

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:37p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. MEETING TOPICS:

- **3.1.1. Approval of Purchase with Grant Funds**
- Ms. Gatling stated the City had received grant funding and the money was drawn on.
- Ms. Gatling stated she spoke with Ms. Owens and the City could use the funds to acquire 5825 MLK
- Ms. Gatling stated that she has identified other properties along MLK to acquire through tax sales not to exceed the \$100,000.
- Councilmember Simms inquired if the owner pays the delinquent taxes, will the City be reimbursed.
- Ms. Gatling stated that in order for the owner to purchase the property he needs to pay all the outstanding liens.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired how long will it take for the ownership to exchange hands.
- Ms. Gatling stated that it can take up to three months for ownership to exchange hands.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she informed DHCD that the City's vision is to acquire properties along the MLK corridor one block at a time.

- Councilmember Yeargin inquired if the property is considered a historic site.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the properties on James Farmer Way are considered historic, but due to the deterioration of the property it will not be considered historic.
- Ms. Gatling stated that they will advise the City on how to rehab the property.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she will inquire with Veronica Owens if the grant funds can be used to pay for the historic study.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Kennedy and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve the spending of grant funds to acquire tax sales properties along MLK. The motion was unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the hiring of a historic preservation company to review acquiring properties on MLK from the grant funds. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1.1. Resolution R-14-09 Declaration of Municipal Government Works Month. Resolution R-14-09 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, November 25, 2013. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and second by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution R-14-09. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

4.1.2 Ordinance O-14-09 Approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Prince George's County Police Department. Ordinance O-14-09 was introduced by the City Council on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 and the first reading was held. The second reading was conducted on Monday, November 25, 2013. It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve Ordinance O-14-09. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1.1. City Center Project

- Councilmember Porter stated that the recommendation was made by the City Attorney to involve an Financial Advisor.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilwoman Stephenson to seek advice on a Financial Advisor for the City Center Project.
- FOR: Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: Higgs, Kennedy and Simms

- ABSTAIN: None
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that the Council needs to advise if they want the City Attorney to continue the review of the five definitive agreements. while the City is entertaining the Financial Advisor.
- Councilmember Kennedy stated that how can we engage a Financial Advisor when the City has not decided what will be built.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Financial Advisor will review the current documents pertaining to the project and the City's budget to determine if the project is financially feasible for the City.
- Mayor Grant inquired how can a Financial Advisor review documents when nothing has been decided.
- Council President Yeargin stated that we can show the Financial Advisor the proposed project and the City annual budget, it will determine if the project is financially feasible.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Feasibility Study will tell you if the project is feasible.
- Councilmember Kennedy stated that the first piece of the project is to bring in revenue and that would be the senior housing and the City has not decided on the number of rooms.
- Councilmember Raynor inquired if the proposed drawings provided a number of units in the senior housing.
- Mayor Grant stated that the drawings presented by Arel provided square footage, but Kratos had increased the square footage to the senior housing and reduced the square footage to City Hall.
- Mayor Grant stated that it was for four two level buildings with eight units in each building.
- Councilmember Simms stated that we have discussed the amount of the money that had been spent and the money that will be spent. She feels that the project cost is becoming a burden on the City. She feels that the taxes will increase, if the City continue with the project.
- Councilmember Simms stated that it is a number of things that we need to consider to bring this project to fruition. She stated that the project can be downsized, but this one is too costly for the City.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to terminate the City Center Project. The motion carried.
- FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Simms, Stephenson
- AGAINST: Yeargin

- ABSTAIN: Raynor

5.1.2. Update on City's Strategic Plan

- Ms. Gatling stated that the City Council did not provide her any directions on the FY2014 Strategic Plan. However, the City Clerk had provided her with a copy of the plan.
- Ms. Gatling stated that some of the dates need to be amended.
- Ms. Gatling stated that Strategy number 2 is not a part of the National Crime Prevention Council, as the certification programs are for an individual.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she believes the Council intent was for a Neighborhood Watch Program.
- It was the consensus of the Council to change 2a and 2b to a Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated the City has the signs for the Neighborhood Watch Program and the signs cost the City \$160.00. She stated that we need to start the program and post the signs.
- Council President Yeargin had placed Strategy 3 in the Health, Education Committee.
- Council President Yeargin inquired on the status of the Economic Development Coordinator.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she can hire a person for the position. However, she needs direction from the Council.
- Council President Yeargin had placed Strategy 4 in the Economic Development Committee.
- Council President Yeargin inquired if the City could mimic what Hyattsville had completed.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the Grant Writer is currently working on the standard grants for the City and Public/Private relationship.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the studies in Capitol Heights were completed with grant funds.
- Ms. Gatling asked if the City Council could respond to the e-mails regarding the partnership.
- Ms. Gatling inquired of the City Council on what the City will be branding.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she will inquire on the status the previous branding strategies.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6.1.1. Seat Pleasant City Hall will be Closed on Friday, November 29, 2013 in observance of Thanksgiving Day**
- 6.1.2. Regular Work Session, Monday, December 2, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.**
- 6.1.3. Public Session, Monday, December 9, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.**
- 6.1.4. PGCMA Legislative Dinner Reception, Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Newton White House Mansion, 2708 Enterprise Rd., Mitchellville, MD 20721 from 6:00p.m.-9:30p.m., Tickets are \$45.00**
- 6.1.5. Seat Pleasant City Hall will be Closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2013 in observance of Christmas Day**
- 6.1.6. Seat Pleasant City Hall will be Closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2014 in observance of News Years Day**
- 6.1.7. Regular Work Session, Monday, January 6, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m**
- 6.1.8. MD General Assembly Convenes on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 12:00p.m., Annapolis, MD**
- 6.1.9. Public Session, Monday, January 13, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.**
- 6.1.10. Black History Month Activity, Raisin Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey, Starring Jasmine Guy, Friday, February 7, 2014, MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!! Seats are limited, bus will leave City Hall at 9:30a.m.**
- 6.1.11. Black History Month Activity, Black Wax Museum. Friday, February 14, 2014, MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!!! Seats are limited, bus will leave City Hall at 8:30a.m.**
- 6.1.12. Black History Month Activity, Movie Night, Friday, February 21, 2014, Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, 6305 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 "FREE" and Open to the Public at 7:00p.m., Showing the Movie "42"**
- 6.1.13. Black History Month Activity, Movie Night, Friday, February 28, 2014, Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, 6305 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 "FREE" and Open to the Public at 7:00p.m., Showing the Movie "The Great Debaters"**

ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 8:57p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk