



The City of Glenarden
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
Monday, November 8, 2021, at 7:30 PM
Minutes

Attendees:

Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson
Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston
Councilman – James A. Herring
Councilwoman – Robin Jones

- Called to Order at 7:30 PM
- Invocation led by Council Vice President Angela D. Ferguson
- Roll Call
Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed – Present
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Present
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston – Present
Councilman – James A. Herring – Present
Councilwoman – Robin Jones – Present
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson – Present
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II – Present

We have a Quorum

- Motion to Adopt Agenda

Councilwoman Kathleen J. Guillaume to adopt the agenda – Second by Councilwoman Robin Jones.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

- Citizens Comments on Pending Legislation
 - R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Two Police Vehicles
 - R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase to Outfit the Police Vehicles
 - R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Two In-Car Radios for the Vehicles and One Portable Police Radio
 - R-XX-2022 Resolution to Authorize Renewal of Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 20 Body Worn Cameras for Police Officers
- Motion to Adopt Resolutions
 - R-06-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Two In-Car Radios for the Vehicles and One Portable Police Radio

Motion to bring resolution R-06-2022 to the floor adopted by Councilman James A. Herring – Second by Councilwoman Robin Jones.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
 Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes
 Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
 Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
 Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
 Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
 Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes
7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

- R-07-2022 Resolution to Authorize Renewal of Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 20 Body Worn Cameras for Police Officers

Motion to bring resolution R-07-2022 to the floor adopted by Councilwoman Kathleen J. Guillaume – Second by Councilman James A. Herring.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
 Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes
 Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
 Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
 Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
 Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
 Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes
7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

- R-08-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase to Outfit the Police Vehicles

Motion to bring resolution R-08-2022 to the floor adopted by Council Vice President Angela D. Ferguson – Second by Councilman James A. Herring.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
 Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes

Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes
7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

➤ R-09-2022 A Resolution to Authorize Purchase of Two Police Vehicles

▪ Discussion

- **J. Herring** – Are the vehicles being purchased by cash or a loan?
 - **President Curtis** – It is being purchased via purchase order/cash.
- **J. Herring** – With the purchase of these two new cars how many cars does that now give the police department?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – 22 or 23 cars.
- **J. Herring** – How many of those vehicles need to be repaired or replaced?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – 5 Chevy Impala’s and one Chevy Tahoe.
- **J. Herring** – So right now if a car is taken out for service/maintenance, would we still have enough vehicles here for the offices to use?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – Yes.
- **R. Jones** – Please understand I am not being critical, but in an effort of continuous quality improvement. Once again, the city is buying another car for the police department, which equals eight new vehicles in 4-6 years. The citizens want to see the police vehicles patrolling the neighborhoods on a consistent basis going forward.

Motion to bring resolution R-09-2022 to the floor adopted by Council Vice President Angela D. Ferguson – Second by Councilman Maurice A. Hairston.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes
7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

- Administrative reports
 - Mayor/City Manager Report
 - **E. Fareed** - Can you please go back to the point you were making regarding the 7th Street Park, what the plans are and how that aligns to the verbiage in the resolution that was passed by the council?
 - **Mayor Cross** – The resolution speaks to providing the children of the 7th Street Park playground equipment; however, we want to evolve that to include fitness courts to include the full of the community such as the seniors. Each fitness park can provide a seven-fitness total body work out and comes with an app. Beyond a swing set and Mary-go-round, we can evolve this resolution so not only can the children play but the rest of the citizens can get a full body work out too. We can utilize the ARPA funds or a grant program for this project.
 - **E. Fareed** – Request to see to design and how the space would look.
 - **K. Guillaume** – GHA the Glenarden Housing Authority has been trying to contact the administration to reserve a meeting in the nutrition center, can you please have someone from your team to reach out to them?
 - **Mayor Cross** – There should have been a response by Michelle Cheek approving use of the space. The administration is just waiting for GHA to confirm by sending the dates for meetings.
 - **K. Guillaume** – If the city can allow them to use December 7th and or 14th that would be greatly appreciated.
 - **Mayor Cross** – The only ask is that they police themselves and do their own post meeting clean up, as this group will not have access to the cleaning staff. Can you please have GHA send me a letter with those dates?
 - **K. Guillaume** – I received calls from residents about the lack of visibility of the speed bumps on Glenarden Pkwy between the streets of 7th and 10th streets. Can the speed bumps be repainted to be more visible?
 - **Mayor Cross** – Noted

