

**CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON MINUTES  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022**

The Council Workshop Meeting was held at 7:02 p.m., on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, as a virtual meeting. In attendance was Chairperson Cynthia DB Mills; Councilmembers Allyne Hooks; Sarah Potter-Robbins and Briana Urbina; Mayor Phelecia Nembhard; City Administrative Officer Latasha Gatling; Assistant City Administrative Officer Michael McMahon; HR Director Cynthia Johnson; Director of Public Works Andre Triplett; Information Technology Administrator Andrew Facey; and City Clerk Robinson Brown .

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Mills welcomed everyone, did the roll call, then called the meeting to order.

**2. REPORT OF THE MAYOR AND ADMINISTRATION**

Director of Public Works Andre Triplett was called to give his report. He began by stating that the Pedestrian bridge on Carrollton Parkway will soon be reopening, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in the middle of the month. He will update everyone as soon as the date is confirmed. Public Works is working on potholes and maintaining the parks. The community gardens are now operating. The Public works department is currently preparing for the Spring Festival.

Mr. Triplett then gave the following stats: Senior Van service had 80 riders in March; Bulk Pick-Ups had in 436 in March; Sump Discharges 3 in March; Trees trimmed 73 in March; Trees removed 14 in March; Vehicles in for service 0 in March; Pot-holes filled 36 in March.

City Administrative Officer Latasha Gatling stated this was the first night of the official budget season so we are going to begin discussing the budget. Ms. Gatling also informed everyone that the Annexation letters have been mailed. Ms. Gatling also informed everyone that we received notification from the county that the city will possibly be receiving the BG grant in the amount of \$375,000 for street and sidewalk repairs on the Frenchman's Creek side of the city. Ms. Gatling also stated that we are slated to receive \$175,000 in the Opioid settlement. Also, the bathroom renovations are scheduled to begin on the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Ms. Gatling lastly informed everyone that a report from the Code Enforcement department has been included in the packet as well as an IT report and HR report. Ms. Gatling reminded everyone about the upcoming Spring Festival scheduled for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Assistant City Administrative Officer Michael McMahon added that there was a flyer in Agenda Packet for Prince George's County Proud Challenge for the Green Team Cleanup Day in the city on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

Mayor Nembhard thanked Mr. McMahon for attending the Economic Development courses. Mayor Nembhard also thanked everyone who attended the First CAM-C Gala, honoring female Mayors for women's history month, where Mayor Nembhard won a Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 to give to a student of her choice in the city. She briefly explained the Variance Ordinance to residents and shared some information and resources she had

received while attending the Mayoral Conference in Annapolis. Lastly, she thanked the staff for their support and participation while preparing for the Spring Festival.

**3. COUNCIL QUESTIONS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Mills asked the Council if they have questions or comments.

Councilmember Hooks asked Mr. Triplett about the sign at the bridge regarding Motorized Vehicles, asking if the sign was going to remain there?

He replied "Yes!", with an explanation.

Councilmember Hooks asked if Code Enforcement had discontinued the two-year rental inspections due to COVID.

Ms. Gatling replied that the Code Enforcement department is in the process of figuring out an alternative that would enable them to proceed with inspections in a safer manner whether it be in person or virtual.

Councilmember Urbina asked on what date should the council receive the budget for their review?

Mayor Nembhard explained that the budget would be done in sections and would be available for pick-up.

Chairperson Mills asked Ms. Gatling if she could provide the council with the bids from the contractors for the Communication Room so that they can review them for the next meeting?

Ms. Gatling replied, Yes.

Chairperson Mills asked about the repairing of the sidewalks and the status of the New Carrollton's Park Plan.

Mr. Triplett replied yes, and provided an update for both questions.

**4. NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER PRESENTATION**

Nick Maletta- Green Infrastructure Project Manager/Certified Arborist #MA-6322A

Laura Robinson- Landscape Design Program Manager/Certified Arborist #MA-6443A

NDC is a nonprofit that partners with community leaders to envision better parks, public spaces, streetscapes and more.

