

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

1.2. Roll Call

Present: Councilmember Monica Higgs, Councilmember Hope Love, Council President Shireka McCarthy, Mayor Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Kizzie Scott, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk and Councilmember James Wright, Jr.

Staff: LaShaya Johnson, Staff Assistant, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, and Myneca Ojo, City Manager

1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilmember Love.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda.

Motion by James Wright, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K. Bilbro.

1.5 Approval of Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 1, 2023

Motion to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 1, 2023

Motion by James Wright Jr, second by Gerald Raynor Sr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Kizzie Scott

1.6 Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 1, 2023

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 1, 2023

Motion by Hope Love, second by Donovan K Bilbro.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Council President McCarthy stated that it was brought the council attention regarding the reporting from the Closed Session, The Council will see the statutory authority and the brief discussion without the details.

1.7 Approval of Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 8, 2023

Motion to approve Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 8, 2023

Motion by Donovan K Bilbro, second by James Wright Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Kizzie Scott

1.8 Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 22, 2023

Motion to Approve Special Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 22, 2023

Motion by James Wright Jr, second by Donovan K Bilbro.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott

1.9 Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 22, 2023

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 22, 2023

Motion by Gerald Raynor Sr, second by James Wright Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro
Abstain: Gerald Raynor Sr

1.10 Approval of Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Motion to Approve Special Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Motion by Donovan K Bilbro, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott

1.11 Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Motion by Gerald Raynor Sr, second by James Wright Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro

Abstain: Gerald Raynor Sr

2. PRESENTATION

2.1. Allie O'Neill, Architect and Community Planning Director of Neighborhood Design Center

- Ms. Lubna Chaudhary stated that she was filling in for Allie O'Neill.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the community goals regarding the Goodwin Park Cultural Hub are to capture the vision and goals of the community regarding the activities. We had twenty-one survey responses and thirty people attended the charrettes.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the online survey wanted classes, bookfairs and cultural activities to bring people together.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the first station multipurpose field and the basketball courts, and the least used space was the dog park and stage area.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the second station was for the sense of Place Preferences to see what people preferred was artistic, busy,

colorful and mix of man-made and natural. They had a worksheet and they summarized what was stated. The people want a safe, fun, and central gathering space for all members of the community. The favorite memory about Goodwin Park was the community organized events such as Seat Pleasant Day, Back to School events, Jazz and Gospel in the Park, Police Department Balloon fight, and activities with family such as cookouts, picnics, weddings, and family reunions. The perfect day at the park was described as visiting with family, friends, and neighbors for a few hours to have fun and relax. The activities range from sports to enjoying nature.

- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the third station of the Cultural Hub was lighting, Events and Programs surrounding family fun and music, the signage and visual more signage, bright and colorful, seating and furnishing wanted more seatings.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that the fourth station Activities at the Cultural hub included exercising, relaxing, classes to include dance and art, and community events to encourage people to come together and have fun.
- Ms. Chaudhary read the Guiding Vision for Goodwin Park to have a welcome and gathering space for the community. The design principles were presented.
- Ms. Chaudhary stated that they will need to change the planters, demolish small brick walks and tower and surrounding walls, new landscaping around the plaza.
- Ms. Chaudhary provided a new revision for the Cultural hub with nine recommendations to include the new entry, vehicle access road, small garden, enclosure walls, and accessible ramp to go up to the exterior of the park, history/art wall and a new pavilion. The conceptual idea was presented on the slides that included walls, and seating with flexibilities, and shading of the pavilion with different types of material.
- Ms. Rhoda stated that for the funding the city had received a grant for the work to begin in the park. The city had submitted another grant for the work to continue, and a separate grant to begin the professional service development, for civil engineering, architectural, demolition to ensure that the city has the proper documentation to justify. They will be meeting with the council and continuing the charrettes on the project.

- Mayor Porter stated that we want to target all the parks in the city with a theme going forward citywide. The renovation of the park has created a lot of usage, and he encourages a full impact from all the citizens from all the wards.
- Council President McCarthy stated that the council look forward to seeing the timeline and next steps.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. Ordinance O-23-08 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for Public Safety GOCCP Grant 2nd Reading

- Ordinance O-23-08 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on June 5, 2023, and the second reading was held on Monday, June 12, 2023.
- Motion to Approve Ordinance O-23-08 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for Public Safety GOCCP Grant
- Motion by Monica Higgs, second by James Wright Jr.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carried
- Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Gerald Raynor Sr, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro
- No: Kizzie Scott