- **Vice President Ferguson** – Can you give detail on the scope of duties for the Financial Advisory committee?
 - **Mayor Cross** – This committee would consult with the treasury department on how best to utilize city funds, and provide another set of eyes to help the administration properly assess our financial position as a whole and for future forecasting. This group would serve as an ethics commission for the Treasury Department.
 - **Vice President Ferguson** – Firstly, we have the council who has responsibility of the finances in city, as well as auditors and a treasurer. Once the budget is done it is open to public discussion which is probably why this committee has not been established yet.
- **Vice President Ferguson** – The Public Safety Committee what are they going to do?
 - **Mayor Cross** – This committee is to assess public safety i.e., informing the city about potholes or code violations relative to the city. The mission is to allow the citizens voice to serve as an extension of the Glenarden Police, Code Enforcement, and Public Works.
- **J. Herring** – You mention the city has access to the Short-Wave Radio Program by way of the American Legion is that correct?
 - **Mayor Cross** – Yes, the American Legion will support the city with having a hand radio.
 - **J. Herring** – Do you need an antenna for that?
 - **Mayor Cross** – The radio functions from wave frequencies already in the atmosphere. The antenna is not something that we would need to install at our facility. Antenna accessibility is already available at the American Legion, we would essentially be utilizing their antenna or the antenna at the main hub.
 - **J. Herring** – The city paid over the sum of 300k to fix the roof and want to ensure nothing jeopardizes the extended warranty. Nothing needs to go on that roof unless it has been confirmed by Wagner Roofing the people who replaced the roofing first to make sure that it is permissible and isn't in conflict of keeping the warranty valid.

- **Mayor Cross** – No, it is simply a plug in the wall. If the facility loses full power the device can be powered by a car battery.
- **J. Herring** - In reading up on the program, is this program contingent on other Short Wave Hand Radio users being able to get the message out to the people?
- **Mayor Cross** – Yes, that information is correct. The administration has a hand radio that is over 26 points that can be utilized to get the information out. That radio connects to the National Early Warning i.e., system like OPM. This radio is Federal Communications Certified (FCC), with the aid of the American Legion radio operator who agreed to be on tap with the city until we hire a certified radio operator for the City of Glenarden.
- **J. Herring** – If there is a national emergency how would you get that information out to the citizens?
- **Mayor Cross** – Once you get the information you would use the police department to communicate radio to radio. The Mayor suggests having a Red, Yellow, Green Emergency Prepared Readiness Card for the citizens to have in case of an emergency, and or a city siren. This radio will give us a two-day warning to emergencies prior to television broadcast on the national news.
- **J. Herring** – Councilman Herring is trying to see how this program is going to work and how it can benefit the citizens and the community. There has to be an easier way to get information out to the citizens rather than using the police officers to go door to door which its time consuming. How would we get the information out to the community in a state of emergency to inform citizens to bunker down in a timely fashion?
- **Mayor Cross** – That is why the administration is working on a threefold approach to our emergency preparedness and disaster plan.
 - **Calling System Emergency Updates**
 - 301-773-2100, press the star key (*) for the city operations status and city updates.

- **Television Station Emergency Information Broadcast**
- **Code Red System**
- **Short-Wave Hand Radio Program**
- **Police patrols to dispatch emergency information to citizens**
- **Mayor Cross** – Agrees with Councilman Herring that we need to test the Emergency Broadcast System of the City of Glenarden. Mayor Cross would like to run a test exercise to get familiar with the tones and reporting systems.
- **J. Herring** – Councilman Herring asks respectfully that the Mayor work with the sponsors of the 7th Street Park resolution regarding the design of the park to ensure we are working towards the original ask of that space that resulted in the need to draft the legislation. The sponsors already had an idea in mind, it's best to come to a happy medium on this project so it serves the full aspect of what is best for this community. Please speak to the citizens to make sure what they want to have a successful park. That is a small space and there is only so much you can do with it.
- **J. Herring** – A finance committee is not in the charter because it normally is not needed when you have a full council. Personally, Councilman Herring doesn't think it is fair to the citizens to sit on a committee to discuss the financial affairs of the city when the council ultimately has the final say and it comes down to what the council wants to do. Councilman Herring doesn't think this committee is a good idea to have as it creates bureaucracy that you really do not need. We also do not need a group of citizens following the Police Officers, Public Works, or Code Enforcement Officers around trying to oversee or police their day-to-day duties as it will pull the moral down.
 - **Mayor Cross** – So you do not want a Public Safety Committee or a Financial Planning Committee of citizen volunteers?
 - **J. Herring** – I do not see how it would benefit the community.
 - **Mayor Cross** – The Public Safety Committee would partner with the Glenarden Police and Code Enforcement Departments. This committee's goal is not to oversee or micromanage the officers, rather to serve as a second set of eyes like a neighborhood watch.

