  
Councilwoman - Jennifer Jenkins  
Councilwoman – Maxine Phifer  
Mayor Dennis C. Smith

Call to Order at 7:30PM

Invocation led by Rev. Gray

Roll Call

Councilwoman Diggs – Present  
Councilwoman Eason – Present  
Councilman Herring – Present  
Councilwoman Jenkins – Late Arrival  
Councilwoman Phifer – Present  
Councilwoman Carter – Present  
Councilwoman Smallwood - Present

**We have a Quorum**

Motion to Adopt Agenda

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

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

**Agenda Approved**

Presentation

Crystal Faison c/o Shepherd Energy & Nichele Parker c/o MEA

- Homeowner to do energy check
- 1.5 to 2 hours to do and complete a home energy audit
- Comprehensive check is more extensive 2 to 5 hours. Cost comprehensive \$400 which will be offset to \$100 for homeowners
- See what is behind your walls
- Weatherized as it should be
- Test will identify what is going on.
- BGE commercial side many rebates incentive available

Defray cost on the residential and commercial side

- 15% reduction by 2015.
  - 301.464.1111 Shepherd contactor, an approved contractors with BGE
  - Status of Grant by Nichele Parker
  - Contractor out to access the building
  - Solar ray panels are functioning
- 
- Reporting is up to date

- How to move forward
- Roof has to be addressed and is required to be in good shape
- Mr. Leo Wilson – assessment was done a few months ago and recommendation for the roof was to be replaced and money was set aside by the last Council to replace the roof.
- Standard will offer a report on the solar panels and offer access to review the solar panel data

#### Approve of Minutes

04-07-2014 Work Session  
04-14-2014 Regular Meeting  
04-28-2014 Special Work Session  
05-05-2014 Work Session

Motion by Councilwoman Carter to approve all minutes at once - Seconded by Councilwoman Phifer

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

#### **Minutes Approved**

#### Citizens Comments on Legislation (two minutes)

Ms. Robin Jones notes on R-57-2014 Council at Recess – questions whether from the state of the city is it wise go into recess?

Council President Smallwood responds that the Council will be on recess, however, will still be working.

Councilman Herring request that R-58 & 59-2014 be moved to the top of the agenda. **(Granted)**

#### Legislation

##### R-58-2014 A Resolution to Issue Building Permits For Construction of Townhouses

Councilman Herring motions to approve - seconded by Councilwoman Carter and want to hear from a Permit Review Committee Member

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

**Passed**

##### R-59-2014 A Resolution to Issue Building Permits For Construction of Single Family Dwellings

Councilwoman Jenkins motions to approve - seconded by Councilwoman Phifer

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

Councilwoman Smallwood- Yes  
7 Yes  
**Passed**

R-47-2014 A Resolution to Declare the Ayava Phone System as Surplus  
and to Approve Recycling of the System

Councilwoman Carter motions to approve - seconded by  
Councilwoman Jenkins

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

R-56-2014 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Bronze Plaques for the  
Veterans' Memorial from the Lucian Company and to Authorize the 50%  
Payment for Deposit

Councilman Herring motions to approve - seconded by  
Councilwoman Diggs

Councilwoman Diggs - Yes  
Councilwoman Eason – Yes  
Councilman Herring – Yes  
Councilwoman Jenkins – (An Absent Vote)  
Councilwoman Phifer – No  
Councilwoman Carter – No (Stated this is a not necessary legislation)  
Councilwoman Smallwood- Yes  
4 Yes 2 No's  
**Passed**

R-57-2014 A Resolution Authorizing the City Council of Glenarden, MD to  
Break for Recess

Councilwoman Carter motions to approve - seconded by  
Councilwoman Diggs

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

**Passed**

Mayor's Report – Administration is addressing the drug addiction problem in the City of Glenarden / Homicide-stabbing at 7935 Johnson Ave. 26 year old male died – suspect is being charged with first and second degree murder. Administration addresses the purchase of the Glenarden Apartments and will be opposing the sell.

City Manager's Report (no report)

Chief of Police Report (see report)

City Treasurer's Report (no report)

Citizen's Comments/Questions (five minutes)

Mr. John Anderson – suggest that the Administration do a master plan for the Glenarden Apartments.

Roof – major plans already done to repair the roof.

State of the City last week by the Mayor – what should have been discussed - Council should review the entire structure of the department of Finance. Noting what makes the city and offices work.

The City is growing – where the homes and townhomes are being built. The City should be getting ready for the City's growth.

Increase the Police Department

Mr. Anthony Powell has two questions:

The \$644,343 noted in the budget as surplus money - what will the Council do to secure the surplus?

Councilwoman Carter – response to the question is that she has asked the administration for the past 3 years to open a savings account, in order to protect the surplus money. And that the current Administration include such an endeavor to the 2015 budget.

Will the Mayor submit a budget to the Council by July 1, 2014?

Mayor Smith responds that the Treasurer is working on the 2015 budget and hopes to have it submitted very soon.

Councilwoman Smallwood states the Treasurer has inquired with the Legislative department to receive the legislative department's budget.

Councilman Herring notes to Councilwoman Smallwood if anyone from the Administration Office has asked for the Legislative budget to incorporate into the 2015 budget that is to be presented to the Council for review. Councilwoman Smallwood responds that no one has requested the Legislative budget from her.

Councilman Herring received an email that there is someone working in the Treasurer's office is from a temp agency and he is working as a temporary Treasurer - Mr. James Henderson. This action has not been approved by the Council.

Councilwoman Carter states that at the work session meeting that the Mayor was told to hire a temp to act as Treasure, to have the audit and daily work done - And Council agreed.

