

**CITY OF WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

QUORUM:

A meeting of The Mayor and Common Council was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1838 Emerald Hill Lane, Westminster, Maryland on the evening of November 9, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Utz; Council President Halstad; Council Members Pecoraro, Albert, and Wack; City Administrator and Acting City Clerk Wolf; Director of Public Works Glass, Chief of Police Spaulding, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development Review Beyard, Director of Recreation and Parks Schroers, and Acting City Treasurer Ehlers; and City Attorney Walsh were present. Council member Chiavacci was scheduled to arrive late.

Mayor Utz introduced representatives from Carroll Hospice and Carroll Home Care. He observed that the community has great fortune in the number and quality of health care services it has available. Mayor Utz read a Proclamation making November 2009 National Home Care and Hospice Month in Westminster.

Mayor Utz then read a Proclamation declaring November Municipal Government Works Month in the City of Westminster.

MINUTES:

Upon Motion of Mr. Pecoraro, seconded by Dr. Wack and unanimously passed, the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2009 were approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mrs. Albert moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which consisted of the approval for purchase of a replacement vehicle from Heritage Honda for the Police department. Dr. Wack seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None as of November 6, 2009

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Wolf asked for the approval of a license agreement for the Wheeler building. She stated that the Wheeler building, located at an entrance to the City, is currently empty on the first and second floors. The City has asked the County for permission to advertise upcoming events and activities on the windows and a sign in the front of the building. Mr. Pecoraro moved to authorize approval of the license agreement with

Carroll County and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Dr. Wack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wolf also asked for the approval of the Hold Harmless Indemnification/Lease Agreement that was negotiated with the Development Corporation of America, LLC. This lease agreement would allow the City to lease 6,000 square feet of space for \$10.00 to store the electric floats for the Holiday Parade for the month of November. The documents were reviewed by the City Attorney and executed on November 6th so that the space would be available as soon as possible. Dr. Wack motioned to approve the Hold Harmless Indemnification/Lease Agreement. Mr. Pecoraro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Albert motioned pursuant to Section-5088 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to conduct a closed meeting at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Dr. Wack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Glass reported that the City held another E-Cycling event on November 7th at the Street Department on Railroad Avenue that was funded through a \$25,000 grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Fifteen pallets of electronics were collected and resulted in approximately \$1,300 in disposal costs. There should be enough left in the grant to allow for an additional event in December. Mr. Glass also reported on the success of the demolition of 57/59 Union Street that had occurred in the morning on November 9th, so that Episcopal can start scheduled redevelopment work.

Mr. Schroers reported on that on Saturday, October 31st, Carroll Hospice held a 5K Fun Run on the City's Wakefield Valley Community Trail to raise funds for Karen Feroli, Executive Director at Carroll Hospice. Mrs. Feroli has been battling Leukemia and recently relapsed. Mr. Schroers thanked Mayor Utz and Dr. Wack for their participation and support at the event. Mr. Schroers also reported that on October 31st, the Family Center held its 3rd annual Bench Press Competition where there were over fifty competitors. The event raised \$1,000 to be evenly distributed between the Family Center and Access Carroll. Mr. Schroers thanked the staff for their donated time. Finally, Mr. Schroers announced that the City was awarded \$50,000 from the State for a Community Parks Playground Grant that was applied for in March. The money from this grant will be used to continue to make ADA improvements to the City's parks.

Mr. Ehlers reported that Karen Gondin of Rager, Lehman and Houck will be leaving the firm and Harriet Gillan will be the partner taking over the City of Westminster account. Mr. Ehlers also informed the Council that the Single Audit field work would be finished this week and the Financial Audit would continue starting on November 16th.

Chief Spaulding reported on the kick-off of the Shop With a Cop program on November 5th at the Westminster Wal-Mart where the Angel Tree was placed. The main event will

be held on Saturday, December 12th at Wal-Mart, followed by a party at the Westminster Senior Center. Chief Spaulding also reported the success of the October 30th community meeting with residents of the West Green Street and Westmoreland area. Finally, Chief Spaulding reported that the three suspects in the burglary on Fitzhugh Avenue were apprehended and all stolen items are to be recovered.

Mr. Beyard announced the first meeting of the Arts and Culture Task Force will be held on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 P.M. at the Arts Council. Mr. Beyard summarized that the City is working to update the current Code that is based on 1999 standards to move to 2009 standards and creating a common inspection code (Chapter 119 – Property Maintenance). The goal is to have the new standard in place by July 1st.

Ms. Wolf reported on the success of the annual Employee Expo where twenty vendors and over one hundred employees attended. The vendors complimented the well-organized event. Ms. Wolf recognized Darlene Childs, Brenda Anders, and Beth Fahey for their hard work planning the event.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Lori Graham, of 118 Pennsylvania Avenue, updated the Council on the status of the Electric Parade. They have 51 confirmed floats for the parade. Ms. Graham thanked the Council for the needed storage space.

ADJOURN:

Council President Halstad adjourned the meeting at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Fahey