



City of Glenarden
Special Regular Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 7:00PM
Minutes

Attendees:

Council President – Robin Jones
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson
Councilwoman – Deborah A. Eason
Councilman – James A. Herring
Councilwoman – Carolyn Smallwood
Councilman – Donjuan Williams

- Call to Order at 7:00PM
- Invocation led by Council Vice President Ferguson
- Roll Call

Council President – Robin Jones
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson
Councilwoman – Deborah A. Eason
Councilman – James A. Herring
Councilwoman – Carolyn Smallwood
Councilman – Donjuan Williams
Councilwoman – Celestine E. Wilson - Absent

We have a Quorum

- Motion to Adopt Agenda

Councilman Williams motioned to adopt the agenda – Seconded by Councilwoman Ferguson

Council President – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Councilwoman – Deborah A. Eason - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Carolyn Smallwood - Yes
Councilman – Donjuan Williams - Yes
Councilwoman – Celestine E. Wilson - Absent
6 Yes – 1 Absent Agenda APPROVED

- Legislation



O-01-2021 An Emergency Ordinance to Amend City of Glenarden's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Councilwoman Eason motioned to bring forward an Emergency Ordinance – Seconded by Councilman Williams

Council President – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Councilwoman – Deborah A. Eason - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Carolyn Smallwood - Yes
Councilman – Donjuan Williams - Yes
Councilwoman – Celestine E. Wilson - Absent

6 Yes – 1 Absent Can bring O-01-2021 to the Floor as an Emergency

Councilman Williams motioned to adopt the ordinance – Seconded by Councilwoman Ferguson

Council President – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Councilwoman – Deborah A. Eason - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - No
Councilwoman – Carolyn Smallwood - No
Councilman – Donjuan Williams - Yes
Councilwoman – Celestine E. Wilson - Absent

4 Yes – 2 No's 1 Absent - FAILED

- Citizens Comments/Questions (five minutes)

Erica Fareed concern is the next steps to assure a passed budget. Also addressed Councilman Herring on why his issues were not brought to the previous work sessions. She also states her disappointment that the Council could not come to a beneficial agreement on the FY 2021 budget.

Councilwoman Jones offers that the Council worked on the budget for multiple days and the Councilmembers could all speak on their ideas for the budget.



Councilwoman Smallwood offers that she spoke on the same concerns and felt that no one would listen to her comments.

Councilman Herring states he spoke on his concern with the Council Secretary title change in the meeting and also stated that the change from the position title was never discussed with the whole Council that there would be a Council Secretary opposed to a Deputy Clerk.

Ricky Montgomery states that the Council is not working together and when election time occurs some Councilmembers need to be relieved of their duties.

Richard Arroya-Montgomery states he is also disappointed with the Council as far as not working together to pass the FY.2021 budget. Suggest that the City residents and essential employees may possibly lose the CARES Act grant.

Christopher Beccles ask when is the next opportunity to review this budget again to resolve the outstanding issues.

Councilwoman Jones offered she will be polling the Council to ask for their availability to discuss the FY 2021 budget. Councilwoman Jones request that all Councilmembers answer the polling.

Kathleen Guillaume-Deleamar confirmed her understanding; to pass the budget you need five affirmative votes, and there were only four affirmative votes and confirming Councilwoman Smallwood wants a particular position removed from the budget, not just zeroed out. In her opinion this is all games and is not moving the City forward.



Councilwoman Smallwood offers that she has other concerns regarding the FY 2021 budget. Such as using the City savings account, or the general fund to balance a budget.

Christopher Beccles asked if there was a consensus done to balance the budget by using the savings account. And if so, he offers to move forward and pass the budget.

Councilwoman Smallwood offers her concerns were not just brought up today but repeatedly spoke on at the Council meetings, and she has every right to express her opinion. As she has suggested before that there should be more budgetary cuts before going into the city savings account.

Erica Fareed appealed to Councilwoman Smallwood to change her “no” vote. Until this budget passes, we will work under the 2020 budget. And there is no funding for an Election in the FY 2020 budget. Elections will be coming up very soon and citizens need to use their voice election power to address their concerns.

Councilwoman Eason offers she does not have a suggestion because the Council already was looking at this budget, line by line so that information could produce a balance budget, that included the COVID-19 relief funds in the budget. Even asked the Treasurer for ideas to reduce the budget.

Mr. Montgomery ask if there is an emergency procedure in place for something like this occurring. Suggest that perhaps the Charter needs a re-write or review.

Councilman Williams offered that he has a Charter Amendment ongoing to change the charter from a five-affirmative vote to a majority vote of four for the budget amendment ordinance.



Ricky Montgomery offers that the City Attorney should be more involved in changing some of the rules and procedures as the Council's guide. Also suggest that the Council conduct work-shops with other municipalities regarding rules and procedures on how to conduct business.

Councilwoman Jones offers that Mayor Estes suggested that a Charter review be conducted.

Christopher Beccles asked, since the budget has not passed to date, what is the effect it will have on the essential/City employees.

Councilwoman Jones states that the CARES Act relief grant will not be a part of this year's budget due to the deadline that is fast approaching; hazard pay will not be able to be offered to the essential employees or the City residents.

Christopher Beccles offered that this community has a diversity of citizens with COVID-19 concerns; and he feels like there is a "Crabs in a Barrel" syndrome occurring.

Councilwoman Eason offers that the effect for the city employees is that they will not be offered the 3% COLA and their salaries will remain the same for 2021.

Councilman Herring states that he has tried for about 3 to 4 months to have the 2020 budget to include the CARES Act for hazard pay. The payroll funds for the essential employees alone, would have covered the 60% from the CARES Act grant.

Erica Fareed states that she does not know any Councilmember personally. And does not agree with over-turning the Mayor's veto. From the virtual meetings she has yet to hear a resident wanting to over-turn the Mayor's budget. Expressed to the Council that she



just wants the Council to move forward in passing the FY 2021 budget. She appeals to Councilman Herring again to approve this budget and get this done expeditiously.

Ricky Montgomery suggest that this sounds more like personnel and/or an accountant issue based on Councilwoman Eason saying that the Treasurer never has a plan in advance that should be laid out; and that should be addressed. Also, states that the Council's job is to listen and take notes from the resident's comments.

Richard Montgomery suggest that the Council work together to get the budget completed. And feels that it is disturbing that the budget to date has not been completed and passed.

Kathleen Guillaume-Delmar speaks toward that she believes in public safety of her community, and takes offense to the overdue date of not passing the budget and feels the sense of security is being put in limbo. She cares about her community as a whole and she hopes the Councilmembers do as well, not only certain areas of the city.

Councilwoman Jones appeals to the two Councilmembers that voted "no" to reconsider their vote.

Councilman Herring states that he feels the citizens are being mis-lead with the idea to give Council authority to cut checks without the budget actual passing. Also, wants the residents to note that the budget was not offered to the Council until August of 2020.

Councilwoman Jones offers that the FY 2021 budget needs to be passed in time for the CARES Act for COVID 19 money to be spent. Also, offers that no transition



information was offered to her as the incoming Council President and the previous Council President should have approached the Mayor to receive the FY 2021 budget in a more-timely manner.

Adjourned at 8:46pm

Submitted by:

M. Toni Taylor
M. Toni Taylor, CMC

Clerk to the Council

APPROVED