Councilwoman Diggs offers what she noted at the last meeting, June 2, Work Session, that the Mayor was going to advertise for the Treasurer, Staff Accountant and the Fiscal Assistant.

Councilman Herring states that the Administration is circumventing the Charter. And also offers that under former Mayor Gail Parker Carter, with R-64-2013, where the Council had to approve a resolution for hiring a temporary agency for a Treasurer. And no resolution has been brought forth for a temporary agency approval to bring in a temporary Treasurer.

Mr. James Henderson is the applicant that applied for the City Manager position.

Councilman Herring ask the Council President to not sign any checks for that temporary treasurer.

Mayor Smith notes the last staff accountant was from Antioch Temporary Agency.

Maryann White – Sorry to see the treasurer leave the City as the Treasurer. Glad to see him not stay to have the Council to ruin the Treasurer’s reputation. Treasurer integrity needs to be brought back.

- ✓ Charter has been abused by the present Council
- ✓ Suggestion – look at the charter for review
- ✓ Permit Review Committee – who is on the committee
- ✓ Ward I – very bad sidewalks, near the elementary school
- ✓ 7700 Glenarden Pkwy – take a seriously look at Ward III – there is only one council person representative in Ward 3 and the Ward is growing and the name should be changed back to Springdale
  
- ✓ What has the Council accomplished for the City of Glenarden in the 2013 and 2014 legislative season

Councilwoman Jenkins states the zip code simple where the mail is routed through.

Celestine Wilson – states that on May 21, 2014, Council President gave a public forum with status of the following: VA Memorial, financial situation at best, Playground on Ward I, FY 2015 budget, and other items. Mayor Smith also held a Forum and she was expecting to hear resolves for some of the major issues, instead she felt it was a bashing on Councilman Herring. She expresses she wants the name calling and blaming to end, and Council and Mayor to get to work.

Mr. Rubin Reid – (some comments in audible) Audit firm gave a letter that offered advice. His suggestion is to have experience people to help with the audit, from the audit firm employees.

- ✓ How to collect the building permit fees - no procedure for collecting the building permit fee is in place. Pass the legislation by ordinance, not resolution.
- ✓ States that Mr. Wood, Treasurer has been falsely accused.

Mr. Anderson –wants to reiterate what Mrs. Wilson said, need to cut out the bad talk. Also, request that the roof be replaced. Form a commission to form the Glenarden Apartments issue and some of the other various concerns.

Mr. Leo Wilson – concerns on the roof – no more patch work.

- ✓ Charter important to the City – cannot violate the Charter
- ✓ Accounting System “Sage” – Which was under the guidance of former Mayor E. Carter that recommended the Sage accounting system with a 4/7 vote
- ✓ The Finance office closet has been converted to a storage space
- ✓ City had a City Manager for a planned 6 months – no plan b or c has not been in effect knowing the 6 month City Manager would only be temporary

- ✓ Mayor fired the City Attorney before replacement of a new city Attorney and did not put the Council on notice prior to the firing the City Attorney
- ✓ Treasurer – hours of the Treasurer and he does not appear to be working the core business hours of a 40 hour work week – and when the Treasurer is not in the office, who is in charge of the Finance office
- ✓ A Councilmember was threatened with physical violence for a second time and that also needs to stop and should not be tolerated

Councilman Herring – reads a written statement

Councilwoman Carter- wants to bring clarification some of the comments – she is being continuously falsely accused to being in coercion and/or collusion, with Councilwoman Jenkins and Councilwoman Phifer. She notes her support for Mayor Dennis Smith. She also, notes that the Mayor was unfairly censored after month in half, after he took office. As the Vice President, she works with the Council President to communicate the work of the Council. In addition, she only questioned the previous Treasurer (Patrick Rossello) regarding the \$400,000 in the finance report that was in error.

Councilwoman Jenkins – Residency Issue - was asked to run from her Ward – met the residence requirement in 2011 and 2013 and was certified. Then the previous Council changed the law after she won the May election. Ward III residents elected her. Adds that she does not give the Mayor advice. She

respects the position/body of the Mayor. Councilwoman Jenkins notes she apologized for name calling to Councilman Herring. Agree that we cannot keep changing the Charter. Also, remarks that the legislation that included Councilwoman Smallwood on the Permit Review Committee was inappropriate based on the Charter. And that she is not in collusion with any councilmembers. Addresses the Mayor, that this term has been difficult and not fair.

Councilwoman Eason – she states that sometime a person has to take the high road, and that is exactly what she is trying to do – and as well follow the charter – her style is to follow the project and to keep the project moving.

Councilwoman Diggs – notes that this is her first term and it's been a learning experience. Taking the time to learn and assess it for herself. Need to see more than hear –what is the best interest of the community as a whole, and thank you for allowing her to sit on the Council.

Councilwoman Smallwood – notes that she extended her hand to the Mayor upon his arrival to the City. Asked him for his plans and goals for the City. Mayor offered he would meet with the council and get direction. And the meeting never took place. She also noted that the City Manager and Treasurer were not putting in an 8 hour day. Mayor Smith has filed a suit against the Council. Regarding the Permit Review Committee; no one wanted to be on the Committee, so she put her name in the hat, and the Mayor did not have a problem with her being on the Permit Review Committee. Councilwoman Smallwood extends her hand again to the Mayor to move the city forward.

Regarding Mr. Henderson working in the finance office, unless the Administration brings forth legislation to have the Antioch Temporary agency to the Council for approval, otherwise Mr. Henderson will not be able to be paid. Have a happy summer and good-night.

Adjourn 10:30PM

**Submitted By:**  
**Toni Taylor, Council Clerk**