



The City of Glenarden
Public Hearing (Virtual)
Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 7:00 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 7:00 PM
- Invocation led by Vice President Angela D. Ferguson
- Roll Call
 - Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II – Present
 - Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson – Present
 - Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed – Present
 - Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Present
 - Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston – Absent
 - Councilman – James A. Herring – Present
 - Councilwoman – Robin Jones – Present

6 Present, 1 Absent
- Motion to Adopt Agenda
 - President Derek D. Curtis, II. to adopt the agenda – Second by Councilwoman Erika L. Fareed.
- Discussion
 - **President Curtis** – Would like to add to the following resolutions to the agenda for public comment:
 - R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Amend the City Council Rules Section 307
 - CR-XX-2022 A Resolution to Amend the City Council Rules Section 308
Procedure for Enactment of Resolutions and Ordinances

➤ **President Curtis** – Request to go into a Closed Session concluding the Special Regular Meeting per Charter Section 304 (b)(1).

➤ **R. Jones** – Did the citizens receive this legislation?

- **President Curtis** – Yes, it was uploaded online as supporting documents for the meeting.

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

- Citizens Comments on Pending Legislation

➤ R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Approve a Contract with G.S. Proctor and Associates, Inc. for Professional Lobbying, Grant Writing, Applications, and Public Relations Services.

➤ R-XX-2022 A Resolution to Amend the City Council Rules Section 307

- **C. Wilson** - Mrs. Wilson feels there is a lot of language in this resolution that should not be in there i.e., the corrections are speaking to the duties of the Council President. Council President duties/rules are not mentioned in section 307; it is stated in another section so why is it in this resolution? Was this looked over amongst the whole council before it was introduced to go out for vote in six days? One person is not the whole council; Mrs. Wilson wants the input of the council as a whole.

- **E. Fareed** - In terms of your reference to Section 307, the language you speak of is reflective of the original resolution that was put forth by former Mayor/Councilman Don Juan Williams. That resolution was enacted to adopt council rules. What you are seeing is the redlined amendments to the language proposed by former Mayor/Councilman Don Juan Williams' initial resolution under council rules which references section 307. You are correct it does talk about the Council Presidents responsibility in other sections of the charter; however, it does mention it here too in section 307...and that is where the edits are being imposed.

- **C. Smallwood** – The format is wrong.
 - **C. Smallwood** – Did you state that this document went to the city attorney for legal sufficiency?
 - **E. Fareed** – No, I stated that much of which is written had come by way of suggestions from the city attorney.
 - **C. Smallwood** - So, this document has not been reviewed by an attorney for legal sufficiency?
 - **E. Fareed** – No.
- CR-XX-2022 A Resolution to Amend the City Council Rules Section 308 Procedure for Enactment of Resolutions and Ordinances
- **C. Wilson** – Are you sure the citizen had online access to the two pieces of legislation that was added last night prior to this meeting? As of 4:58pm this afternoon Mrs. Wilson did not see the legislation on the website and had to contact the council clerk to get a copy of the resolutions.
 - **C. Smallwood** – Mrs. Smallwood states that she came to the City Hall to pick up the meeting packet for today’s meeting and was told by the Council Clerk that two new pieces of legislation were being added and she included them in the packet. Mrs. Smallwood feels this is in violation of the open meetings act. Agrees with Mrs. Wilson that new legislation was added before the meeting not allowing citizen proper time to digest the information.
 - **C. Wilson** – Has the contents of the resolutions dealing with council rules been vetted by the city attorney before introduced to the public and discussed with the whole council?
 - **E. Fareed** - Part of the proposal being put forth in this resolution is how to appropriately move forward with introducing resolutions, and how to formulate discussion around the proposed legislation. Councilwoman Fareed’s plan was to have this legislation worked at a work session so the council could publicly discuss it, vet it, and making changes collective. However, the guidance being given is that resolutions cannot be introduced at a work session and that the whole council cannot discuss anything unless it is at a public meeting. Some of the language

included in this resolution is what was share with the Council by way of the City Attorney on effective way to more effectively manage our meetings.

- **C. Smallwood** – The formatting is wrong in 308, and you did not have this document review by an attorney for legal sufficiency.
- **C. Smallwood** – Why is the council trying to go against the citizens wishes to have a public meeting and trying to block the citizens from participating?
 - **President Curtis** – The two legislations pertaining to sections 307 and 308 were introduced last night. Councilwoman Fareed did want to introduce these pieces of legislations at the last work session, however, due to miscommunications it was added last night. The council does have the right to add to the agenda prior to the adoption of the agenda, which unfortunately results in some of the supporting documents not being featured online for that meeting. I believe your argument yesterday was that you did not like the agenda to be changed. Keeping in step with that we did not change the agenda! it was discussed as a council with a unanimous decision to add the legislations to this agenda prior to the adoption of the agenda. In terms of you not having enough time to read it, I agree! Which is why next week will be a Special Regular Meeting where you will have another opportunity to speak on the legislation. No vote will take place without you having sufficient time to thoroughly review and voice your concerns about any pending legislation. The citizens can feel free to email the councilmembers if you would like to communicate with them during the week as there will not be an immediate vote on this.
 - **E. Fareed** – What is being proposed is, resolutions can be introduced at a work session with the idea that the council would work through, discuss, and make necessary amendments to the legislation preparing it for public comments. Concluding the work session, the sponsoring councilmember would then consult with the City Attorney to verify the document for legal accuracy and proper format. If changes or concerns materialized enough from the City Attorney review resulting in another

need for discussion amongst the council, another meeting would be arranged. If not, legislation would be prepared for public comment at the beginning of the Regular Meeting. If there is no opposition from the citizens, the council can move forward to vote on said legislation.

- **E. Fareed** – Section 307 around council rules speaks directly to clearing up gray areas in the language. For example, as it relates to things such as notifications; instead of the language saying, “Reasonable Time”, it will state a more specific time frame.
- **C. Smallwood** – Once that document becomes available in final draft, will you then hold another meeting for citizens comments to discuss the legislation?
 - **E. Fareed** – This legislation, nor will any legislation be voted on without adequate citizens ability to comment. It depends on level of change that would result in another Public Hearing for citizens comments, i.e., a grammatical or spelling error would not result in the need for another hearing.
- Motion to Close Session
 - Closed session in accordance with Charter Section 304 (b)(1)

Motion to close session adopted by Councilman James A. Herring – Second by Councilwoman Erika L. Fareed.

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

- Adjourned at 7:36 pm

Submitted by:

Victoria Lewis, Council Clerk