

**CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON MINUTES
COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023**

The Council Legislative Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 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; Information Technology Administrator Andrew Facey; and City Clerk Araceli Guzman-Benitez.

1. PUBLIC HEARING: SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT ON THE CITY’S 2023 GENERAL ELECTION PROCESS – VOTE-BY MAIL OR VOTE IN PERSON

Chairperson Mills started the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Mills read the following: Tonight’s Public Hearing was advertised:

1. December 30, 2022 & January 11, 2023 via constant contact email
2. January 4, 2023 via Workshop Meeting.
3. Jan 5- 11, 2023 via The Prince George’s Post.
4. January 5 via the City’s website.
5. January 9 via the City’s social media.
6. January 12 via the Police Electronic sign.

Public Hearing – Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

The City of New Carrollton, Maryland, will hold a public hearing to seek input in the City’s 2023 General Election Process to be a Vote-by-Mail or Vote in Person process:
Should the City Council approve the City’s General Election of Monday, May 1, 2023 to be held via Vote-by-Mail Election.

OR

Should the City Council approve the City’s General Election of Monday, May 1, 2023 to be held via in Person.

Public Hearing Comments from residents’ via-Email.

The following resident’s comments in reference to the 2023 Election Process:

- Rebecca Frey: I would prefer a Vote-by-Mail and I stress that this is taken because of difficulty in getting around and ONLY applies to myself
- Jim WILDONER: All the state approved voting access methods which are Absentee = Mail in, in person, and early voting
- Stephen John, of 5813 Lamont Dr.: I vote that the City does an in-person election at City Hall, with early voting day(s), and with opportunities for absentee ballots
- Patricia Jackman, of 5813 Lamont Drive: I request the City hold in-person voting procedures at a City facility, with early voting day(s), and with the opportunity for absentee ballots

Input from the Council:

- Councilmember Dodro – requested to see early voting and extend the time of early voting; automatic mail-in ballots to people who previously requested absentee ballots; absentee ballots and to be able to vote in person
- Councilmember Hooks – requested in person voting; extend time for early voting; absentee ballot
- Councilmember Lashley – In favor of in person voting; early voting; absentee ballot
- Resident – June Garrett – In favor of in person voting; vote absentee ballot; early voting
- Resident Jeffrey TVK – In favor of in person voting; early voting; educate residents about absentee ballots
- Resident Rashad- Fremont St: In favor of in person voting; Vote-by-Mail; in favor of all options
- Resident Andrew Callimahos- 6108085th Pl: In favor of in person; absentee ballots
- Resident Alicia Limpkin – Harland St: In favor of Vote-by-Mail; Vote in person
- Resident Roy Peterson – 8406 Ravenswood Rd: He explained that vote-by-mail is expensive; in favor of in person voting; early voting; absentee ballots
- Resident Tyrone General – Kaslo Ct: In favor that every registered citizen has the opportunity to vote
- **Resident David Lai- 7607 Riverdale Rd: He is in favor of** Councilmember Dodro – requested to see early voting and extend the time of early voting; automatic mail-in ballots to people who previously requested absentee ballots; absentee ballots and to be able to vote in person
- Resident David Rowlands – 8318 Carrollton Pkwy: In favor of absentee ballot; in person voting; early voting
- Jeffrey Dolberg – 84th Ave: Had comments about the right of voting; ballots shall only be mailed to people who are registered voters

Councilmember Dodro clarified some points about new voting language at the State level; she read the expenses of the last few elections.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mills call the meeting to order at 7:37 pm

3. 2023 ELECTION PROCESS – VOTE BY MAIL OR VOTE IN PERSON (NEW BUSINESS)

- 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. Councilmember Urbina seconded the motion. There was a discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion passed (**0-5-0**).

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 called for the vote. The motion failed (**5-**

0-0).

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – FOUR CITIES MEETING

Chairperson Mills announced the topic:

College Park is hosting the Four Cities meeting at City Hall, 7401 Baltimore Avenue, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, on Thursday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Please forward your agenda items to Araceli:

- Legislative priorities for the Four Cities group
- Investor purchases of single family homes
- Discussion of local impacts if there is a federal government shutdown
- Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan fund (FEMA)
- Dates for Four Cities meetings for the remainder of 2023:
Greenbelt:
Berwyn Heights:
New Carrollton

5. MEETING MINUTES

- a.) Council Workshop Meeting Minutes (December 7, 2022)
- b.) Council Legislative Meeting Minutes (December 21, 2022)

Motion: Councilmember Urbina moved that the City Council approve the minutes for (Council Workshop Meeting, December 7, 2022), and (Council Legislative Meeting, December 21, 2022). Councilmember Dodro seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Chairperson Mills called for the vote. The motion was approved (**5-0-0**).

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

Chairperson Mills open the floor for the topic.

Councilmember Urbina announced that she was voted onto the democratic central committee for district 22.

Councilmember Lashley stated that Prince George’s County will hold a job fair by Employ Prince George’s on Tuesday, January 31st at the Prince George’s County Community College; he spoke about hate and topics and that next Monday it will be a celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King and made reference to the following quote: Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” – MLK-

Councilmember Urbina did not respond.

**OLD BUSINESS
NONE**

NEW BUSINESS

7. 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. The topic was tabled for another meeting

8. ADOPTION OF FY2023 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Chairperson Mills presented the topic. A discussion followed. They did not vote on the topic.

Councilmember Dodro spoke about the following topics:

- Schedule approval of fees (FY23 Schedule of Fee was not passed)
- Official Approved FY23 Budget (was not received)_
- Suggested an extra public hearing

Councilmember Dodro spoke about the following topics:

- Suggested an extra public hearing (to revised the 5/5/23
- When will the budget be available online for the public?

9. COMMENTS OF PAID BILLS

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

Batch #1 & Batch #2 (December 2, 2022); Batch #3 (December 9, 2022); Batch #4 (December 19, 2022); Batch #5 (December 22, 2022); Batch #6 (December 30, 2022).

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mills called the adjournment.

There being no further business, Chairperson Mills moved the motion to adjourn the Council Legislative Meeting for Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Councilmember Dodro seconded the motion. Everyone were in favor. The motion passed. (4-0-1).

Chairperson Mills closed the meeting.

Chairperson provided information about the City; she wished Councilmember Lashley a happy birthday.

The meeting ended at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Araceli Guzman-Benitez

Araceli Guzman Benitez

City Clerk

Adopted by the City Council on February 15, 2023.

Note: The official recording of the City of New Carrollton’s Council Legislative Meeting of Wednesday, January 18, 2023, has been posted to the City of New Carrollton’s website: www.newcarrolltonmd.gov.