

MINUTES

CITY OF WESTMINSTER Mayor and Common Council Meeting Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Elected Officials Present: Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Mayor Dominick, Councilmember Gilbert, President Pecoraro, and Councilmember Yingling.

Staff Present: Director of Human Resources Childs, Manager of Technology Services Davidson, Director of Community Planning and Development Depo, Director of Public Works Glass, Director of Recreation and Parks Gruber, Police Chief Ledwell, City Attorney Levan, City Administrator Matthews, Director of Housing Services Valenzisi, and City Clerk Visocsky.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Pecoraro requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Common Council Meeting of February 10, 2020.

Councilmember Chiavacci moved, seconded by Councilmember Dayhoff, to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 920

Mayor Dominick conducted a public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 920, amending the Code of the City of Westminster, to Add Section 106-22, "Vaping Prohibited", to Chapter 106, "Peace and Good Order", Article V, "Miscellaneous Offenses", to Prohibit Smoking of Tobacco and Marijuana in Places of Public Accommodation, Except for Vape Shops, Licensed Cannabis Dispensaries and Other Similar Businesses Lawfully Established for the Primary Purpose of Allowing Individuals to Smoke or Vape or to Sample Smoking or Vaping Products.

Ms. Levan stated that staff drafted an ordinance prohibiting vaping in places of public accommodation as requested by the Mayor and Common Council. Ordinance No. 920 would permit vaping in vape shops and other shops where the use is lawful and vaping is the primary intended purpose of the use.

Ms. Levan stated that, since the Common Council introduced Ordinance No. 920 on January 13, 2020, staff made a minor adjustment to the ordinance, adding the word "smoking" in subsection (B)(1). She noted that Chief Ledwell pointed out that existing State smoking regulations banning smoking in certain places are not "self-executing" for local law enforcement purposes; this alteration is intended to address that omission.

Ms. Levan recommended that the Common Council amend proposed Ordinance No. 920 to add the word "smoking" in subsection (B)(1). Following amendment of the ordinance, she recommended that the Common Council vote to adopt Ordinance No. 920.

Mayor Dominick read an e-mail from community member Doug Weatherholtz, who was unable to attend the public hearing. Mr. Weatherholtz shared his concern that this ordinance would prevent his use of

medically-prescribed cannabidiol (CBD), which he believed would violate the Americans with Disabilities Act. Councilmember Chiavacci and Councilmember Gilbert asked Ms. Levan if the proposed ordinance would prevent Mr. Weatherholtz from vaping his prescribed CBD and if he was legally able to consume it in public. Ms. Levan replied that she believes that medically-prescribed CBD is to be consumed only in the individual's residence; even if that were not the case, the ordinance would not prevent Mr. Weatherholtz from finding a location other than a place of public accommodation to vape his prescribed CBD. Mayor Dominick pointed out that vaping of CBD is particularly concerning because its use impacts others, especially children.

Councilmember Gilbert then read an e-mail she received from community members Linda and Tim Hyland, who also were unable to attend the public hearing. Mr. and Mrs. Hyland shared their support for the proposed ordinance.

With no further discussion, Mayor Dominick closed the public hearing at 7:09 pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Pecoraro requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar that consisted of the approval of the January 2020 Departmental Operating Reports.

Councilmember Dayhoff moved, seconded by Councilmember Gilbert, to approve the Consent Calendar.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Dominick reported that much of what he has been working on would likely be covered under Reports from Standing Committees. He noted that the Economic and Community Development Committee recently discussed the redevelopment of the former Stocksdale Property and downtown parking.

Mayor Dominick then reported that he recently met with a professor from McDaniel College, who organized an exhibit at the College called Icons of Animation. Due to the size of the exhibit, it would be split between the College and the Carroll Arts Center; the exhibit would take place in January and February of 2021. Icons of Animation will feature a collection of the original sketches used in animated films, including Bambi. Mayor Dominick stated that the City has been asked to help promote the event, which would likely attract a significant number of visitors. Councilmember Chiavacci commented that the exhibition would be a great draw for families to come to Westminster during the winter months, at a time when there were very few events held downtown.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no reports from the following Standing Committees: Public Safety, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks.