3.2 Ordinance O-23-09 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for Administration Salaries 2nd Reading

- Ordinance O-23-09 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for Administration salaries was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, June 5, 2023, and the second reading was held on Monday, June 12, 2023.
- Motion to Approve Ordinance O-23-09 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for Administration Salaries
- Motion by James Wright Jr, second by Donovan K Bilbro.
- Final Resolution: Motion Carried
- Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Kizzie Scott, Shireka McCarthy, James Wright Jr, Donovan K Bilbro
- Abstain: Gerald Raynor Sr

3.3 Ordinance O-23-11 Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget 1st Reading

- Ordinance O-23-11 Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, June 12, 2023.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Kelly Porter, Mayor Report:

- Mayor Porter stated his report can be found in BoardDocs.
- Mayor Porter stated that he attended the May monthly council meetings.
- Mayor Porter stated that he did not attend any conferences in the month of May.
- Mayor Porter stated that he will be bringing legislation forward regarding the buildings and homes, how they are coming about and the impact on the county.
- Mayor Porter stated that he had a beautification event on Saturday, May 6, 2023, and he will be doing this throughout the city.
- Mayor Porter stated that he attended the searing-in ceremony on May 19, 2023, for Councilmember Bilbro, Ward V and he has truly been an asset.
- Mayor Porter stated that he presented a proclamation on May 7, 2023.
- Mayor Porter stated that he set up meetings with the 24th delegation and the county councilmember, and this is to address the blight and targeted infrastructure throughout the city.

4.2 Council President Report-Council President Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember-At-Large

- Council President McCarthy stated that her report is in BoardDocs. Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the regular meetings of the council.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the regular monthly meetings outside of Seat Pleasant for PGCMA, NBC-LEO, which she is a board member for each.
- Council President McCarthy stated that had a financial wellness meeting with Mr. Huckabee to have a financial literacy with information coming forth.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she attended the Town of Fairmount Heights Swearing-in Ceremony and Councilmember Bilbro swearing-in ceremony.

- Council President McCarthy stated that the last page of her reports reflects the attendance of the council, and she wanted to thank the council for showing up for their residents.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she had a meeting with Councilmember Oriadha to discuss senior services to include bus for the weekend, and social services to provide funding for social worker and research specialist with the calls from residence that need assistance with rent and utilities. The purpose is to have a point of contact for the city for state services. The beautification and the concerns with the issues in District 7 and providing funding to the city to assist with the concerns. This will need to be presented to the council. The city has issues with beautification inside the city, and this was a conversation that was had, and we can use the funding sources in the city.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she will keep the council apprised if the funding does forward.

4.3 Myneca Ojo, City Manager

- Ms. Ojo stated that she is excited, and they are looking forward to assisting for the beautification in the area.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the number one priority is the FY2020 Audit. They had been working with getting the new CFO onboard and she has more knowledge and is able to move the audit forward.
- Ms. Ojo stated that Ms. Logan had been meeting the committee and the audit to provide weekly updates. We are filling-in with the gaps, and trying to ensure that a level of accountability is in place to ensure that we can have the future audits move forward.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the EJD is continuing with the schedule to ensure that the city is beautified. The city had experienced theft of the equipment.
- Ms. Ojo stated that she will be completing the annual review of the staff this week to recommend training. She wanted to ensure that is timed with the FY24 budget.
- Ms. Ojo stated that she had received the bulk of the SOP from the departments.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the goal is to ensure that the new changes with the budget.
- Ms. Ojo stated that she had done some onboarding with Ms. Johnson as a transfer.

- Mayor Porter stated that he had the opportunity to review the report from Ms. Logan and he hopes the council will take the recommendation into consideration to get the department back on track.
- Mayor Porter stated that the fence by Exxon and Dunkin Donuts is broken up in several different areas, and we need to ensure that the city is staying on top of the area.
- Council President McCarthy stated that the VMS boards are outdated, and they need to be updated weekly preferably every Tuesday. If the boards are not kept up to date, they will not review the boards.
- Ms. Johnson stated that she asked Ms. Ojo if we can keep information on the boards that does not require changes, as she is the only person that is updating the boards.
- Ms. Ojo stated that she will need to speak with Ms. Lanham regarding the training.
- Ms. Lanham stated that she and Ms. Johnson are the only two who had completed the training. It was her understanding that with the moving of the Staff Assistant that she will no longer be responsible for updating the boards. It was stated that Ms. Umoh will be responsible for updating the boards. The training does not take long, you need to ensure that the computer connects to the board.
- Council President McCarthy stated that this is the third request, and she sees the one on Seat Pleasant Dr.
- Councilmember Love stated that the VMS board is not updated in Ward II.
- Ms. Ojo requested to receive the location of the VMS Boards to ensure that they can be updated.
- Councilmember Wright inquired when Council Chambers will be available to the Council.
- Ms. Lanham stated that the installation was completed last week, and we are scheduled for forty hours of training next week. The equipment is new from the microphones to the television with telephones for the hearing impaired.
- Council President McCarthy inquired if the city was on target for the audit for the end of the month.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the timeline has changed a bit as they just realized that they will need to audit the information from SPICE, and this will delay the process by two weeks. The goal is to provide the trial balance to the auditor for the city to provide testing documentation. The challenge has been finding the documentation. We have expanded

