



**Monday, January 11, 2021  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MEETING NO. 02-21  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

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**THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESIDING**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Bridget Donnell Newton	Mayor	Present
Monique Ashton	Councilmember	Present
Beryl L. Feinberg	Councilmember	Present
David Myles	Councilmember	Present
Mark Pierzchala	Councilmember	Present

**1. Convene**

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The Mayor and Council convened in a virtual Open Session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021, via Webex.

Staff Present: City Manager Rob DiSpirito, Acting City Attorney Cynthia Walters, and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Agenda Review**

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City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell reported a change to the Agenda.

**4. City Manager's Report**

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City Manager Rob DiSpirito presented information on events and topics: The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration will be held from 12 – 1:30 p.m. January 18. The theme for this year “In Courageous Pursuit of Victory” will be conducted online via Webex. To join live please visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk). The celebration will also be available on the City’s webpage and YouTube channel in the days following the event. This year’s ceremony will include presentation of the Martin Luther King Youth Award. This award is given to a student from a Rockville High School who has worked to fulfill Dr. King’s dream. Also, the F. Michael Taft Award will be presented to an individual or organization who has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

For a list of volunteer opportunities within the City please visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

The City was awarded a conservation grant from the Maryland State Arts Council in the amount of \$32,930. The grant will cover conservation and maintenance work on two City of Rockville sculptures: "UNTITLED" located at the front of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater and the "Spirit of Rockville" located at Courthouse Square Park. Garden plots are available to rent at the Woottons Mill Park. Please visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/garden](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/garden) or call the Civic Center business office at (240) 314-8660 for additional information.

Planned COVID-19 public testing will be held this week at locations throughout Rockville.

The City would like to acknowledge Safety Specialist Jamie Kolher for his outstanding leadership with coordination and assisting the City with safety and testing procedures as mandated for COVID-19.

The Rockville dog park at Mattie Stepanek Park voted best dog park by Bethesda magazine.

## **5. COVID-19 Update**

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Emergency Manager Dr. Mark Landahl provided an update of the COVID-19 impact on the City, County, and State.

### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

January 11, 2021. Agenda Item 5.

[http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4280](http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4280)  
video time stamp 19:44

## **6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments**

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### **A. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments**

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The Mayor and Council would like to thank Mr. Don Hadley for volunteering and for all your time and service on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton read the appointment of Sam Pearson to the Planning Commission to serve a five year term until January 11, 2025.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

## 7. Community Forum

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Name	Topic
<b>Speaker by Phone</b> John Becker	Vehicle exhaust noise and thanks to City Staff Events at Capitol Bldg.
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Janet Gallant	Proposed addition of toll lanes to I-270
<b>WRITTEN COMMENT</b> Carol Hannaford	Councilmember Myles letter to the Washington Post

## 8. Mayor and Council's Response to Community Forum

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Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg thanked everyone who participated in Community Forum.

## 9. Consent

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- A. Authorize the City Manager to Award a Rider Contract for Natural Gas Supply for the Term of August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2025.**
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Councilmember Mark Pierzchala moved the approval of Consent item A.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

**B. Approval of Minutes**

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Councilmember Mark Pierzchala moved the approval of minutes for June 1 Meeting No. 17-20, June 8 Meeting No. 18-20, June 22 Closed Session and Regular Meeting No. 19-20, July 6 Closed Session and Regular Meeting No. 21-20, July 13 Closed Session and Regular Meeting No. 22-20, and July 20 Meeting No. 23-20, August 3 Closed Session and Regular Meeting No. 25-20, September 14 Meeting No. 29-20, and September 21 Meeting No. 30-20.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

**C. Approval of Mayor and Council Meeting Dates for 2021 and January 2022**

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Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton requested Item C be removed from the agenda on advice of counsel.

