

Approved *Bridget Donnell Newton*  
Attest: *Anna Stefan-Fanell*  
Approved Meeting No. 28-23  
October 23, 2023

# City of Rockville

City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave  
Rockville, MD 20850



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, October 2, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Meeting No. 26-23**

**WebEx**

## Mayor and Council

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

**Convene in Open Session to vote on a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance of the City Attorney, an employee over whom the Mayor and Council have jurisdiction.**

Moved by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg, seconded by Councilmember Monique Ashton, and passed unanimously.

### **Closed Session**

The Mayor and Council convened in an Open Session on Monday, October 2, 2023, to vote on a motion to go into a closed session at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance of the City Attorney, an employee over whom the Mayor and Council have jurisdiction.

**Present:** Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Councilmember Monique Ashton, Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember David E. Myles, and Councilmember Mark Pierzchala.

**Staff Present:** City Attorney Robert Dawson

**Topic:** Discussion with the City Attorney regarding his Annual Performance Evaluation.

There being no motions taken, the Mayor and Council reconvened in regular session meeting.

**Motion:** The closed session adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_.

Moved by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, and passed unanimously.

#### **1. Convene**

Mayor and Council reconvened in a Hybrid Open Meeting Session at 7:12 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 2023, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, and via WebEx.

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

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Agenda Review**

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

**4. City Manager's Report - NONE**

**5. Proclamation and Recognition**

**A. Presentation of Certificates of Recognition for the 45th Anniversary Art in Public Places Program**

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton read the Certificates of Recognition for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Art in Public Places Program and presented to Shawn James of Mural Masters, and Katie Giganti.

**B. Proclamation Declaring October 2023, as Arts and Humanities Month**

Councilmember Monique Ashton read and moved the proclamation declaring October 2023, as Arts and Humanities Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Karen Askin, Chair of the Rockville Cultural Arts Commission, and Commissioners Therese Capal and Liz Ortuzar.

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

**C. Proclamation Declaring October 2023, as Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton read the proclamation declaring October 2023, as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland, and moved by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg.

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

**D. Proclamation Declaring October 2023, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland**

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg read and moved the proclamation declaring October 2023, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland.

	<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

**E. Proclamation Declaring October 9, 2023, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Rockville Maryland**

Councilmember Monique Ashton read and moved the proclamation declaring October 9, 2023, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Rockville, Maryland.

	<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 Feinberg, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Pierzchala

**F. Proclamation Declaring October 2023, as Walktober in Rockville, Maryland**

Councilmember Mark Pierzchala read and moved the proclamation declaring October 2023, as Walktober in Rockville, Maryland.

	<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

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

**A. Boards and Commission Appointments and Reappointments**

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved the appointment of David Sklar to the Board of Supervisors of Elections, to serve an unexpired four-year term until June 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

**7. Community Forum**

**In-Person Call-in, Email, and Walk-in Speaker and Written Comments List**

NAME	TOPIC
Paul Scalar	Washington Street
Marissa Valeri	Walktober
Rabi Abbie Sharofsy	Candidates' Forum, Use of Cross
Nancy Breen	Celebration for Bryan Barnett-Woods
Beryl L. Feinberg	Holding City Candidate meeting on Rash Hashanah, City Logo recommendation with religious symbol, Interfaith Calendar
Kate Fulton	Town Center Survey, Redesign of Website, Miscellaneous Items
Vincent Russo	Councilmember Dr. Myles

**8. Public Hearing**

- A. Public Hearing on a Project Plan Application (PJT2023-00015) to Amend the Planned Development for Tower Oaks to Permit Construction of 82 Townhomes at 2200 Tower Oaks Boulevard, and to Request an 18 Percent Parking Reduction for the Existing Office Building at 2000 Tower Oaks Boulevard in the PD-TO (Planned Development - Tower Oaks) Zone; Michael Harris Properties, LLC., Applicant**

Principal Planner, Nelson Ortis provided a brief overview of the Project Plan Application (PJT2023-00015).

The Public Hearing opened, at 8:25 P.M. ,and the following speaker testified.

In-Person Public Hearing Speakers and Written Comments

<b>Speaker</b> Marissa Valeri
----------------------------------

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 8:28 P.M. The record will remain open until close of business, October 23, 2023. Discussion and Instruction is scheduled for October 23, 2023, and Adoption is scheduled for October 30, 2023.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

**October 2, 2023, Agenda Item 8 A.**

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4758](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4758)

**Video Timestamp 42:17**

**9. Presentations**

**A. Montgomery County Briefing on Seven Locks Road Diversion Center**

Montgomery County Government Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Earl Stoddard provided a briefing on the Severn Locks Road Diversion Center.

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

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

**October 2, 2023, Agenda Item 9 A.**

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4758](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4758)

**Video Timestamp 1:16:40**

**THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 9:06 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 9:16 P.M.**

**B. Financial Advisory Board FY 2023 Annual Report and FY 2024 Action Plan**

Rockville Financial Advisory Board Chair, Robert Wright provided a briefing overview of the FY 2023 Annual Report and the FY2024 Action Plan.

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

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved acceptance of the FY2023 Financial Advisory Report, and FY2024 Action Plan.

	<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

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

**October 2, 2023, Agenda Item 9 B.**

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4758](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4758)

**Video Timestamp 1:55:12**

#### **C. Presentation of the Pedestrian Master Plan**

Principal Transportation Planner, Brian Barnett-Woods provided a briefing overview of the Pedestrian Master Plan.

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

Public comment will be received through October 13, 2023.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

**October 2, 2023, Agenda Item 9 C.**

[https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=4758](https://rockvillemd.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4758)

**Video Timestamp 2:45:48**

- 10. Consent Agenda- NONE**
- 11. Introduction, Discussion and Instruction, Possible Adoption – NONE**
- 12. Other - NONE**
- 13. Review and Comment - Action Report - NONE**
- 14. Future Agendas - Reference**

**A. Future Agendas**

**15. Old/New Business**

Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg moved that Mayor and Council approve the letter to be transmitted to the Maryland Municipal League's Emergency Management Officials Department requesting that Governor Wes Moore allocate \$10 Million in the FY2025 State Operating Budget for the State Disaster Recovery Fund.

	<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

**16. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 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