

**CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON MINUTES
COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022**

The Council Legislative Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, as a virtual meeting. Attending were Chairperson Cynthia DB Mills; Councilmembers Allyne Hooks, Lincoln H.G. Lashley, Katrina R. Dodro, and Briana Urbina; Mayor Phelecia Nembhard; Director of Public Works Andre Triplett; Finance Director Lorna Grant-Charles; Information Technology Administrator Andrew Facey; and City Clerk Araceli Guzman-Benitez.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mills wished everybody happy holidays and called the Council meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chairperson Mills reminded everybody of the Open Meetings Act rules that if someone sends an email out to more than 2 council members, that's considered a meeting; to be aware of the emails, going out; also sending emails to each other, it only needs to be between each other; she further explained about comments from residents in reference to email conversation through the Council; she hopes to do a retreat for the Council and she hopes that they can all work as a unit.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT – 2022 HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

City Clerk Araceli started by saying good evening, Mayor, and Council members. The Announcement is for the 2022 Holiday Decorating Contest for the City of New Carolina, the list goes as follows:

Elena Vargas - 7417 Longbranch Drive
Alexis Herrera - 6403 Lamont Dr
Carmen Hernandez - 6013 Mentana Street
Rutilio Dubon - 8309 Cathedral Avenue
Paul Goldbeck - 8504 Caswell Pl
Mario Hercules - 8323 Quentin Street
Steven & Barbara Wood - 8325 Quentin St
Maria Alvarado - 6112 85th Pl
Claudia Ibarra - 6415 85th Pl
Rolando & Yoko Carpio - 6403 Kaslo Court

That is the list of the winners for the City of New Carrollton, I congratulate all of them and I encourage all the other residents, who did not win this year to continue to participate. Thank you, and good night, everyone.

4. COUNCIL QUESTIONS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS PERTAINING TO INFORMATION THAT WILL BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF NEW CARROLLTON

Chairperson Mills open the floor for the topic.

Councilmember Lashley started by wishing everyone happy holidays. Merry Christmas.

He had the honor of attending Delegate Gaines's funeral service on Saturday, December, tenth, it was a very moving ceremony; he also attended Santa with a Badge event this past Saturday December, seventeenth, it was a great success from what he could see there were lot of smiling and happy kids and was happy to help wrap gifts.

Councilmember Hooks started by wishing everyone a happy healthy holiday and New Year; she will provide an announcement at a later time.

Councilmember Urbina stated that she had a few announcements; first, she published the page of the Open Meetings Act from the Attorney General's website, and there are no prohibitions on sending emails, via twitter; second, she wanted to congratulated Senator Paul Pinsky on his appointment to be the new Secretary of Energy for the State of Maryland, he was appointed by Governor Elect. Wes Moore he was the Senator for over 30 years; but there will be an appointment process for replacing him and potentially an appointment process to reorganize the whole Delegation and she will keep people posted on that with her activities with the democratic party; one last announcement, Prince George County schools in the local area have a COVID positivity, rate of over 7% , her son's, school actually went all Virtual.

Councilmember Dodro announced that she was able to attend Santa with a Badge event on Saturday, and that Mr. Lashley was also there, it was great to put people in the holiday mood, the children were excited; she requested that Ms. Guzman, provide the attachment of the Municipalities Tip Fee Notice from Prince George is County, which was not on an email sent earlier that day; third, she requested a meeting that is an executive session for the first Wednesday in January, to meet with the City attorney, regarding legal issues with the City of New Carrollton, the request was for the next meeting, that they are supposed to have Wednesday, January, fourth, at 7:00 ; she wished everyone happy holidays; she advised to watch out for COVID and for the Flu and for everyone to wear a mask.

5. MEETING MINUTES

- a.) Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (November 2, 2022)
- b.) Council Legislative Meeting Minutes (November 16, 2022)

Motion: Councilmember Urbina moved that the City Council approve the minutes for (Council Workshop Meeting, November 2, 2022), and (Council Legislative Meeting, November 16, 2022). Councilmember Dodro seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion was approved (**5-0-0**).