Councilmember Dayhoff, on behalf of the Arts Council, echoed Mayor Dominick's comments about the benefits of the Icons of Animation exhibition. He then reported that the 17th Annual Foreign Film Festival was continuing at the Carroll County Arts Center through the end of February.

Councilmember Dayhoff reminded everyone that the PEEPshow would be held April 4 –13, 2020. He encouraged everyone to check out Carroll Arts Center's website for information on upcoming events.

Councilmember Yingling, on behalf of the Economic and Community Development Committee, reported that the Committee held a kickoff meeting with Partners for Economic Solutions (PES), the consulting firm retained by the City to assist it with the redevelopment of the former Stocksdale Property, on February 21, 2020. The focus of the kick off meeting was to define the City's vision for the property. Councilmember Yingling advised PES of the City's desire to be open to all redevelopment possibilities. He advised his colleagues that one of the options discussed at the meeting was building a hotel on the site, so that visitors could stay in Westminster rather than in Owings Mills or Baltimore.

President Pecoraro stated that he felt that the Economic and Community Development Committee had a productive discussion with PES. He added that the City had picked the right firm in selecting PES.

President Pecoraro, on behalf of Finance Committee, reported that development of the FY 2021 budget was underway. The proposed budget would be before the Mayor and Common Council in the near future.

Councilmember Gilbert, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 13, 2020. At the meeting, the Committee discussed the current holidays observed by the City. Ms. Matthews provided the Committee with information on the practices of other local governments, most of which observed some portion or all of Christmas Eve. Ms. Matthews recommended to the Committee that the Mayor and Common Council consider closing City offices at 12:30 pm Christmas Eve, which would increase the number of observed City holidays by one-half of a day.

Councilmember Gilbert stated that, after review of the survey information, the Committee noted that no other jurisdictions observe Easter Monday as a holiday. The Committee recommended that, beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, eligible employees receive a floating holiday in lieu of Easter Monday, which is currently an observed City holiday. She noted that Easter Monday would continue to be observed during Fiscal Year 2020.

On behalf of the Committee, Councilmember Gilbert requested approval from the Common Council to increase the number of City-observed holidays by adding a half day on Christmas Eve, as well as provide a floating holiday in lieu of Easter Monday.

Councilmember Yingling moved, seconded by Councilmember Chiavacci, to approve a half day holiday on Christmas Eve and provide a floating holiday in lieu of Easter Monday, for eligible employees.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilmember Chiavacci expressed his appreciation to Councilmember Yingling for his work on acquiring the former Stocksdale Property for redevelopment. He added that a boutique hotel would be a wonderful addition to downtown Westminster.

Councilmember Dayhoff stated that Mr. Glass had informed him that the current parking meters were replaced in the early 2000s, and can no longer be supported due to their age. He shared with his colleagues that, during his recent travels, he visited cities who had sophisticated parking meter technology in place. Councilmember Dayhoff recommended to his colleagues that this matter be addressed by the Economic and Community Development Committee.

Mayor Dominick informed his colleagues that he had the opportunity to view different parking meter technologies at the Maryland Municipal League Conference. As a local government that embraced technology, Westminster should use technologically-advanced parking meters. Mayor Dominick added

that some jurisdictions use License Plate Readers for parking enforcement, which the City should explore.

President Pecoraro shared that the Economic and Community Development Committee agreed to look into new parking meters. He thanked Councilmember Dayhoff for bringing forward the discussion and asked Ms. Matthews to begin gathering information for new, up to date meters.

Councilmember Dayhoff informed his colleagues that during his trip, he met police officers who shared that having the parking meters provided many benefits in public safety.

Councilmember Yingling asked if this item would fall under the purview of the Public Works Committee or Public Safety Committee. President Pecoraro suggested that this be determined after Ms. Matthews gathered more information.

Mayor Dominick asked for clarification on how the current parking meters were maintained. Staff confirmed that the Public Works Department emptied each meter and collected the change, while the Police Department enforced the expired meters.