resources from the Police Department, Grants, the City Clerk, and her. When the city followed the Smart City Concept the paperwork did not follow.

- Council President McCarthy inquired of the measure that is being taken to ensure that the city does not find themselves in this situation again.
- Ms. Ojo stated that the city had approved the technology policy, and we are following the accounting manual, and removed some access from the systems to ensure that vendors no longer have access to input their bills and circumvent the process.
- Council President McCarthy stated that she would like to see the Strategic Plan as we move into the next budget. We need to review it as the due dates have passed.
- Ms. Ojo stated that they are planning to have a leadership meeting in August to get started with the internal strategic plan.
- Council President McCarthy stated that typically the council was involved, and it is found for the staff to meet and present to the council for approval. The city had scheduled it as a retreat in the past.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- City Clerk Lanham read the comment from Jamiyah Muqtedir from 6119 Drylog St.
- I have lived in Seat Pleasant for 23 months and there has been zero effort to engage me by any council person.
- 2. I am currently behind in rent and ERAP funds are limited and slow, and I am facing eviction
- 3. I have asked the homeowner who is not properly licensed and did not give me a 10-day notice about seller financing. He has refused. He wants a bank loan and there is no funding to help someone like me even though there are 6 units in this house.
- 4. I incorrectly filed for a PG County Inspection of the inside of the house to find out what repairs are required, and they would not even xfer the complaint over to Seat Pleasant code enforcement. So, I must start all over again.

- 5. I am currently unemployed and only recently found out about Bethel Technology's IT training programs that if completed command \$70k to start, however they require the student to be Christian or to believe in the basic tenets of Christianity.
- 6. There are zero training programs as far as I can tell to help someone become a full-time individual stock market trader.
- 7. The east gate of the new dog park needs to be replaced. It does not properly close. An unleashed dog inside could easily push it open from the inside and run out.
- Council President McCarthy requested for the City Manager to meet with the NCC regarding the concerns, and there are programs in the county as well that can assist her.
- Councilmember Bilbro inquired of the address of the initial complaint.
- City Clerk Lanham stated that she will forward the e-mail to Ms. Ojo and provide the address to Councilmember Bilbro.
- Councilmember Scott inquired about the ward the residents were resides. It was stated that the resident resides in Ward V
- Garry Jones stated he raised a concern a couple of months ago regarding the speed humps on 71st street without a warning sign and they had a speed hump that damaged cars in the past and they are looking at more damages to the city if we do not install a sign. Inquired if the ARP money is over with assisting the residents, and he wanted to inform them if the program is over. Invitation to come to the valley to see the concerns with the pothole and dangerous curb with a safety issue.
- Ms. Ojo stated that they had sent an e-mail to Ms. Oriadha regarding the concerns in the area with a request for an engineering company to come out.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Ward I Community Ward Walk, Friday, June 16, 2023, Shining Star Baptist Church, 5737 Martin Luther King Jr., Hwy., Seat Pleasant, MD at 6:00p.m.

8.2 Seat Pleasant Inaugural Juneteenth Cookout, Saturday, June 17, 2023, Goodwin Park, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

8.3 Special Session, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, by Zoom Webinar at 6:00p.m., Meeting Link details are available on the city's website, Seat Pleasant, MD

8.4 Regular Work Session, Monday, July 3, 2023, by Zoom Webinar at 6:00p.m., Meeting Link details are available on the city's website, Seat Pleasant, MD

8.5 Community Block Party, Saturday, July 8, 2023, Pleasant Valley & 71st Avenue, from 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

8.6 Public Session, Monday, July 10, 2023, by Zoom Webinar at 7:00p.m., Meeting Link details are available on the city's website, Seat Pleasant, MD

8.7 Ward II Community Ward Walk, Thursday, July 13, 2023, Seat Pleasant Elementary School, 6411 G St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

9. ADJOURN:

9.1 The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Submitted by,

DocuSigned by:
Dashaun N. Lanham
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Dashaun N. Lanham, MMC
City Clerk