



MEETING OF
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
TOWN HALL
6724 BALTIMORE AVENUE
5:00 P.M.

December 11, 2009
SPECIAL SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Tabori at 5 p.m.

Present: Mr. Lucas, Ms. Toscano, Mr. Carey, Ms. Mallino, Ms. McPherson, Ms. O'Connor
Excused: None
Absent: Ward 7 Vacant

2. MAYOR'S REPORT

No report beyond the discussion of the energy grant application.

3. ENERGY GRANT APPLICATION

Mickey Lucas and Tracy Toscano addressed the Council, Mayor, and attendees.

Margaret Mallino, CM 1, provided the following statement:

Colleagues and grant presenters:

While I fully understand the frustration of those residents who have worked so diligently to present an acceptable grant proposal to the mayor and council to proceed to make an application for a Department of Energy Grant, I would be remiss if I did not stand in support of my fellow members of council on their vote to not fully vet what was presented at Monday's meeting.

Ultimately the greatest responsibility of the Mayor and Common Council is to protect the public's funds and ensure that funds are legally expended in a judicious manner to 'protect the health, safety and welfare' of the residents of our Town. At the previous meeting the Council had been told, very specifically, that we were to consider the proposal very carefully, it had been received by the Council no later than the evening of December 4, if we were asking (permitting) the mayor to place his signature on a letter of intent.

Initially the grant was brought to our attention by a Chuck Wilson, via Len Carey, CM 4. To enable the Council to familiarize itself with what would be forthcoming, Tracey Toscano, CM 5 took the time to locate the grant announcement and provide this to the Council so that

we could assess the product we were to approve or disapprove at the following meeting.

At the very meeting where we were being asked to review the proposal we had several other important items of business before us. We were to approve as a body the testimony the mayor presented before the MNCPPC planning board concerning the development of Belcrest Plaza. We had to approve a private bond to secure funds for the employee pension fund, and we had to pass emergency legislation to place those monies into our FY2010 budget as required by law. This was all on top of our regular business proceedings.

I regret that there was not better communication between the administration and the councilman working on the proposal and the other members of council. And finally, I regret that I was responsible for cutting off discussion when I know that Mickey Lucas, CM 2, and perhaps others were prepared with questions.

Len Carey, CM 4, provided the following statement:

I will make a motion, but I want to begin by thanking my colleagues on the Council for the consideration you are giving this energy grant proposal by coming here at 5:00 on a Friday to discuss it. While it remains to be seen whether we go forward with this proposal, I am comfortable with our consideration of this document as the Town Council.

This document is a proposal, to address an opportunity for the Town of University Park to do something which we say often that we want to do, which is as a community to save energy, save money, and to embrace clean energy, with all of the attendant benefits of that, the virtue and value it may bring to our homes and community.

This is an exceedingly rare opportunity designed for small towns like University Park. The Department of Energy is looking for a few small towns which can deliver on an energy conservation and energy efficiency program and share the lessons learned with other small Towns. That is what we are trying to do with this proposal and--while Department of Energy Grants are notoriously difficult to apply for and obtain--we believe that University Park is that town, at least is one of those towns that the Department of Energy is looking for. Our community has a great deal going for it, which can make our grant application competitive.

I am not the author of this proposal. It has come from the pen of Chuck Wilson, working with an awesomely qualified team of energy experts who are town residents, and it is the team which has produced this proposal. I thank Town staff, Town Attorney, and Mayor Tabori for their vital guidance, advice, and support along the way.

Assembling this grant application and getting it right has been an awful lot to accomplish in a very short period of time. We did the best that we could, but I regret that you have not had the opportunity you should have been afforded to review this at length and understand what is at stake. This has led to some misunderstandings which we regret and are seeking to correct. I thank my several council colleagues who have reached out in the past few days to ask questions and to discuss this proposal with the team. I appreciate that consideration. Going forward, we will redouble our efforts to involve Mayor, Council, and staff in working out the

many remaining details and to keep the community engaged in how this project moves forward.

I believe the proposal assembled by the team is good, and that you will see this for yourselves. Let me make two observations:

1. This proposal is substantively complete, needing only tweaking to reflect any continuing concerns, and then editing by the experienced Grant-writers and Editors.

2. There is not a lot of detail in this proposal. Its length is limited by the Department of Energy to 10 pages plus appended items, and there is not a lot of room for, nor need for, such detail in this grant application. This means that there is much left to be decided and negotiated as this project goes to implementation. We hope to get there, and --if and when we do--we ask continuing Mayor, Council, and Staff involvement, and continuing support from the community for this project.

But it is either a good proposal, which will become even better as the details of its implementation going forward are agreed upon by Mayor and Council and Staff, or it is not a good proposal. Here to brief us on the proposal and to answer our questions is Chuck Wilson.

To get this on the table for discussion, I move:

To approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy to implement a Sequential, Transformative Energy Program for University Park, subject to the following considerations:

- it be edited appropriately prior to submittal;
- prior to accepting the grant there be a public hearing on implementation of the Project, where continuing Council and community concerns may be addressed;
- if and when the grant is awarded, the Council act either to accept or not accept the funds awarded.

And that the Mayor, upon his satisfaction that the proposal adequately meets the Town's requirements, be authorized to submit the grant application in behalf of the Town by the December 14 deadline.

Motion: To approve the application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant, to the U.S. Department of Energy subject to the condition stated in the motion by CM Carey.

Moved by: Mr. Carey
Yea: 6

Seconded by: Ms. O'Connor
Nay: 0 **Abstain:** 0

4. **ADJOURNMENT** at 7 p. m.

Submitted by: _____
John Rogard Tabori
Mayor