Councilmember Dayhoff then inquired about replacement of street lights with LED lighting. Mayor Dominick replied that he had discussed this matter with BGE, and the changeover was taking place incrementally. Mr. Glass clarified that the City was responsible for the pedestrian lights, while BGE was responsible for overhead lighting. He noted that the pedestrian lighting was already LED.

Councilmember Dayhoff thanked Street, Housing Services, and Police staff for their work to resolve some difficult customer service issues. He commented that staff went above and beyond to address the matters, and that he was very appreciative of their efforts.

BIDS

Spatial Systems Associates, Inc.

Mr. Davidson, on behalf of Director of Finance and Administrative Services Palmer, informed the Mayor and Common Council that Spatial Systems Associates, Inc. completed a Phase I report as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 effort to acquire completely attributed GIS layers for the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Davidson informed the Mayor and Common Council that, as a result of the Phase I report, the following Phase II implementation strategy is considered the most effective and efficient method of completing the Water and Sewer Fund layers. As part of Phase II, Spatial Systems Associates, Inc. would perform the following tasks:

1. Geocode meter inventory;
2. Vectorize water, sewer, stormwater, and easements;
3. Identify additional source materials;
4. Integrate sewer video inspection data;
5. Web deployment; and,
6. Investigate other deployments.

Mr. Davidson shared that completion of Phase II would include establishing a base station for accuracy, completely attributed layers for water and sewer, and a web-based application where all drawings and source materials would be available by simply clicking on a map.

Future Phase III work would include field testing for minute accuracy; the addition of plant buildings, well houses, and pump stations; integration with existing software like Eden, Paver, Mobile 311, and the sewer camera system; and, additional layers for general government use.

Mr. Davidson stated that the Water and Sewer Fund budgets have the appropriations necessary for this contract. Spatial Systems Associates, Inc. had completed work for the State of Maryland, multiple Maryland counties, and multiple Maryland municipalities. These prices were acquired through a competitive bid process completed by State of Maryland.

Mr. Davidson recommended that the Common Council approve a contract with Spatial Systems Associates, Inc. for the Phase II work as outlined above, and authorize the Mayor's execution of the same. He noted the cost of Phase II would be in the amount of \$444,200.

Councilmember Dayhoff stated that he was pleased that this work was proceeding. He asked Mr. Davidson the amount of drawings from the basement of City Hall that had been scanned into the City's system. Mr. Davidson replied that approximately 729 drawings were located and scanned. Councilmember Dayhoff questioned the procedure in shredding the drawings that were scanned. Ms. Visocsky informed the Mayor and Common Council that the City complies with the State retention schedule. She stated that she would pull the schedule and provide this information to Mr. Davidson and his staff.

Councilmember Chiavacci moved, seconded by Councilmember Yingling, to approve the contract with Spatial Systems Associates, Inc. for Phase II work and authorize the Mayor to execute the same.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 920

President Pecoraro requested a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 920, amending the Code of the City of Westminster, to Add Section 106-22, "Vaping Prohibited", to Chapter 106, "Peace and Good Order", Article V, "Miscellaneous Offenses", to Prohibit Smoking of Tobacco and Marijuana in Places of Public Accommodation, Except for Vape Shops, Licensed Cannabis Dispensaries and Other Similar Businesses Lawfully Established for the Primary Purpose of Allowing Individuals to Smoke or Vape or to Sample Smoking or Vaping Products as discussed during the public hearing.

Ms. Levan reminded the Mayor and Common Council that, prior to adoption, the ordinance needed to be amended to add the word "smoking" in subsection (B)(1). Following amendment of the ordinance, she recommended that the Common Council vote to adopt Ordinance No. 920.

Councilmember Gilbert moved, seconded by Councilmember Dayhoff, to amend Ordinance No. 920, to add the word "smoking" in subsection (B)(1).

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

Councilmember Chiavacci moved, seconded by Councilmember Gilbert, to adopt Ordinance No. 920 as amended.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

President Pecoraro noted that Westminster was the first city in Maryland to take such an action, and he was proud that the City had taken this step.

