



**MEETING OF  
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCE  
7:30 p.m.  
May 8, 2023  
WORKSESSION  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Biermann at 7:33PM**

**Present:** Mayor Biermann, Mr. Dubayah, Ms. Gathercole, Ms. Morrissey, Mr. Morgan,  
Mr. McGaughey, Ms. Wells and Mr. Sweet

**Absent:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Ms. Wells

**Seconded by:** Mr. Morgan

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A resident spoke on behalf of Route 1 Communities Care. Their purpose is to raise money to provide well balanced meals for the food and secure populations of Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, College Park and the vast surrounding areas. Together they have raised over \$500,000 for their restaurant meals program. Donations have come from foundations, municipalities, the County and lots of organizations and caring individuals. They would like to ask for a donation from the Council once again from the remaining ARPA funds.
- A resident stated that she has been volunteering with Route 1 Communities Care since it started in April 2020. They started with a “Go Fund Me” page, along with four art auctions and yard sales. They have also received grants and donations. She asked that University Park make a donation.
- Mayor Biermann stated that it does sound like there is support for Route 1 Community Cares.

**4. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 23-O-03: FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET**

**Motion:** To discuss Legislative Resolution 23-O-03: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

**Moved by:** Ms. Gathercole

**Seconded by:** Mr. Morgan

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:**

**Abstain:**

*The earliest date this may motion may be considered for passage is May 15, 2023*

- Mayor Biermann showed the “UP Tax Brackets vs.US Population as a Percentage of Households” chart.
- Mr. Baden showed the most recent draft of the budget which was sent out last Tuesday after the Council meeting. He noted there were 4 adjustments that the Council made at Monday’s meeting. They were: an increase in legal fees of \$5,000; a gas blower rebate increase of \$5,000; under the ARPA funds – the reduction of path lighting by \$200,000 and a reduction of the transit plan by \$220,000.
- Ms. Morrissey wanted to start with lines G-1 and G-2 and wants to raise the amount to fund the Town Administrator at 40 hours per week. The salary range would be between \$130,000 and \$150,000.

**Moved by:** Ms. Morrissey

**Seconded by:**

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Morrissey wanted to focus on G-44 which relates to animal shelter donations. She and Mayor Biermann discussed creating some kind of program in town which would partner with local veterinary services to provide reimbursement services and neutering for strays. She suggests taking the \$5,000 for this line item and devoting it to the reimbursement program. She stated that she is willing to donate some of the money to the SPCA as well and suggested splitting it 50/50.
- Mr. McGaughey moved to amend Ms. Morrissey’s proposal and said we should give \$3,000 to the animal shelter donations and the remaining to the SPCA at the end of the year.

**Moved by:** Ms. Morrissey

**Seconded by:** Mr. McGaughey

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Morrissey and Mayor Biermann spoke on April 30 about possibly raising the training budget for the Department of Public Works. She provided a document for her fellow Council members and Mayor Biermann to look at for some ideas from the Trade Committee to look at regarding granting some training ideas (Horticulture, etc.) from the University of Maryland for the Department of Public Works. Her proposal is to increase line item W8 by \$5,000.

**Moved by:** Ms. Morrissey

**Seconded by:** Ms. Wells

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Gathercole suggested that B-8 (Park Usage Concept Plan) and G-34 (Park Upgrades) should be combined and should be called Park Planning and Upgrades. She expressed concern about \$20,000 for new composting bins and her concern is that waste and compost waste will be combined in the same bin. Michael Beall, Director of Public Works detailed the benefits of the proposed bins as well as the cost savings.
- Mr. McGaughey said he would be happy to make an amendment to change that line item to \$28,000. Ms. Gathercole made the motion to change the line item to \$28,000.

**Moved by:** Ms. Gathercole

**Seconded by:** Mr. McGaughey

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Gathercole stated that since we already discussed trapping, neutering and the Humane Society, she would like to change the amount donated to Route 1 Community Cares from \$13,000 to \$15,000 and also change the donation amount for the Anacostia Watershed Society from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

**Moved by:** Ms. Gathercole

**Seconded by:** Ms. Wells

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Wells wanted to put the position for a part-time administrative assistant back in the budget at the costs that was allocated in the previous year's budget. She thinks it is going to be very busy with grant applications and all kinds of contracting. We can even use a temp agency to fill the position until it is filled.

**Moved by:** Ms. Wells

**Seconded by:** Ms. Gathercole

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- She would also like us to consider an addition of \$5,000 for the Town Attorney because she believes they are going to be very busy negotiating contracts, etc. She feels this is a vital position.
- Ms. Wells made a motion to add \$10,000 for legal support for ARPA projects in the ARPA funding category. This will update line item G-16 beyond the \$45,000 that is currently there.

**Moved by:** Ms. Wells

**Seconded by:** Mr. Dubayah

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Wells stated that with regard to line item G-35, she would like us to consider adding \$30,000 for additional electrical vehicle charging stations.
- She also wanted us to add \$200,000 to line item G-37, the Town Hall project. The reason is that the total cost of the Town Hall Project may be in excess of \$2,000,000.
- She would also like to add another \$200,000 to the Stormwater Management Project management funds.; put \$219,047 into Town Hall and remove the \$30,000 for the charging stations for electrical vehicles.

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**Motion:** To allocate an additional \$300,000 to stormwater and to put \$200,000 to Town Hall and remove \$30,000 out of charging stations and leave park upgrades at \$50,000.

**Moved by:** Ms. Wells

**Seconded by:** Ms. Gathercole

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

**Mr. Sweet spoke against allocating additional funds for the electrical car charging stations and the Town Hall project.**

**Motion:** To adopt the constant yield tax rate of \$4,959 for fiscal year 2024.

**Moved by:** Ms. Wells

**Seconded by:**

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

**Abstain:**

*Mayor Biermann suggested postponing the vote until the final budget is presented.*

- Mr. Sweet suggested we do something for Veterans Park such as adding a flagpole, trees or a placard.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:** by consent at 10:00 p.m.

**\*\* A Closed Session may be called \*\***