



**Monday, February 6, 2023**  
**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MEETING NO. 04-23**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

Approved *Bridget Donnell Newton*  
Attest: *Sara Taylor-Ferrell*  
Approved Meeting No. 013-23  
April 24, 2023

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**THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESIDING**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
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 hybrid Open Meeting Session at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, and via WebEx.

Staff Present: City Manager Robert DiSpirito, Rockville City Attorney Robert E. Dawson, and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton welcomed Cub Scout Pack #928 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Agenda Review**

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City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell reported no changes to the agenda.

**4. City Manager's Report**

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City Manager Rob DiSpirito presented information on events and topics:

The City of Rockville joins in celebrating Black History Month in February. We encourage community members to take the time to explore Rockville's rich African American heritage. The City's African American Heritage Walking Tour story map was developed by the Department of Community Planning and Development Services. City Manager DiSpirito introduced the new Deputy Director of Community Planning and Development Services, Jenny Sapp.

**5. Proclamation**

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**A. Proclamation Declaring February 2023, as American Heart Month**

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Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg read and moved the proclamation declaring February 2023 as American Heart Month in Rockville, Maryland.

	<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 Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

**6. Boards and Commissions Appointments**

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**A. Appointments and Reappointments**

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Councilmember Mark Pierzchala moved to approve the reappointment to the Ethics Commission of Karyne Akhtar, to serve a three -year term until June 1, 2026, and Janice Frankle, to serve a three-year term until December 1, 2026.

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

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved to approve the appointment to the Financial Advisory Board of Lori Merrill, to serve a three-year term until March 1, 2026.

	<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

Councilmember Mark Pierzchala moved to approve the new appointment to the Human Services Advisory Commission of Camille Pansini Kroll, to serve an unexpired term until July 1, 2024.

**RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:** Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember  
**SECONDER:** David Myles, Councilmember  
**IN FAVOR:** Mayor Newton, Councilmember Ashton, Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve the new appointment to the Traffic and Transportation Commission of Paul Scott to serve a three-year term until February 1, 2026.

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

**7. Community Forum**

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**Community Forum  
 In-Person Speaker and Written Comments List**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
John Becker	Charter Review Recommendations
Pat Casey	Noise and echo off buildings; sound barriers Voting – Council Size
John Adams	Voting; expansion of Council size
David Pollack	Rent stabilization

**Community Forum  
Virtual Speaker and Written Comments List**

NAME	TOPIC
<b>Speaker and Written Comments</b> Judy Rudolph	<b>Agenda Item #10</b> Discussion and Possible Adoption of Resolution to Amend the Charter of the City of Rockville by Amending Section 1 of Article II, "The Mayor and Council," and Section 4 of Article III, "Registration, Nomination, and Election," So as to Increase the Number of Elected Councilmembers from Four to Six.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 7.  
[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)  
Video Timestamp 16:59

**8. Consent**

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- A. Authorization for the City Manager to Sign the Amendment to the MOU for the North Stonestreet Avenue Sidewalk Improvements**
  - B. Award a Rider Contract to JRP Management Resources, Inc., and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract in an Amount Not to Exceed \$289,369**
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Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve consent agenda items A-B.

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

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 8.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 31:10

9. **Public Hearing Charter Review Commission Recommendations to Include Lowering the Voting Age from 18 to 16, Permitting Non-Citizens to Vote in City Elections, Setting Term Limits, Creating Representative Districts, Creating an Administrative Process to Fill a Vacancy on the Council, Changing the Election Year to Coincide with Presidential or Gubernatorial Elections, and Exploring Changing the Voting Method to Ranked-Choice Voting.**
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The Public Hearing opened, and the following speakers testified.