Emergency Ordinance No. 921

Mr. Glass stated that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently under a \$77 million renovation for an Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) process to meet stricter environmental "limit of technology" standards in accordance with Maryland regulations. He informed the Mayor and Common Council that part of the renovation necessitates improvements to the existing electrical service, as the demand will increase along with additional service locations; this is a change from the current single feed system.

Mr. Glass explained that Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), the City's electrical power supplier, was willing to install, reconstruct, operate, and maintain the required electrical infrastructure to service the renovated treatment plant. BGE requires a right-of-way across the property, as described in Exhibit A, of the meeting agenda packet.

Mr. Glass noted that the right-of-way agreement and alignment of the layout is currently in draft form, awaiting final approval by BGE's design team, which was expected soon. This process is inherently slow, as it required many moving parts between the City, BGE, and the contractor to come together. This ordinance was structured to minimize the inherent delays by authorizing approval signatures at such time as the final documents are available.

Mr. Glass explained that proposed Ordinance No. 921 was drafted as an emergency ordinance, which would take effect immediately upon its passage and approval to facilitate the expeditious performance of the work contemplated by the easement and the prompt performance of the City's renovations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Glass recommended that the Mayor and Common Council adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 921, authorizing the Conveyance of a Right-of-Way to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company for the Purpose of Installing, Reconstructing, Operating, and Maintaining Certain Electricity Transmission Facilities to Provide Power to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, Across City Property Situated on the North Side of New Windsor Road (Route 31), West Side of New Windsor Pike. He further recommended that the Common Council authorize the Mayor's execution of the associated Right-of-Way Agreement to allow BGE to install, reconstruct, operate, and maintain certain electrical infrastructure.

Councilmember Chiavacci questioned Mr. Glass about the \$77 million cost for the ENR project. Mr. Glass stated that this figure included pre-construction costs, and that he would provide an update on the ENR project during his departmental report later in the meeting.

Councilmember Dayhoff moved, seconded by Councilmember Gilbert, to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 921 and to authorize the Mayor to execute the associated Right-of-Way Agreement as presented.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

Resolution No. 20-01

Ms. Childs informed the Mayor and Common Council that Resolution No. 20-01 would change the minimum hours worked per week for Flexible Spending Account (FSA) plan eligibility requirements from 20 hours to 25 hours for part-time employees and to 35 hours for full-time employees. She stated that the updated Cafeteria Benefit Plan document, Benefit Plan Description and Adoption Agreement, and Summary of the City of Westminster Cafeteria Benefit Plan reflected the change in the minimum hours for eligibility.

Ms. Childs noted that the documents were included in the meeting agenda packet.

Ms. Childs explained that this modification to the FSA Plan follows the Mayor and Common Council's January 27, 2020 approval of the change to the part-time employee classification from a minimum of 20 hours worked per week to a minimum of 25 hours worked per week. She recommended that the Common Council adopt Resolution No. 20-01, approving and adopting Plan documents for the City's Cafeteria Benefits Plan, including its FSA Plan.

Councilmember Gilbert thanked Ms. Childs for her work on this matter, and for following up so quickly following the Personnel Committee meeting where this matter was first discussed and later approved by the Mayor and Common Council on January 27, 2020.

Councilmember Gilbert moved, seconded by Councilmember Chiavacci, to approve Resolution No. 20-01 – Approving and Adopting Plan Documents for the City's Cafeteria Benefits Plan, Including Its Flexible Spending Account.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Pecoraro requested a motion to go into a Closed Meeting, following the Regular Meeting to discuss the following:

- To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom the public body has jurisdiction; or, any other personnel matter affects one or more specific individuals; and,
- To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and, (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

Councilmember Chiavacci moved, seconded by Councilmember Yingling, to go into a Closed Meeting, following the Regular Meeting.

VOTE

AYES: President Pecoraro, Councilmember Chiavacci, Councilmember Dayhoff, Councilmember Gilbert, and Councilmember Yingling.