- **J. Herring** – The city has paid administrative staff that is responsible for those duties and should be held more accountable for noticing and addressing things under police and code enforcement without the volunteered assistance from citizens.
 - **J. Herring** – Regarding the meeting space request for the Glenarden Housing Authority, if you ever need event space the city is a community partner with the Glenarden Recreation Center. All you need to do is tell them you are from the City of Glenarden, and you can utilize the space free of charge for future reference.
- Chief's Report
 - **J. Herring** - We did hear about a robbery in Woodmore Town Center...what happened over there?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – It sounds like the incident could have happened somewhere else. A man was allegedly robbed walking home. A gray colored car pulled up and the victim was asked to hand over his money and bag of food in his hand. The victim gave the suspect the \$700 he had in his possession but kept the food in his hand. However, after looking at the door Ring Cameras in that area, there was no vehicles that fit the assailant's description. There is a possibility the crime could have happened somewhere else; it seems the victim just called the police when he got close to home.
 - **R. Jones** - Was this incident reclassified by the Prince Georges County Police Department that nothing happened, how is it classified now?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – They classified it as a miscellaneous innocent.
 - **R. Jones** – Does the county give a report back to the city as to what happened?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – No, I will have Lt. Robinson follow up on that.
 - **Lt. Robinson** – The classification has been changed to unfounded, which means there was no robbery.
 - **R. Jones** – When is the demolition of the King site going to begin?

- **Acting Chief Jackson** – Currently the paperwork is being transferred from the late Chief O’Donnell’s name into Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Thomas’ name to move forward with demolition.
 - **R. Jones** – Councilwoman Jones is requesting follow up information on the status of this demolition.
 - **Mayor Cross** – On October 20th, 2021, the paperwork was updated for the King site demolition. An RFP has been issued to request bids from contractors for demolition of the site.

➤ **Treasurer’s Report**

- **R. Jones** – The loan that the city is paying off, what was it for?
 - **Acting Treasurer D. Stewart** – It was a five-year loan for the purchase of a police vehicle that will be paid off next month.
- **J. Herring** – Please confirm, did you say the city has only received \$600,000 as of October in real property taxes?
 - **Acting Treasurer D. Stewart** – From October through September the city received \$719,000 in real taxes. \$653,000 was received in the month of October.
 - **J. Herring** –\$700,000 was for September?
 - **Acting Treasurer D. Stewart** – Between July and August we received \$543,000, and in September we received \$177,000 giving a total at the end of September of \$720,000.
 - **J. Herring** – In the month of October we received \$600,000?
 - **Acting Treasurer D. Stewart** – Yes, in the month of October \$653,000 was received.
 - **J. Herring** – Okay, that information is a bit unsettling as we normally get a big payment in the month of October; almost half the payment is normally received in October annually. Please keep an eye out on that because we normally get our biggest payments in the months of September, October, and maybe November with the rest trickling in during the remainder of the year.
- **President Curtis** – The Credit Card Draft Policy is being reviewed by the council for edits and will be returned to the finance department.

- **Mayor Cross** – Currently the roll of the Executive Assistant is not do the things mentioned by Mrs. Smallwood. It does state however, the EA is to provide back up to the Administrative Assistant as needed.
- **C. Smallwood** – The citizens still cannot read the marquee. Suggested to changing the font size, changing the lettering color to black and white, and taking some of the lettering off because it looks too busy.
 - **Mayor Cross** – The Marquee’s color strategy is to include the colorblind community.
- **A. Hunter** – I have a question regarding one of the three tobacco shops in Ward 1. The shop located on Johnson Ave close to the barber shop; is that a 24hr shop as it is open very late?
 - **President Curtis** – We should not have a 24hr Tobacco Store operating in the City of Glenarden, correct?
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – No, they are not allowed to be open past 12am.
 - **R. Jones** – The store on 704 and Glenarden Pkwy is open past 1am and needs to be monitored.
- **A. Hunter** – Regarding the King site; I am asking that the project move forward for the sake of the children in the community in Ward 1. Ms. Hunter has concerns about the citizens having to cross the highway to get things done, and the children crossing the highway to have recreational fun.
- **A. Hunter** – The sidewalk on Johnson Ct. is still receiving complaints. Ms. Hunter would like to have a status update on that. There is also a sinkhole on the other side of the street that needs to be addressed.
- **A. Hunter** – There is an uprise in car theft, recently Ms. Hunter had to report a car on Johnson Ave sitting on bricks with no wheels.
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – The rims and tires were stolen from that vehicle; a report was taken.
- **A. Hunter** – Ms. Hunter also reported some illegal transactions she witnessed.
 - **Acting Chief Jackson** – Acting Chief Jackson is currently working on stepping up the street patrol.
- **A. Hunter** – We have 26 police cars, but do we have 26 police officers to step up the police patrol?

- **Acting Chief Jackson** – We do not have 26 cars. The city has 17 officers, and 22 police vehicles.
- **A. Hunter** – Some of the things reported in these meetings are getting back to people on the street. Ms. Hunter will not be scared to speak publicly about what is going on in the community! Ms. Hunter states that this is all of our community and unsavory behavior has no place here in the City of Glenarden. The city needs more police presence seen driving up and down the street instead of being parked in front of business fronts. There is a lot going on and if the police were more present the illegal activity will stop like it did previously. There is a mole who is reporting complaints being made at these meetings back to people on the streets, which is why the council needs to be more cognizant as to whom is being appointed to these youth advisory committees and make sure that we are setting the standard with our leaders.
- Adjourned at 9:30pm

Submitted by:

Victoria Lewis, Council Clerk