**In-Person Public Hearing Speakers and Written Comments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address Phone Number Email</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Edward Lee, Esq.	1850 M St., NW Washington, DC 20036-5805 <a href="mailto:lee@actuary.org">lee@actuary.org</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Becca Fulton	<a href="mailto:beccafulton@gmail.com">beccafulton@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Sandy Shan	<a href="mailto:sandywqs@gmail.com">sandywqs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Robert D. Kurnick	
<b>Speaker and Written Comments</b> Carol Schlenker	12902 Ardennes Ave. Rockville, MD 20851 <a href="mailto:carol.l.schlenker@gmail.com">carol.l.schlenker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker and Written Comments</b> Mady Nadjé	<a href="mailto:mady@everydaycanvassing.org">mady@everydaycanvassing.org</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Brigitta Mullican	1947 Lewis Ave. Rockville, MD <a href="mailto:coburgbrigitta@gmail.com">coburgbrigitta@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Marissa Valeri	<a href="mailto:Marissa.rockville@gmail.com">Marissa.rockville@gmail.com</a>
<b>Speaker</b> Xavi Valeri-Tipton	<a href="mailto:Marissa.rockville@gmail.com">Marissa.rockville@gmail.com</a>

Name	Address Phone Number Email
<b>Speaker</b> Jake Jakubek	319 Grandin Ave. Rockville, MD jjakubek@gmail.com
<b>Speaker and Written Comments</b> Tom Moore	11 Forest Ave. Rockville, MD 20850 tom@moores.org
<b>Speaker</b> Zola Shaw	Izolat.shaw@gmail.com
<b>Speaker</b> Tim McGee	
<b>Speaker</b> John Becker	Jb.ic@aol.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Russell M. Richards	2288 Glenmore Terrace Rockville, MD 20850 <a href="mailto:Rusty.richards@gmail.com">Rusty.richards@gmail.com</a>
<b>Written Comments</b> Ella Zimmerman	723 Carr Ave. Rockville, MD 20850 <a href="mailto:zimadam@gmail.com">zimadam@gmail.com</a>
<b>Written Comments</b> Kim Sheets	210 Watkins Circle <a href="mailto:sheetskn@icloud.com">sheetskn@icloud.com</a>
<b>Written Comments</b> Melanie Winans	melanielwinans@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Michael Fletcher	Derwood, MD mhfletch@comcast.net
<b>Written Comments</b> Ilsabe Urban	1108 Grand Champion Dr Rockville, MD iurabn@yahoo.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Leslie S. Smith	430 Redland Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850
<b>Written Comments</b> Linda Dixon	<a href="mailto:Linda.dixon@comcast.net">Linda.dixon@comcast.net</a>
<b>Written Comments</b> Vincent Russo	Vdrusso1@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Rev. Jane Wood	<a href="mailto:revjanewood@verison.net">revjanewood@verison.net</a>

Name	Address Phone Number Email
<b>Written Comments</b> Leann Sherman, MSW	30 Upper Rock Circle Rockville, MD 20850 leannsherman@hotmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Jean Mennone	302 Barnside Pl Rockville, MD jeanivme@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Janelle Wong	5410 Duvall Dr. Bethesda, MD 20816 Jw3936@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Joe Gillespie	8 Don Mills Ct Rockville, MD 20850 jgillespie872gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Leslie Loomis	Susan102953@aol.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Rachel Blomquist, <b>Commissioner - HRC</b>	Rnblomquist6@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> Alfonso Duran	5806 Vandegrift Ave. Rockville, MD 20851 Wilmerduran85@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments</b> William Haymond Henry	5806 Vandergrift Ave. Rockville, MD 20850 240-988-9073 Bill.henry3@verizon.net
<b>Written Comments</b> Donna Cawley	910 Grand Champion Dr. Rockville, MD 20850 Mpdrd0@comcast.net
<b>Written Comments</b> Judy Rudolph	701 King Farm Blvd. # 132 Rockville, MD 20850 Judy.rudolph@verizon.net
<b>Written Comments</b> Barry Jackson	<a href="mailto:president@kingfarm.org">president@kingfarm.org</a>

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts, comments, and requests to staff.

The complete testimony of this evening's speakers can be found in the official Public Hearing records in the City Clerk Director of Council Operations offices. There being no further speakers testifying, the Public Hearing closed at 8:58 pm.

**10. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Resolution to Amend the Charter of the City of Rockville by Amending Section 1 of Article II, “The Mayor and Council,” and Section 4 of Article III, “Registration, Nomination, and Election,” So as to Increase the Number of Elected Councilmembers from Four to Six.**

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Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton introduced the Agenda Item.

Mayor and Council discussed the resolution and provided their thoughts and comments.

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to adopt the Resolution to Amend the Charter of the City of Rockville by Amending Section 1 of Article II, “The Mayor and Council,” and Section 4 of Article III, “Registration, Nomination, and Election,” So as to Increase the Number of Elected Councilmembers from Four to Six.

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

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 10.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 2:07:17

**The Mayor and Council went into a brief recess at 9:20 pm. The Mayor and Council reconvened at 9:37 pm.**

**11. Adoption of Resolution to Establish Maximum Rate of Rent Increase, as Required Under Chapter 18 Section 18-194 of the Rockville City Code Entitled “Voluntary Rent Guidelines and Notice Requirements of Rent Increases.”**

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Director of Housing and Community Development, Asmara Habte introduced the resolution to Establish Maximum Rate of Rent Increase, as Required Under Chapter 18 Section 18-194 of the Rockville City Code Entitled “Voluntary Rent Guidelines and Notice Requirements of Rent Increases.”

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council table the discussion until the County acts on the voluntary Rent Guidelines and establishes the percentage of maximum rental increases.



Mayor and Council agreed to table adoption until the County makes its decision, and then this item will be brought back under Consent.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 11.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 2:19:38

#### **12. Introduction and Possible Adoption of Ordinance to Amend the Provisions of City Code Chapter 18, "Rental Facilities and Landlord-Tenant Relations" to Add Radon Inspection Requirements in Certain Residential Rental Facilities, to Revise the Inspection Requirements for Rental Facilities, and Modify Other Provisions of the Chapter**

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City of Rockville Community Planning and Development Chief of Zoning, Jim Wasilak, provided Mayor and Council with a brief presentation of the Ordinance to Amend the Provisions of City Code Chapter 18, "Rental Facilities and Landlord-Tenant Relations" to Add Radon Inspection Requirements in Certain Residential Rental Facilities, to Revise the Inspection Requirements for Rental Facilities, and Modify Other Provisions of the Chapter.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council review the proposed code amendment and make any changes. If satisfied with the draft, the Mayor and Council may introduce the ordinance. If the Mayor and Council wish to adopt the ordinance, a motion must be made to waive the layover period and it must be passed unanimously prior to adoption.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

City Attorney Dawson instructed staff to modify the ordinance based on the Mayor and Council's discussion and bring the ordinance back for Introduction and Possible Adoption at a later meeting.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 12.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 2:34:15

**13. Future Agendas - Reference**

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**A. Future Agendas**

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The Mayor and Council reviewed Future Agendas.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 13.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 2:48:51

**14. Old/New Business**

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Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to authorize the Mayor to work with Ms. Moran to finalize their letter to the County Executive regarding North Stonestreet Avenue, advocating strong support for adding funds for the historic former Lincoln High School, and for the relocation of the Montgomery County Public Schools Materials Management facility.

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

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve the testimony of the Mayor and Council for the County Executive’s Recommended FY24 Capital Improvements Budget and Amendments to FY23-FY28 Capital Improvements Program.

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

Councilmember David Myles moved to have the Mayor and Council authorize Councilmember Ashton to work with Ms. Linda Moran on the letter in support of SB229 with regard to noise abatement.

	<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 Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to have the Mayor work with Ms. Linda Moran on testimony enabling legislation regarding the Police Accountability Board.

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

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to have Madam Mayor work with Ms. Linda Moran on testimony enabling legislation regarding the Police Accountability Board.

	<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 Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg requested that Ms. Moran track the bill to establish a State-wide 311 system.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 6, 2023, Agenda item 14.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4654](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4654)

Video Timestamp 2:59:16

**15. Adjournment**

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

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