



**Monday, March 21, 2022  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MEETING NO. 08-22  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

Approved *Bridget Donnell Newton*  
Attest: *Sara Taylor-Fennell*  
Approved Meeting No. 08-22  
May 2, 2022

**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 in Open Session to vote on motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the Federal Highway's 4(f) Evaluation process and de minimis impact determination for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study and further legal strategy for this project.**

The Mayor and Council convened via WebEx to vote on a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the Federal Highway's 4(f) Evaluation process and de minimis impact determination for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study and further legal strategy for this project.

<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

- 2. Closed Session Summary**

City Attorney Robert Dawson provided a brief overview of the strategy of the I-495/I-270 managed lane project regarding Section 4 (f) impacts on three (3) parks owned and managed by the City of Rockville; Rockmead Park, Woottons Mill Park and Rockville Senior Center and Park.

The Mayor and Council held a discussion with City Attorney Robert Dawson and Director of Public Works Craig Simoneau and the law firm Beveridge and Diamond.

The attorney's from Beveridge and Diamond explained MDOT's request letter to the City seeking the concurrence on a section 4(f) de minimis determination for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study.

The Mayor and Council directed staff to finalize the draft letter and send to Jeffery T. Folden, Director of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and to include map.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved to adjourn.

	<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

### 3. Convene

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The Mayor and Council convened in a virtual hybrid Open meeting Session at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2022, via Webex.

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

### 4. Pledge of Allegiance

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Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor thanked Council for all wearing the colors blue and yellow in support of Ukraine.

### 5. Agenda Review

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Changes to the Agenda, Work Session – Topic 2 Agenda Item No. 5 will follow the Public Hearing – Topic 1 Agenda Item 4.

### 6. Public Hearing- Topic 1

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#### A. FY 2023 Budget Public Hearing

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Management and Budget Analyst Daniel Chambers provided a brief overview of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing for FY 2023 Operating and Capital Improvement Programs Budget and budget priorities. The public is encouraged to visit the City’s website and take the survey which is posted in both the English and Spanish language.

The public hearing opened at 7:06 p.m. and the following speakers testified:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address Phone Number/Email</b>
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Alexandra Dace Denito, PhD President, Lincoln Park Civic Association, Inc.	Rockville, MD 20850 240-353 8030 alex.dacedenito@gmail.com
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Rev. Dr. Rebekah A. Savage Senior Minister	Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville 100 Welsh Park Dr #1900, Rockville, MD 20850 301-762-7666 x9
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Frances Bevington, Cultural Arts Commission	7 Watchwater Ct. Rockville, MD 20850 francesbev@gmail.com
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Nancy Breen, Chair Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC)	nancy.breen@yahoo.com Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC)
<b>Speaker by Computer and Written Comments</b> Amanda Schwartz Human Services Advisory Commission	a_l_schwartz@yahoo.com
<b>Speaker by Computer</b> Anne Herbster Chair, Senior Citizens Commission	amherbster@gmail.com 240-274-3955
<b>Speaker by Computer and Written Comments</b> Robert “Bob” Wright	209 Watts Branch Parkway Rockville, MD 20850 301.807.8261 email.bob.wright@gmail.com

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 7:32 p.m. The record will remain open until April 15, 2022.

## **7. Worksession- Topic 2**

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### **A. FY 2023 Budget and FY 2022 Supplemental Tax Duplication Worksession**

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Deputy Chief Financial Officer Kimberly Francisco provided a brief overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> worksession for FY 2023 proposed operating budget and capital improvement programs.

Topics discussed include:

- Changes to the budget since the budget was proposed
- New positions recommended
- Supplemental tax duplication contribution for FY 2022
- Application of new utility rates

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council review the FY 2023 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Programs.

### **THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 10:01 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION RECONVENED AT 10:12 P.M.**

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg left the meeting for the evening at 10:00 p.m. due to ongoing medical advice restricting the time to participate in meetings.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts, comments, and directions to include and provide directions to include staffing of a fitness position at the Senior Center; leave buyback; half year out-facing multilingual positions, programs and certification process; better transparency, and the ability to communicate with the public; full time grant writer position; feedback on City Hall lighting; Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP); change in rates for water; bring back revised ordinance, and tax duplication.

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to adopt the rate phase-in approach to provide a more equitable implementation of new rates to City utility customers.

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

### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 21, 2022 Agenda Item 7.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4511](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4511)

video timestamp 30:59

## **8. Work Session - Topic 3**

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### **A. Presentation on Employer-Assisted Housing Program Survey**

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Self-Sufficiency Program Developer Niambi Powell presented to the Mayor and Council the findings from the department's employer-assisted homeownership program survey.

The survey was sent to all City staff on January 4, 2022, and closed on March 3, 2022. 138 staff responded to the 13-question survey. Questions were constructed as fill-in-the-blank, open-ended; rank choice questions. Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council review the survey results, discuss, and provide directions on the next steps.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts, comments, and a majority agreed to have staff to bring back a pilot plan.

### **B. Presentation on Bank on Rockville and Request for Funding to Launch the Bank on Rockville Initiative**

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Self-Sufficiency Program Developer Niambi Powell presented to the Mayor and Council the newest initiative Bank on Rockville.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council receive the presentation, discuss, and provide feedback on the Bank On Rockville initiative, and provide direction on the potential allocation of funding beginning in FY 2023 and beyond.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts, comments, and directions including bringing back an overview of an online workshop training for financial leadership and empowerment.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 21, 2022 Agenda Item 6.

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4511](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4511)

video timestamp 3:19:53

### **9. Work Session - Topic 4**

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#### **A. Discussion on ARPA Funds**

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The Mayor and Council agreed to move this agenda item to the March 28 based on the length of the meeting.

### **10. Old/New Business**

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Assistant to the City Manager Linda Moran presented a letter of testimony and support from Chief of Environmental Manager Erica Shingara to Maryland General Assembly for SB528, Climate Solutions Act.

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve the letter on SB528, Climate Solutions Act 2022.

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

Assistant to the City Manager Linda Moran presented a follow-up letter for SB387 and HB425 on Ghost Gun legislation.

Councilmember Monique Ashton moved to approve the letter on Ghost Gun legislation SB387 and HB425.

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

Councilmember Mark Piezchala moved to approve the letter to the Maryland State Highway Administration with edits.

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

## 11. Adjournment

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:06 a.m.

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