



**MEETING OF
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
VIA VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCE
JUNE 5, 2023
Minutes**

A closed session was called prior to the Council meeting at 7:15 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter that affected one or more specific individuals.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Biermann at 7:39 p.m.

Present: CM Dubayah, CM Gathercole, CM Morrissey, CM Morgan, CM McGaughey, CM Wells, CM Sweet

Absent: None

Excused: None

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – As amended to move item 7A – the Recognition honoring Ms. Cowherd ahead of Public Comment so she does not need to wait until later in the meeting.

Moved by: CM Wells

Seconded by: CM Gathercole

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 8, 2023 Work Session

Moved by: CM Wells

Seconded by: CM Gathercole

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

B. May 15, 2023 Council Meeting

Moved by: CM Gathercole

Seconded by: CM Morgan

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

7.

A. RESOLUTION HONORING UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RETIRED EMPLOYEE DEVILAN COWHERD

Motion: To adopt a resolution and proclamation by the Mayor and Common Council of University Park honoring University Park Elementary School’s retiring employee Devilan Cowherd, the school registrar, who supported the UPES children and families for 15 years.

Moved by: CM Wells

Seconded by: CM Gathercole

Yea: 7**Nay: 0****Abstain: 0**

CM Wells thanked Lilly Baker and Krista Atteberry who brought this wonderful occurrence to our attention, and I'm sure the principal and all the students will miss you very much, but I'm glad we have the type of community that recognizes what you have done for us.

Ms. Cowherd stated that she was overwhelmed and grateful to have served University Park Elementary School for 15 years. I wasn't expecting anything like this, and it has truly been an honor to serve the UPES community.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A resident stated he had three children in UPES before Ms. Cowherd was there and extended his thanks to her. He announced that on June 22 at UMD Mr. Brosch and Mr. Tabori are hosting an architectural storm water management forum at the architectural auditorium. He encouraged community participation. This resident suggested that in the future the Town Council resume live meetings. He suggested having a column in the Town Newsletter such as "Council Column" where authoring notes would rotate among Council Members.
- A resident expressed her thanks to Ms. Cowherd for her service. She asked about the status of the RFP for the park plan that is under consideration. The Mayor stated that he would be responding to this question later in the meeting.
- A resident noted that nothing was in the Town Newsletter following the Town election in May about those who won or the swearing in. Mayor Biermann responded it would be in two weeks at 6:30 p.m., before the next Council meeting.
- This resident noted he was pleased to see the Council pass the proclamations for Pride Month and Juneteenth and said that the flags and banners should be put out at the Town Hall.
- The Mayor responded that there is a need for additional flag poles and has asked the Director of Public Works to secure and install them as soon as possible.

5. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Biermann

- The swearing-in ceremony will be in two weeks an hour before the next Council meeting.
- At the Special Council Session on Wednesday, May 31 we approved the pedestrian walkways; construction will begin after July 1. We will need to move some money, as the price did go up in keeping with inflation.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee - CM Gathercole

- There will not be a meeting this month; the next meeting is July 12.

CM Gathercole read a prepared comment.

I would like to comment on some items of omission in the last newsletter. Under your column Mayor, it was mentioned that a portion of ARPA funds would have restarted the town transit program through

purchase of a zero emissions bus and that the town's transit study showed most residents favored restoring the service. This is all true, however, this was not the whole story of why the Council voted down the shuttle program and as a result I think this threw the Council in a bad light in the newsletter. I'd like to go on record saying that while the survey demonstrated many people wanted the shuttle program, the important fact left out of the article was the survey showed that very few people, in fact fewer than pre-pandemic level ridership would actually use the shuttle. As a result, this enormously expensive program couldn't be justified for just a few when our funds needed to go to more immediate problems, for example, stormwater management and upgrades to Town Hall. We also did not see any mention of our recent elections which should have been posted in the newsletter. Also, no mention of when the swearing-in ceremony will be. My point in all this is we must be careful not to omit important details that happen in our town. People rely on the newsletter for important information, and we do a disservice if we don't paint the whole picture. Thank you for letting me speak.

Sustainability Committee – CM Dubayah

- We will have an in-person meeting to do a walking tour of the storm water projects for the Sustainability Committee. We are meeting at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at 44th and Sheridan. We will host it via Zoom as well for anyone interested in participating remotely in the tour.

CM Sweet

- The Council Members and the Mayor received a positive email regarding the service of our Town Clerk, TC Hegeman, who received the Maryland Municipal League's Honor Roll recognition for municipal Town Clerks. That is an understatement for the amazing job she does.
- Will be out of town next week and will not make it to the swearing in or CM Wells final Council meeting and thanked CM Wells for serving six years on the Town Council. He wished her the best and hopes that she will continue to report on Wells Run for the community as it's a very important factor.

Public Facilities and Services Committee – CM Morgan

- Met May 25 and spoke with Barry Miller, the principal architect at Frederick Ward and Associates. We discussed the brick-and-mortar additions versus. prefab. We were informed that we would pay more for prefab because of site preparation issues. The consultant suggested doing another study, but the \$40,000 cost did not warrant it.
- A meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday to view the drawings.

Development Overview Committee - CM Wells

- Will meet Thursday night at the usual time, 7:30 pm and the agenda is posted.

Mayor Biermann spoke about meeting a resident with disabilities. The resident stated how they relied on the town shuttle for services such as getting groceries. Many of the people who use the town shuttle cannot drive or are under the age of 16 and are disappointed that it will be discontinued.

6. CONTINUING BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 23-O-04 - AMENDMENT TO 23-O-03, FY24 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Motion: To adopt Ordinance 23-O-04, an amendment of the FY24 Budget to allow the transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund - Unreserved/Undesignated Fund for the following accounts in the

Capital Improvement Projects Fund:

A/C 7050-00 - Reserves - Bridges - Revenue

A/C 7133-00 - Park Bridges Replace - Beechwood & Van Buren - Expenditure

to fully fund a contract for installation of the two pedestrian bridges.

Moved by: CM Sweet

Seconded by: CM Wells

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain:

Town Attorney Ferguson noted this topic has not appeared in the Town Newsletter and cannot be adopted. The earliest date this ordinance can be adopted is July 3.

7. NEW BUSINESS

B. INTRODUCTION FOR FY24 POLICE DEPARTMENT FUND TRANSFERS

Motion: To introduce budget transfers within the Police Department for expenditures.

Transfer from line item:

P27 \$81,120.00 – Axon In-Car Video to:

P8 \$21,199.95 – to pay off Axon Tasers and Body Worn Cameras

P26 \$12,500.00 – to pay for upfitting of new cruiser

The earliest date this will be considered for passage is July 3.

Moved by: CM Gathercole

Seconded by: CM Morgan

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain:

C. REVISED 2023 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion: To approve the revised 2023 schedule to reflect only one meeting in the months of July and December.

Moved by: CM Gathercole

Seconded by: CM Dubayah

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain:

CM Dubayah inquired about the Park Plan and the Mayor noted that the Park Plan will be part of the 30-day priority for the new Town Administrator.

8. ADJOURNMENT by consent at 8:10 p.m.