**10. FY 2022 Budget Public Hearing**

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Director of Management and Budget Stacey Webster introduced the 2nd budget public hearing. The remaining two public hearings are scheduled for March and April. The Finance Department received 291 responses from the public to the budget survey.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:50 p.m. The following individuals presented testimony:

Name
<b>Speaker by Phone</b> John Becker
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Lyman Goon, Vice President of the Board
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Douglas Kruse

<b>Speaker by Phone</b> Alexandra Dace DeNito President Lincoln Park Civic Association
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Wongee Jang
<b>Speaker by Phone</b> Nancy Breen, Chair Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee

The complete testimony of this evening’s speakers can be found in the official Public Hearing records located in the office of the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations. The Public Hearing closed at 8:18 p.m.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

January 11, 2021 Agenda Item 10.  
[http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4253](http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4253) video timestamp 45:10

**11. Second Public Hearing on Short-Term Residential Rentals: Potential Guidance & Regulations**

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Principal Planner Larissa Klevan presented a brief overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing on short term residential rentals in Rockville. Ms. Klevan informed the Mayor and Council of the various platforms used to announce the public hearing to residents.

The Public Hearing opened at 8:19 p.m. The following individuals presented testimony:

Name
<b>Speaker by Phone</b> John Becker
<b>Speaker by Phone</b> Alexandra Dace DeNito Lincoln Park Civic Association
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Aimee Winegar
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Janet Wilson, President Americana Centre Board of Directors

<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Tara Dutka, Twinbrook
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Lindsey Bucci
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Harriet Altschuler
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Jonathan Goldsmith
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Penny Bustin
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Michael and Wendy Sparks
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Michael Orenak
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Joan Garg
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Vanessa Strunk
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Mary Lee and John Hancock
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Scott Cole
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Deborah Landau East Rockville Civic Association
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Rosemary Cassidy
<b>WRITTEN COMMENTS</b> Kelly Groff
Shani Zebooker

The complete testimony of this evening's speakers can be found in the official Public Hearing records located in the office of the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations. The Public Hearing closed at 8:45 p.m.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

January 11, 2021 Agenda Item 11.

[http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4253](http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4253) video timestamp 1:14:52

## **12. Vacancy Report/Hiring Freeze Status**

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Director of Human Resources Karen Marshall provided an update on the changes from the previous hiring freeze report of November 2020.

## **13. Discussion of Potential Pension Plan Amendment - Credited Interest**

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Chief Financial Officer Director of Finance Gavin Cohen presented a brief overview of the pension plan. Chair of the Financial Advisory Board Robert Wright was available to answer questions.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council discuss and provide staff with direction on a potential amendment to the City's Pension Plan for Credited Interest.

The Council requested that staff return with more specific options and alternatives for discussion.

### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

January 11, 2021 Agenda Item 13.

[http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4253](http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4253) video timestamp 1:46:06

**THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 9:45 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION RECONVENED AT 9:51 P.M.**

## **14. Discussion on Mayor and Council Priorities/Retreat**

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The Mayor and Council discussed the possibilities of a retreat to review goals and priorities for Councilmembers to move the City of Rockville forward. Staff will research a facilitator for the retreat and report their findings back to the Mayor and Council.

### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

January 11, 2021 Agenda Item 14.

[http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4253](http://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4253) video timestamp 2:48:46.

## **15. Review and Comment - Mayor and Council Action Report**

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### **A. Action Report**

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Mayor and Council reviewed Action Report.

**16. Review and Comment - Future Agendas**

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**A. Future Agendas**

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Mayor and Council reviewed Future Agendas.

**17. Old/New Business**

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Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to authorize staff to move forward with the Lincoln Park Community Center expansion and to be included as a Bond bill item.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Monique Ashton, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember David Myles moved to authorize staff to draft letter to businesses, including business which offer drivers education, regarding inappropriate use and commercial activities, of the City’s parks.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember David Myles moved to amend the prior motion to include language to include inappropriate use of City’s parking facilities and safety concerns.



	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [4-0-1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala
<b>ABSTAINED:</b>	Councilmember Feinberg

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve the letter to the Montgomery County Council in the support of Equity Hubs beyond January 2021.

	<b>RESULT: UNANIMOUS</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Monique Ashton, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Mark Pierzchala moved on behalf of the Mayor and Council to have Councilmember Ashton work with Assistant to the City Manager Linda Moran on testimony or video for the MCPS regarding funding.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved approval of the letter of condolence to the family of Congressman Jamie Raskin.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to support Representative Palakovich Carr amended language to her bill to direct MDOT to establish a commuter bus route from Shady Grove Metro to Tysons, VA.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Monique Ashton, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Myles, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

## 18. Adjournment

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Monique Ashton, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala