



The City of Glenarden
Special Regular Meeting/Public Hearing (Virtual)
Tuesday, October 19th, 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 Robin Jones to adopt the agenda – Second by Vice President Angela D. Ferguson.
 - Discussion
 - **E. Fareed** – Request to add upcoming events to the agenda.

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

- **C. Wilson** – Since the funding is not in the budget where are the funds coming from?
 - **E. Fareed** – The plan is to procure a grant managed by the City Manager. There is a Maryland Open Space Grant that opens in June 2022, or other grant opportunities offered by non-profit organizations.
- **Richard Arroyo-Montgomery** – Commends Councilwoman Erika L. Fareed on bringing forth this resolution in efforts to improve the beautification in the City of Glenarden
- **Mayor Cross** – The Mayor expresses her concerns about putting forth a resolution without a City Manager in place to oversee its management. Mayor Cross also has concerns about passing this resolution without having secured any proposed funding. Mayor Cross feels this is false hope to the citizens and believes in showing transparency.
 - **E. Fareed** – The resolution is being set forth now to keep in the vein of transparency, and to have legislation in support of the new City Manager pursuing to secure a grant as an agenda priority. This resolution is establishing the initial step of procuring a grant and designer. The second phase would be a resolution to accept the grant, and any other supporting legislation set forth to complete said project start to finish.
 - **Mayor Cross** – Request the council to not move forward with this resolution until a City Manager is hired. The Acting City Manager also serves as the Acting Chief of Police and current Captain of Police and has been set forth as a placeholder per the charter. This request would put a strain on the administration.
 - **R. Jones** – The late Chief O'Donnell while serving as the Acting City Manager signed documents, made decisions and acted on the behalf of the city. Is the current Acting City Manager Acting Chief Jackson not supporting the city business endeavors in that aspect as well? Is there anybody in the Police Department who serves under Acting City Manager Acting Chief Jackson who can take over some of his responsibilities, i.e., Lt. Robinson?
 - **R. Jones** – If the responsibility is a burden, we can always hire someone in a temporary compacity as the Acting City Manager.

- **Mayor Cross** – The Mayor also suggest that the Glenarden 7th Street residents previously denied grant monies precured by a prior council to install a playground at that location, the money was returned.
 - **E. Fareed** – Councilwoman Fareed is not aware of any expressed refusal and return of grant money by the 7th Street residents that was obtained from a prior council for the 7th Street Park Playground Installation. Councilwoman Fareed spoke directly to the 7th Street residents prior to initiating this resolution for playground equipment. This park is overgrown and previously had equipment there, it just wasn't maintained.
 - **R. Jones** – There was only one 7th Street Park area resident who said they did not want the park who is not deceased. However, moving forward there are a lot of children in that area; the park would be beneficial to them. Yes, there are other parks in the area that need to be considered and addressed. This park has not been addressing and has been abandoned and overgrown foliage due to neglect.
 - **J. Herring** – Councilman Herring provides clarification on the return of previous grant funds for the 7th Street Park. There was only one resident who rejected the idea of the park due to their displeasure with a public bathroom drafted on the blueprints proposed for approval. The Mayor went back to the State of Maryland to amend the open space grant to remove the bathroom, however, the resident still complained which caused the funds to be returned and not to move forward.
- **J. Herring** – Previously the city had lobbyist to research grants. Acting City Manager Acting Chief Jackson will not be able to execute this request.
 - **President Curtis** – Who was our pervious lobbyist?
 - **J. Herring** – J.S. Proctor and Associates.
- **E. Fareed** – Councilwoman Fareed did not want to give off the impression that the City Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer would be the sole person responsible to research grants, it would be that person's responsibility to direct that activity. Section 506 of the City of Glenarden Charter was referenced:
 - ***Section 506 Acting City Manager: The Mayor may recommend, and the Council may confirm a qualified City Administrative Officer as acting City Manager to***

exercise the power and perform the duties of the manager during any temporary absence or disability of the manager. The Council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the City as acting City Manager.

