



**Monday, March 18, 2019
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING NO. 12-19
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

Approved: *Bridget Donnell Newton*
Attest: *Sara Ferrell Taylor*
Approved Meeting No. 31-19;
September 9, 2019

THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESIDING

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Bridget Donnell Newton	Mayor	Present
Beryl L. Feinberg	Councilmember	Present
Virginia D. Onley	Councilmember	Present
Mark Pierzchala	Councilmember	Present

1. Convene

The Mayor and Council convened in Worksession on Monday, March 18, 2019, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland,

Staff Present: City Manager Rob DiSpirito, City Attorney Debra Daniel, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Ferrell Taylor

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Work Session - Topic 1

A. Fiscal Year 2020 Mayor and Council Budget Worksession

City Manager Rob DiSpirito gave a brief presentation on the FY2020 budget. Deputy Finance Director and Budget Manager Stacey Webster provided a walk-through of the proposed FY2020 budget ~~which focuses for~~ on the Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY2020. All department directors and their staff were present during the worksession to provide answers to any questions from the Mayor and Council.

An overall summary of the proposed FY2020 budget is as follows for the Mayor and Council's discussion and direction:

- **Mayor and Council** – increase of 29% mainly due to election costs along with ~~help~~ a grant to support the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department with the replacement of ~~their~~ its aerial truck.
- **City Attorney** – increase of 16% primarily due to the addition of a Senior Assistant City Attorney position
- **City Manager** – increase of 9% with a revenue decrease of 7% to include the following significant changes: \$40,000 for REDI's Small Business Impact Fund; \$50,000 for grant to Aronson, LLC; \$251,160 for space renovation/equipment related to the new cable TV studio
- **Finance** – increase of 2% with no significant changes
- **Human Resources** – decrease of 4% with a decrease in revenue of 18% with no significant changes
- **Information Technology** – increase of 3% with the following significant changes:: Added Senior ERP Systems Analyst position; Creation of a new IT Security Division
- **Planning and Development Services** – increase of 6% and an increase in revenue of 38%. The significant changes include: Code Enforcement and Community Enhancement (CECE) expenditures, revenues and 9 staff positions transferred from the Police Department; Added Principal Planner position; Added Planning and Development Services Manager; Added Principal Planner; Added Plans Examiner
- **Police** – decrease of 6% and a decrease in revenue of 20% with the following significant changes: Transfer of CECE into Planning and Development Services; Added Emergency Manager to the Office of the Chief; Added Police Lieutenant to the Field Services Bureau; Added Parking Enforcement Officer
- **Public Works** – no change in expenses with an increase of 67% in revenue. The significant changes include: Added Senior Construction Inspector ; Added Sanitation Worker; Added part time Senior Environmental Compliance Inspector; \$36,000 for GIS orthophotography (split between 4 funds); \$34,790 for an increase in street sweeping contract

SEE NOTE ON HARD COPY

- **Recreation and Parks** – increase of 1% with an increase of 5% in revenue. The significant changes include: \$258,600 for maintenance of 6 Taft Court and Redgate; \$76,810 for minimum wage ~~floor~~ increases; \$47,000 for additional tree maintenance; \$20,410 for Twilight Run Festival; Added Assistant City Forester; Added Forestry Inspector; Added R&P Parks Program Specialist (Arts); Added part time Groundskeeper; Added Construction Project Manager; Added 0.3 R&P Program Specialist (Teens); Added Childcare/Preschool Director and Teacher

Questions ~~of clarification~~ from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff and the Mayor and Council provided their thoughts, comments and suggestions.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AGT 9:21 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION RECONVENED AT 9:32 P.M.

The Capital Improvements Program includes the following for the Mayor and Council's discussion and **direction: SEE NOTE ON HARD COPY**

- **Recreation and Parks** - covers 13 programs with the following significant changes: Dogwood Park Renovation; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre ADA Improvements; Outdoor Recreation Pool Renovations; and Senior Center ADA Improvements.
- **Transportation** – covers 14 projects with the following significant changes: Bridge Rehabilitation; Concrete Repairs; Pedestrian Bridge at the WMATA Station; Sidewalks on W. Gude Drive; Stonestreet Corridor Improvements; West End Park Noise Barrier.
- **Stormwater Management** – covers 6 projects with the following significant changes: Storm Drain Rehabilitation; Stream Restoration-spot repairs; Stream Restoration-Watts Branch
- **Utilities** – covers 10 projects with the following significant changes: Blue Plains funding increase; Water Main Rehab funding added; WTP and Distribution System Assessment; WTP Electrical, Roof and HVAC Upgrades.
- **General Government** – covers 7 projects with the following significant changes: Electronic Plan Submission and review Software; Enterprise Resource Planning System; I-Net Security Enhancement; Maintenance and Emergency Operations Facility Improvements.

Questions ~~of clarification~~ from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff and the Mayor and Council's thoughts, concerns and suggestions were provided.

4. Work Session - Topic 2

A. Discussion on Possible Advisory Referenda

A discussion on the possibility of having advisory referendum on the ballot for the 2019 election was the focus of the Worksession Topic 2. For this to occur, the Mayor and Council would need to adopt a resolution setting forth the exact wording of the questions to be placed on the ballot this November and provide instruction to staff on what questions to bring forward in this resolution.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton put before the Council the question of having a Charter Review Commission. Councilmember Virginia D. Onley stated she did not **believe** the need for a Charter Review Commission but was concerned about **the need to increase** the number of Councilmembers from four to six due to the size of the City and its growth.

Councilmember Mark Pierzchala is not in favor of a Charter Review Commission at this time but does agree with Councilmember Virginia D. Onley on **the need to** increase the number of councilmembers from four to six.

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg stated that due to the vote by mail system in place this election year, she would not like to see an abundance of referendum questions on the ballot and that the City needs to gain some experience from this new voting process. **She opined in favor of convening a Charter Review Commission to holistically review multiple charter revisions.**

The Mayor and Council did not come to any consensus.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
SECONDER:	Councilmember Virginia D. Onley
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Virginia D. Onley, Councilmember Mark Pierzchala