



**MEETING OF
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL**

**UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET**

**7:30 p.m.
May 18, 2015
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Lenford Carey at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Thompson, Mr. Hess, Ms. Verrill, Ms. Sorensen, Mr. Alvarez
Absent: None
Excused: Mr. Gekas, Mr. Cron

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Carey.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA as modified

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez **Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson
Yea: 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE

- A.** Mayor Carey read the proposed real property tax rate increase legal notice into the record. He proposed that this matter be decided in special session of the Council, which has been scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. at University Park Elementary School. This will be an open meeting and public testimony is encouraged.

The Mayor presented recommended revisions to the budget reflecting a drawdown of undesignated reserves by transferring funds to a designated reserve, purchasing new and used buses from 2015 reserves, and funding capital expenses for a used trash packer and new police cruiser out of undesignated reserves rather than out of the operational budget.

B. Council Comments

- Skeptical and not convinced that this tax needs to be raised, and hopes that there is a solution not to raise taxes.
- If the Council adopts the recommended revisions, how much will it decrease the tax increase?
The proposed increase was 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. With the recommended revisions the fund balance ratio will be reduced to below 30% and it will decrease the increase from 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value to .8 cents per \$100 of assessed value.
- Why have an increase at all as long as the unreserved funds are over 25%.

Due to unusual circumstances, the current unreserved funds are higher than needed. In the future capital investments will be needed such as bridges, road repair, etc. and those reserve funds will be needed accordingly.

- Prior to the recommended revision to the budget, the tax increase per household would be approximately \$118.00, if the proposed budget revision is approved by the Council, what will the average tax be per household?
Approximately \$56.60 per household.

C. Public Comments

- Asked the Council to look very closely to see if this tax increase is necessary since the County will also be increasing taxes.
- Would like the Council to consider putting money in the budget to help veterans who are suffering from mental and physical conditions.
- Glad to see that the mosquito program is in the current budget and hope it continues.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. PERMITS

A. APPLICATION TO ERECT A 4' FENCE

(Laura and Keenan Keeling, 4324 Underwood Street) Ward 4

Motion: To approve the request for a building permit to erect a 4' fence located on Lot 32, Block 23, Section 6B at 4324 Underwood Street.

Moved by: Ms. Verrill

Seconded by: Mr. Hess

Yea: 5

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

B. SPECIAL UTILITY PERMIT: PEPSCO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Motion: To approve two special utility permits for Pepco (SP-2015-01 and SP-2015-02) to remove and to prune trees listed in Appendix A from the town right-of-way as itemized on the permits and with the conditions as proposed subject to receipt of the work plan for SP-2015-02.

Moved by: Mr. Hess

Seconded by: Mr. Thompson

Yea: 5

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items.

A. BLOCK PARTY/STREET CLOSURE AT BOTH ENDS OF THE 6900 BLOCK OF OAKRIDGE ROAD AND AT BEECHWOOD ROAD FROM THE ALLEY TO PINEWAY (Saturday, June 27 from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.) Ward 5

The Police Department has been notified and supports this request

Moved by: Ms. Sorensen

Seconded by: Mr. Thompson

Yea: 5

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

8. PRESENTATION RE: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BUDGET

- A. County Council Member Dannielle Glaros distributed a brochure and discussed the Prince George's County proposed budget for fiscal year 2016. This budget, by law requires approval by June 1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Why is the proposed County tax rate different for municipalities within the County?
It depends on the services provided within the municipality.
- Is it true that the money that is proposed to improve the school system for the first year, is the same amount of money that will be required forever?
Yes, once you invest in education to a certain level, that becomes your new level for maintenance of effort.
- The 20 million dollars that the Governor has decided not to give to Prince George's County, is it going to make a large impact?
It is a fact that Governor Hogan will be contributing more to education this year than last year but it doesn't mean it is at the same rate as expected. There will be more money contributed to education although it is at a slower rate.
- Hopes that the County Council does something, as it would be ruinous to vote no and walk away.

9. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 15-O-07: Fiscal 2016 Budget (*Second Reading*)

The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is May 18, 2015.

Motion: To approve the adoption of Legislative Resolution 15-O-07: Fiscal 2016 budget.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Yea:

Nay:

Abstain:

NOTE: *The tax rate will be considered at a special session scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2015*

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Why are we funding capital expenditures with the tax rate increase rather than being part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)?
The capital expenditures are one time expenditures paid through the unreserved funds which is an acceptable process.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. EMERGENCY LEGISLATION: LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 15-O-09 TO AMEND THE FISCAL 2015 BUDGET (*Introduction*)

The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is June 1, 2015.

Motion: To approve the introduction of Legislative Resolution 15-O-09: to amend the Fiscal 2015 budget.

Moved by: Mr. Thompson **Seconded by:** Ms. Verrill
Yea: 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Note: Responses from council members, town attorney or the mayor are italicized.

- Will the person hired to help the treasurer be doing any duties assigned to the treasurer? Also, the Charter indicates that the Council is not allowed to reassign duties.

The person will be supervised by the treasurer and will be taking on some of the day to day tasks in order to allow the treasurer to take on some other duties.

It is still with the same office, department or agency. If the treasurer needs help he is certainly allowed to have that help approved by the Council.

B. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SURPLUS VEHICLES

Motion: To declare the 2000 Sterling packer truck, and two 1998 Ford packer trucks in the Public Works Department vehicles as surplus vehicles and authorize the director of public works to sell vehicles via sealed bid with VIN # 2FZHDLBA4YAB70205, 1FDXN80EXWVA13517 and 1FDXN80E8WVA13743.

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez **Seconded by:** Mr. Hess
Yea: 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

C. CONTRACT FOR THE POSITION OF EDITOR OF THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Motion: Per Article VI, Section 618 (b) of the Town Charter to approve a negotiated contract for the editors of the University Park Newsletter.

Moved by: Mr. Hess **Seconded by:** Ms. Sorensen
Yea: 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

11. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES: April 16, 2015

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez **Seconded by:** Mr. Hess
Yea: 4 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 1 (Sorensen)

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 4, 2015

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez **Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson
Yea: 4 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 1 (Sorensen)

13. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Swearing in ceremony for Council members-elect will take place on June 15.
- A Council photo will be taken at the June 1 Council meeting.
- The next Route 1 University Communities Coalition meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- The Ethics Commission has been working with the town attorney. Ethics documents as well as minutes and agendas can be found on the town website.

B. COUNCIL REPORTS

Development Overview Committee - Mr. Roy Alvarez

The Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at town hall.

Tree Committee - Mr. Roy Alvarez

University Park bandanas are available for those who participate in five scheduled activities with the Tree Committee. Information can be found on the town website.

14. ADJOURNMENT by consent at 9:45 p.m.