NAYS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

City Administrator

Ms. Matthews followed up on Councilmember Yingling's report regarding the Economic and Community Development Committee's meeting with Partners for Economic Solutions (PES). She informed the Mayor and Common Council that Maser Consulting, a sub-consultant to PES, had established a FTP site for staff to upload relevant documents, including the property survey, environmental reports, and zoning-related information.

Ms. Matthews then reported that Katz and Associates, the communications firm assisting the City with the public information/education component of the water re-use initiative, would provide the City with a summary report of the stakeholder interviews conducted by the firm in January and February 2020; that report should be received in the next 30 days.

Westminster Police Department

Chief Ledwell reported that Westminster Police Department officers participated in a relay challenge with the Boys and Girls Club. He then reported that the new 12-hour patrol schedule would go into effect on March 3, 2020. In conjunction with implementation of the new schedule, Sergeant Blackwell would assume his new position of Lieutenant; prior to his promotion, Sgt. Blackwell was the downtown outreach sergeant. Pfc. Eckard would be transferred to the Downtown Outreach Unit.

Chief Ledwell reminded the Mayor and Common Council that Cheryl Pickett, Communication Specialist II, would retire as of March 1, 2020, after serving the Westminster Police Department for 30 years. He then reported that the department hired a new lateral police officer, who had ten years of experience with the City of Baltimore; the new officer was scheduled to begin his employment with the City on March 10, 2020.

Chief Ledwell stated that the department's effective partnership with the Carroll County Sheriff's Department continues to yield positive results relative to crimes related to drug distribution.

Chief Ledwell informed the Mayor and Common Council that he is on the planning committee for the Annual Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards event, which will be held on May 11, 2020. In addition, the Health Department's First Responder Appreciation Dinner was scheduled for May 18, 2020.

Mayor Dominick shared that Officer DeAngelis and his K-9 partner Uri continue to be a big hit in Downtown Westminster. He shared that his son recently attended a field trip at the Lowe's in Westminster at which Officer DeAngelis and Uri greeted his son's class.

Human Resources Department

Ms. Childs reported that she and Safety and Risk Coordinator Brian DeMay received an e-mail from Chesapeake Employers, the City's worker's compensation insurance carrier. The City attained the highest rating of 100% for reporting claims within one to three days for the period that began July 1, 2019. She thanked all of the departments for being timely and efficient in submitting their claims.

Housing Services Department

Ms. Valenzisi reported that the Section 8 Housing Baltimore Field office had a new representative. Her department continues to work on revisions to the administrative plan for the Housing Choice Voucher program. Ms. Valenzisi then informed the Mayor and Common Council that she was working with CitizenServe to resolve minor issues with the rental housing license program.

Public Works Department

Mr. Glass informed the Mayor and Common Council that Emergency Ordinance No. 921, adopted earlier in the meeting, was due to a change by BGE regarding the electrical service for the ENR Project. As a result of BGE's change, HRI (the contractor for the ENR Project) proposed a change order in the amount of \$160,000 to perform work associated with the BGE change. Mr. Glass stated that he and Deputy Public Works Director Dick were able to engineer an alternative construction method, which reduced the cost to approximately \$80,000 to \$90,000. The current contract has an allowance of \$50,000 for the contractor to absorb the cost from BGE; due to the new alignment identified by staff, the actual cost would be \$64,000 or less. HRI asked the City for the difference between the contractual allowance and the cost of the work. Mr. Glass informed the Mayor and Common Council that the State is willing to participate according to the 53% cost share arrangement; this unanticipated cost would increase the City's overall cost for the ENR Project.

Furthermore, Mr. Glass informed the Mayor and Common Council that the Maryland Department of Environment would only allow the contractor to work in the stream at certain times. To meet schedule requirements and avoid contractor delays, Mr. Glass asked the Mayor and Common Council for their consent to have the contractor move forward with this work, until a formal change order could be submitted to them for their approval. Mr. Glass advised the Mayor and Common Council that he would bring the change order forward at their next regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2020. The Mayor and Common Council unanimously authorized Mr. Glass to direct the contractor to move forward.

