



The City of Glenarden
Public Hearing/Special Regular Meeting (Virtual)
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Minutes

Attendees:

Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson
Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston
Councilman – James A. Herring
Councilwoman – Robin Jones

- Called to Order at 7:00 PM
- Invocation led by Vice President Angela D. Ferguson
- Roll Call
Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed – Present
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Present
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston – Present
Councilman – James A. Herring – Present
Councilwoman – Robin Jones – Present
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson – Present
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II – Present

We have a Quorum

- Motion to Adopt Agenda

Councilwoman Kathleen J. Guillaume to adopt the agenda – Second by Vice President Angela D. Ferguson.

Councilwoman – Erika L. Fareed - Yes
Councilwoman – Kathleen J. Guillaume - Yes
Councilman – Maurice A. Hairston - Yes
Councilman – James A. Herring - Yes
Councilwoman – Robin Jones - Yes
Council Vice President – Angela D. Ferguson - Yes
Council President – Derek D. Curtis, II - Yes

7 Yes, 0 No = PASSED

- Citizens Comments on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
 - **Mrs. Armstrong** – What can the funds be used for?
 - **President Curtis** – Public Safety & Economic impacts, broadband, water source infrastructure, revenue loss, etc. More detailed information and helpful links regarding best use practices for the ARPA funds are listed below:

Eligible uses include assistance to households; small businesses and non-profits; and aid to impacted industries. Assistance to households includes, but is not limited to: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker’s occupation or level of training. Assistance to small business and non-profits includes, but is not limited to:

 - loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
 - Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
 - Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

[H.R.1319 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

[Treasury SLFRP FAQ 7.14.21.pdf \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#)
- **Mrs. A. McDuffie** – Can the funds be used for sidewalk repairs in the community?
 - **President Curtis** – Yes, it was previously discussed in a prior meeting that hiring a ARPA Project Manager to oversee the productivity of the site and ensure proper usage of funds would be a great resource.

- **Mrs. A. McDuffie** – Who is responsible for suggesting or implementing charter and code amendments/changes?
 - **President Curtis** – You can submit your code or charter concerns to the council for review.
- **Mrs. A. McDuffie** – How often is the charter and code reviewed for amendments to be made? It was last amended in 1992.
 - **R. Jones** – What exactly are you looking to have amended?
 - **Mrs. A. McDuffie** – The responsibility of the sidewalks and aprons being the homeowner’s responsibility.
 - **R. Jones** – From Councilwoman Jones’ understanding...previously when this charter rule was established the city did not have the financial resources to maintain the cities sidewalks and aprons, which inadvertently left the homeowners responsible for its upkeep. However, the city is now in the position to change that ordinance to state the upkeep of the city’s sidewalks and aprons be upheld by the administration. Councilwoman Jones is in the process of writing an ordinance to make that correction.
 - **J. Herring** – The charter allows the city the repair any sidewalks within its jurisdiction; the charter states that the responsibility is of the homeowner, or the city may elect to repair the sidewalk themselves. There is no need to change the charter as is give both parties an option to make sidewalk repairs as needed.
 - **President Curtis** – Mrs. McDuffie is there a specific location you are referring to?
 - **Mrs. McDuffie** – No just in general.
 - **E. Fareed** – This message is to serve as a reminder that the council will be conducting a charter/code committee review meeting soon. The purpose of this committee is to review the charter and code end to end to see how it can be updated. If any citizens have any concerns or challenges to the code, please notify your local councilmember so the necessary legislation can be pursued to implement changes.
- **Jessy Huff Jr.** – Can we use the ARPA Funds to offer some type of mental health counseling program for citizens of all ages? This pandemic has affected the lives of many people, the city could provide counseling for the citizens suffering hardships due to Covid-19 such as job loss counseling/training/support, grief support, financial literacy/management counseling, etc.
- **Mrs. Bunny** – What do we do with abandoned homes who need landscaping?
 - **President Curtis** – We will have Code Enforcement investigate this.
 - **J. Herring** – The City Manager will have code enforcement have the grass cut and put a lien on the property to have the city reimbursed once the property is sold. Please provide the address to the city manager.
 - **President Curtis** – Requested the Council Clerk to provide the street address of said property to the Acting City Manager Chief Jackson.