Councilmember Lashley had a question for Andre Triplett on what progress has been made on the repairs of the Leaf-Machine; Mr. Triplett stated that the red machine is still down but he is looking for pricing; the white machine is up and running, he has a few things that he want to say, but will save it for the next meeting on his report.

OLD BUSINESS
NONE

NEW BUSINESS

6. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEEKS APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH STREET PAVING AND SIDEWALK REPAIR WITH VMP CONSTRUCTION CO, INC.

Chairperson Mills presented the topic.

Motion: Chairperson Mills moved that the City Council of New Carrollton Approve that the Department of Public Works proceed with Street Paving and Sidewalk Repair with VMP Construction CO, INC. The project will be funded through the ARPA budget Street Paving and Sidewalk Repairs line items. The City will be riding the PG County contract no. 952-H(D)A, currently with VMP Construction CO, INC. Councilmember Lashley seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion failed **(0-5-0)**.

7. PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Motion: Councilmember Dodro moved that the City Council of New Carrollton along with Mayor Nembhard proclaim February 1 through March 1, 2023, to be Black History Month in the City of New Carrollton. Councilmember Urbina seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion passed **(5-0-0)**.

8. PROCLAMATION – SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Motion: Councilmember Hooks moved that the City Council of New Carrollton along with Mayor Nembhard proclaim January 22-28, 2023, to be National School Week in the City of New Carrollton. Councilmember Lashley seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion failed **(2-3-0)**.

9. 2023 ELECTION PROCESS – VOTE BY MAIL OR VOTE IN PERSON

a) **Motion:** Chairperson Mills moved that the City Council approve the City General Election of Monday, May 1, 2023 to be held via Vote-by-Mail Election.

OR

b) **Motion:** Chairperson Mills moved that the City Council approve the City General Election of Monday, May 1, 2023 to be held via in Person.

Councilmember Lashley seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills did not called for the vote. The motion will go through a Public Hearing before the Council votes on it. **(0-0-0)**.

10. NON-US CITIZEN TO VOTE CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Councilmember Urbina refused to read the motion.

Motion: Chairperson Mills moved that the City Council of New Carrollton approve to further research the topic of Non-US Citizens to Vote on City Municipal Elections. Councilmember Hooks seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills did not called for a vote. The topic was tabled. There was no vote **(0-0-0)**. Chairperson Mills tabled topic #10.

11. 16 YEAR OLD RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Chairperson Mills tabled topic #11.

Motion: There was no motion or vote on (further research the topic of 16 Year Old Residents to Vote on City Municipal Elections).

12. COMMENTS OF PAID BILLS

Chairperson Mills asked if anyone had comments about the list of bills:

Batch #1 (October 27, 2022); Batch #2 (November 8, 2022); Batch #3 (November 21, 2022);
Batch #4 (November 25, 2022).

Councilmember Lashley stated that he did not see any problems with the list of bills.

Councilmember Hooks stated that he did not see any problems with the list of bills.

Councilmember Urbina stated that she reviewed the bills and that at this time she is requested an audit of the Fiscal year 2023 spending. A discussion followed.

Finance Director Lorna Grant-Charles commented on the topic. A discussion followed about questions in reference to current budget; Councilmember Dodro requested a copy of the budget previously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mills called the adjournment.

There being no further business, Chairperson Mills moved the motion to adjourn the Council Legislative Meeting for Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Councilmember Hooks seconded the motion and not everyone were in favor. The motion failed. (2-3-0).
Chairperson Mills closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Araceli Guzman-Benitez

Araceli Guzman Benitez

City Clerk

Adopted by the City Council on January 18, 2023.

Note: The official recording of the City of New Carrollton's Council Legislative Meeting of Wednesday, December 21, 2022, has been posted to the City of New Carrollton's website: www.newcarrolltonmd.gov.