Mr. Glass then updated the Mayor and Common Council on programming and equipment integration for the ENR Project. He informed the Mayor and Common Council that GHD had submitted Amendment No. 12 in the amount of \$475,000 to perform this work, which entailed programming and integration of all new and existing equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requested that the City receive an alternative price proposal for this work. The City subsequently requested pricing from HRI, and received a quote in the amount of \$674,000. Mr. Glass informed the Mayor and Common Council that MDE would not participate financially in the programming and integration work if GHD performed the work, due to a prescribed cap on architectural and engineering services. MDE would participate financially if HRI performed this work. Mr. Glass stated that HRI had given the City a deadline of March 20, 2020 to make a decision regarding the change order to avoid a delay in the schedule. He planned to bring the change order before the Mayor and Common Council prior to this date.

Recreation & Parks Department

Ms. Gruber reported that the flash sale of both general and VIP tickets for the Wine Stroll and BBQ Stroll was a success. She reminded everyone that the Wine Stroll would be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

Ms. Gruber also reported that approximately 700 runners had pre-registered for the Celtic Canter.

Community Planning and Development Department

Mr. Depo reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the site plan for the Conifer Westminster Way Apartments. The Board of Zoning Appeals was scheduled to meet on March 3, 2020, but was cancelled as there were no agenda items. The Historic District Commission would review applications for Historic Rehabilitation Property Tax Credits at its next meeting on March 4, 2020.

Mr. Depo then updated the Mayor and Common Council on the proposed annexation of the Ellsworth Cemetery, located on Leidy Road. He noted that Westminster resident Tom Gordon made this request during Citizen Comments at the Mayor and Common Council meeting on February 10, 2020. Mr. Depo informed the Mayor and Common Council that the Cemetery was located in the County, and the property was zoned R-10,000. The property is contiguous to the City limits, and could therefore be eligible for annexation. Mr. Depo informed the Mayor and Common Council that an annexation petition could be initiated by the City, or the City could initiate annexation with the consent of the property owner. If the property is annexed into the City, staff recommends that the property be zoned C Conservation.

The Mayor and Common Council expressed their support for annexation of the Ellsworth Cemetery property. Councilmember Chiavacci noted that there are groups in the community who are always looking for projects to benefit the community, and could likely provide assistance in maintaining the Cemetery property.

Mr. Depo concluded his report by informing the Mayor and Common Council that the Clark Farm Property developer scheduled a public outreach meeting on February 26, 2020 to address the concerns of community members. He and his staff will be in attendance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Nallo, 382 Buckingham Way, thanked the Mayor and Common Council for their approval of Ordinance No. 920 that would prohibit vaping in places of public accommodation.

Kevin Wagman, 153 East Green Street, suggested the City consider free parking in Downtown Westminster, limiting the time a vehicle could be parked in a single spot rather than replacing the existing parking meters. Mayor Dominick shared that they had tried this approach in the small town in Baltimore County where he grew up, but they ultimately re-installed parking meters. He stated that parking meters ensure that businesses have available parking.

Sherry Lyles, owner of Allure Hair Salon at 163 West Main Street, shared her frustration and concerns as a business owner regarding parking. She stated that her salon is located in a residential area near McDaniel College where there are no parking meters. Residents rarely move their cars, making it difficult for her customers to find parking near her salon. Ms. Lyles encouraged the City to find a parking solution that would benefit businesses and City residents.

Donna Robinson, 33 Cypress Point Court, shared her concerns regarding the possibility of a hotel being built in Downtown Westminster, citing the parking impact. Councilmember Yingling assured her that parking requirements would be taken into account in the consideration of any such development.

Ms. Robinson then inquired who her son could contact regarding speeding on his street, Sunshine Way. The Mayor and Common Council advised that this street was not within the City limits, recommending that he contact the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Robinson shared that she lived near Mulligan Lane where speeding was an issue as well. Chief Ledwell replied that the Police Department was conducting traffic enforcement in the area due to concerns raised at a prior Mayor and Common Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Pecoraro adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Visocky, City Clerk

Full audio version is available on www.westminstermd.gov