Councilmember Hooks asked if any of the trees would be removed and added to Carrollton Parkway?

Mr. Maletta replied that the city would decide and his organization would provide the researched data they have collected.

Councilmember Urbina asked when was the study conducted?

Mr. Maletta replied, March 2021-March 2022.

Councilmember Urbina asked if they worked with Pepco, repairing powerlines?

Mr. Maletta replied that his organization does not work with specifically with Power Companies.

Mr. Triplett asked if the street lights were considered in the study?

Mr. Maletta replied yes, explaining what information they have found during their research. Mr. McMahon added that the study was only 40% of New Carrollton and the city can apply for additional grants for more tree planting.

5.

6. **ARPA CONSULTANT CONTRACT**

Mr. McMahon provided an update for the American Rescue Plan Act.

Chairperson Mills asked if the ARPA fund would allow the city to place trash cans on some of the main streets in New Carrollton?

Mr. McMahon responded that it falls under general government services, so yes it would.

7. **ANNEXATION PLAN DISCUSSION**

Mr. McMahon briefly discussed the history of Annexation in the City of New Carrollton. He provided the results of his research as well as his recommendations for future Annexation endeavors.

Councilmember Potter-Robbins had no comment.

Councilmember Hooks asked if the Annexation included the Shopping Center on Annapolis Road?

Mr. McMahon responded: No, it is not.

Councilmember Urbina stated that she supports the Annexation, but wanted to know more about the process.

Councilmember Dodro stated that she was in favor of reaching out to the property owners again, but offering a 3–5 year tax credit instead of a 10 year tax abatement for Annexation.

Mayor Nembhard offered some suggestions and emphasized that some businesses expressed interest in becoming part of New Carrollton, and how they too could benefit from the Annexation.

8. **AUDIO VISUAL ROOM RFP UPDATE/RECOMMENDATION**

Andrew Facey reiterated that the City issued a Request-For-Proposals to redesign the Municipal Center Audio Visual Room. Three proposals were received. AVI was the low bidder but staff determined their proposal was unresponsive to the RFP. Staff is recommending Wiser AV at \$58,680 with an annual maintenance fee of \$6,360.

Chairperson Mills shared what she had witnessed when she toured the Audio Visual Room and agreed that the current situation has to be rectified.

Councilmember Hooks suggested that we have more than one technician come in to assess the situation and salvage the equipment that can still be of use.

Councilmember Urbina was unsure, but much more inclined to spend the PEG funds after seeing the photos of the Audio Visual Room.

Councilmember Dodro was in favor of using the PEG funds to update the Audio Visual Room.

9. **CURBSIDE PICK-UP**

Chairperson Mills discussed curbside pick-up after being presented with the amount of money it is costing the city for employees injured as a result of picking up trash from the backyards of city residents.

Councilmember Urbina was not in favor of curbside pick-up.

Councilmember Dodro was not in favor of curbside pick-up.

**10. MEETING MINUTES**

a.) Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (April 6, 2022)

b.) Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (April 16, 2022)

c.) Council Legislative Meeting Minutes (April 18, 2022)

No discussion.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT - RESIDENTS' CONCERNS, AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND TELEPHONE CALLS**

Pamela Lucky of 6406 Kaslo informed the council that is trying to get more of her neighbors involved with the meetings, and the mayor and council are doing a great job.

**12. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No discussion.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Councilmember Urbina moved to adjourn the Council Workshop Meeting of Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Seconded by Councilmember Hooks. The motion was approved (3-0-0).

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robinson Brown

City Clerk

Adopted by the City Council on May 18, 2022.

Note: The official recording of the City of New Carrollton's Council Workshop Meeting of Wednesday, March 2, 2022, has been posted to the City of New Carrollton's website.