- **Mrs. McDuffie** – To piggyback off the previous question stated by Mrs. Bunny, does this apply to abandon vehicles as well? If there is a vehicle with nonvalid tags or sitting on flat tires, shouldn't code enforcement be getting those vehicles towed?
- **President Curtis** – Yes, they should. Is there a particular street where there are cars in violation now?
 - **Mrs. McDuffie** – Yes, there are vehicles located McLean Ave that have been reported to Mr. Howard Taylor, and Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Thomas. The resident recently had a meeting with Acting City Manager Jackson regarding this as well.
 - **President Curtis** – What was the outcome?
 - **Mrs. McDuffie** – Nothing, that is why I am stating is again now in this meeting to find a resolve. The resident feels that code enforcement hasn't been proficient in enforcing the mandated code.
 - **President Curtis** – Requested the Council Clerk to notate the location and description of the vehicles in violation to report to Acting City Manager Jackson:
 - **Mrs. McDuffie** – The resident reported the following:
 - **Black Truck located on McLean Ave in violation**
 - **Removal of box springs and mattress on the back of pickup trucks in front of homes**
 - **Vice President Ferguson** – Vice President Ferguson is aware of this complaint and says this has been an ongoing issue in addition of some trees that need to be cut since March 27, 2021. There isn't anything being done.
 - **R. Jones** – Councilwoman Jones received a resident call regarding McLean Ave inquiring what would she do to provide a solution pertaining to the overgrown trees. BG&E already stated that as long as the trees are not interfering with their powerlines, they are not responsible for their trimming. It was also suggested by Councilwoman Jones to have the Public Works Assistant Supervisor get three bids from local landscapers have the trees cut back. There is a vendor in the city by the name of Mac & Son's who provides the residents a 10% discount on services.
 - **Acting City Manager Jackson** – Public Works Assistant Manager Howard Taylor is in the process of obtaining 3 bids from contractors for tree trimming services on McLean Ave as requested. Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Thomas will check on McLean Ave for the vehicle with the mattress.
 - **President Curtis** – Also, please request Public Works to cut the grass located at 7908 Tyler Street, Glenarden, MD 20706.
 - **Mrs. Armstrong** – How many Code Enforcement Officers does the city have?
 - **R. Jones** – We have 3 Code Enforcement Officers:
 - Mon – Friday Full-Time Officer
 - Tues – Saturday Full-Time Officer
 - Sat – Sun 10hr Shift Part-Time Officer

- **K. Guillaume** – How long has the vehicle been abandoned with the mattress on it?
 - **Mrs. McDuffie** – The vehicle has been abandoned for at least two years, and the mattress and box spring has been on the back of the truck for about four months.
 - **K. Guillaume** – Councilwoman Guillaume states for that record that this information is unacceptable, and the city needs to do better. Residents shouldn't have to come to public meetings to have action taken on code enforcement measures.
 - **C. Wilson** – It is her understanding that Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Thomas was checking into whose name would be on the lean of the property.
 - **Mr. Jessie Huff, Jr.** – The weekend code enforcement officer is unresponsive and does not answer his phone, nor is he seen patrolling the city during the weekend shifts. This may be an issue that requires investigation as to what goes on during the weekends too.
 - **President Curtis** – Request Acting Chief Jackson to follow up on this request for investigation.
 - **E. Carter** – If a citizen had a difficult time during the last year in direct relation to the pandemic and needs assistance with maintaining home maintenance to keep up the state of their property value, can the ARPA funds be used to provide residential home assistance?
 - **President Curtis** – This is a great idea, and we will investigate if this is a valid use.
 - **K. Guillaume** – Yes, this is an eligible use for ARPA fund program distribution.
 - **Mayor Cross** – We can utilize the ARPA funds for revenue replacement as we were unable to operate the Gold Room due to the pandemic shutdown.
- Adjourned at 7:45pm

Submitted by:

Victoria Lewis, Council Clerk