



City of District Heights

City Commission

2000 Marbury Drive District Heights, Maryland 20747

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Minutes

Tuesday January 14, 2025

Work Session

Present: Cynthia Miller, Mayor
Gyasi Gomez, Vice Mayor
Xander Harcourt, Commissioner
Pamela Janifer, Commissioner
Anthony Tilghman, Commissioner

Call to Order

Mayor Miller called the Work Session to order at 7:02 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Mayor Gomez moved for the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Janifer seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Public Hearing

Item 1: Public Hearing 2020 Series A Bonds Amendment (David Street, City Manager & Cecelia Smith-Budd, Deputy Treasurer)

Part 1: Pre-hearing

Commissioner Harcourt moved that the City Commission open the public hearing on amendments to DH-2020-02. Commissioner Tilghman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. **There were no public comments.**

Part 2: Post Hearing

Commissioner Janifer moved that the City Commission close the public hearing on amendments to DH-2020-02 and forward the amendments to a future City Meeting for action. Vice Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Item 2: Public Hearing Stop Sign Traffic Ordinance (Ronald Tarpley, Police Chief & Kenneth Warren, City Clerk)

Part 1: Pre-hearing

Vice Mayor Gomez moved that the City Commission open the public hearing on enactment of DH-2024-12. Commissioner Harcourt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. There were no public comments.

Part 2: Post Hearing

Commissioner Tilghman moved that the City Commission close the public hearing on enactment of DH-2024-12. Commissioner Janifer seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Action Items

Item 3: Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Janifer moved that the City Commission approve the minutes for the January 2, 2025, City Meeting as provided in attachments 1 of January 14, 2025, staff report. Vice Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Item 4: FY 2026 Budget Outlook & Participatory Budgeting (David Street, City Manager)

David Street, City Manager, presented the FY 2026 Budget Outlook to the Commission, highlighting amendments as recommended by the Commission. Amendments included the expansion of the public hearing schedule to include Saturday, February 15, 2025, as well as survey reviews from surrounding Municipalities, to later implement for District Heights residents.

Commissioner Harcourt asked if the surveys utilized can be specific to District Heights residents. David informed the Commission that surveys submitted by non-residents can be sorted out.

Commissioner Janifer asked if it could be a requirement for submitters to fill in their address as a means of sorting through residents who may not be from District Heights. David informed the Commission that it is possible to require residents to fill in their address when completing the survey form.

Vice Mayor Gomez suggested including questions surrounding the budget for residents to prioritize their needs. David informed the Commission that questions about the budget can be included for stakeholders to consider.

Commissioner Harcourt highlighted District Heights programming and expressed potential concerns about the cost associated with the level and consistency of the programs. David provided an update on highway user revenue estimates for FY25 and FY26 highlighting the differences in last year and this year's increase.

The Commission requested staff to draft a survey for the Commission's review with a timeline for approval, and then to be disbursed to the residents. Commissioner Tilghman asked if the survey could be included in the Herald, the City's newsletter. David informed the Commission that he would first confirm if the survey can be included in the newsletter.

Information Item

Item 2: Public Hearing Stop Sign Traffic Ordinance (Ronald Tarpley, Police Chief & Kenneth Warren, City Clerk)

Chief Tarpley provided a brief review of the Stop Sign Traffic Ordinance to the Commission. Eight locations were selected through the city for implementation of the traffic cameras.

Commissioner Harcourt asked for an update from Pepco regarding stop light cameras. Chief Tarpley informed the Commission that he is working to expedite the process. Commissioner Harcourt asked for an update on adding a camera near District Heights Parkway. Chief Tarpley informed the Commission that he will have another speed study conducted to determine if that's an effective option.

Vice Mayor Gomez requested that Public Works increase street signage on District Heights Parkway to deter drives from going down the one-way street.

Chief Tarpley updates to the Commission on an illegal dumping case on Marbury Drive, informing the Commission that the investigation is closed with pending criminal charges to be filed.

Commissioner Janifer asked Chief Tarpley if residents can apply for permits on the city's website. Chief Tarpley informed the Commission that he is working with Communications to get the link to apply for permits on the website.

Mayor and Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Tilghman highlighted District Heights Public Works Department for their work with the recent snow removal. Commissioner Janifer highlighted the senior bus trip to Annapolis Mall. Vice Mayor Gomez echoed Commissioner Tilghman's praise of the Public Works Department. Commissioner Harcourt highlighted the staff of District Heights and informed residents of illegal signage posted throughout the city by business owners. Mayor Miller requested that Kenneth Warren, City Clerk and T'Neisha Turner, Communications, work together on the Maryland Mayors essay contest.

Adjournment

Commissioner Tilghman moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. Mayor Miller called the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.