- **E. Fareed** – Where is the resolution that appoints the Chief of Police as the City Manager?
- **E. Fareed** – If we do not feel that the Acting Chief is the right person to stand in as the Acting City Manager, is there someone else in this Administration qualified to step up in that role? Until that role is fulfilled the city cannot be in a standstill, that is why there are provisions for an Acting City Manager.
- **Mayor Cross** – The Mayor asks the council to reconsider her selection for City Manager and suggest allowing a formal interview for the candidate as she has already submitted a resolution for appointment.
- **Ricky Montgomery** – Commends Councilwoman Fareed in her efforts to refurbish the park and beautification of the City of Glenarden. The Administration when they got elected knew this was going to be a task and should work together to develop a team to as suggested by Councilman Herring get ahead of the application process for grants.
- **Mrs. Sennieal Crutchfield** – What is the rush in passing this resolution for the playground. What is the timeframe for the completion of this project and why can't we wait for the hire of the City Manager?
 - **E. Fareed** – It is not so much a matter of a rush, rather making sure this task is on the agenda as a list of priorities to be carried out by the city. Some of these grants have a lengthy process, so it is important to get the ball rolling. What is the difference between passing the resolution now versus waiting for a City Manager? Councilwoman Fareed has a list of grants and designers and has done preliminary work for this project. The City Manager would not be starting from scratch, also grant writing and research is typically a task the Lobbyist would undertake in collaboration with City Manager.
- **Richard Arroyo-Montgomery** – Mr. Arroyo-Montgomery feels he is hearing more excuses not to move forward with the resolution as to how we can move forward with this resolution with the staff we have in place. The person serving in the interim role as

City Manager should be able to facilitate moving forward with the 7th Street Park Renovation.

- **K. Guillaume** - In addition to serving as a Councilwoman for the City of Glenarden, Mrs. Guillaume has been a grant writer and Director of National Partnerships for over 25 years. Before this resolution was drafted by Councilwoman Fareed, the citizens were asked during the council campaign what were citizen items of priority, and the renovation of the parks was one of them. This resolution was enacted based on request by the 7th Street residents. RFP's and grants are a lengthy process, and time waits for no one. You shouldn't wait for a position to be filled with the assumption the funds will still be there.
- **J. Herring** – If we were awarded a grant for the 7th Street Park on a previous plan, is that plan still at the City Hall, and can we get that plan to eliminate some steps? Councilman Herring will see if he can locate the grant application to find the layout submitted. If not, we have used [Neighborhood Design Associates](#) which is a non-profit located in Hyattsville, MD. This company's pricing is cost effective for municipalities and can quickly draft up a new design. Also, Neighborhood Design Associates previously did the layout for the Martin Luther King Park for the City of Glenarden, they might have access to the approved design submitted for 7th Street Park grant application as well. The state requires your project to be mapped out and shovel ready when requesting a grant.
- **Mayor Cross** – The Mayor makes a pitch for the candidate she submitted for appointment for the City Manager position.
 - **President Curtis** – President Curtis redirects the conversation to stay on topic of the 7th Street Park Resolutions. This is not about a vouch for a candidate for City Manager, as the citizens are only being given half of the reality regarding this candidate submission and is not the current topic of discussion. The President asks if the Mayor has any closing comments pertaining to the 7th Street Park Resolution?
 - **Mayor Cross** – The Administration need to come up with a cohesive plan and formulate a cohesive team with someone who has strong grant management skills. A submission for a lobbyist has been submitted to the council for review.
- **K. Guillaume** – Regarding the Mayor's comments pertaining to needing someone with strong grant management skills. Grant management implies that you have already been

awarded the grant and have been issued funds for management. This resolution is saying we must start the process regarding securing the grant and allocation of the grant funds.

- **R. Jones** – Wanted to note that we can hire a grant writer in addition to a lobbyist firm.
- **President Curtis** – To close out this conversation and give full context on the City Manager appointment submitted by the mayor which was mentioned earlier. Yes, a City Manager was presented to the council. This person was interviewed in a closed session and deemed not qualified for the role. Council President does not want it to be perceived that the council received a submission that we are sitting on. President Curtis is requesting to research more qualified candidates for further review and has discussed tactics to attract high quality talent.
- **E. Fareed** – The initial legislation that was announced to the public was missing a co-sponsor which is Councilwoman Kathleen J. Guillaume and Vice President Angela D. Ferguson.
- Legislation
 - R-05-2022 A Resolution to Pursue Installation of Playground Equipment at 7th Street Park.

Motion to bring Resolution R-05-2022 to Pursue Installation of Playground Equipment at 7th Street Park to the floor Adopted by President Derek D. Curtis, II – Second by Councilwoman Robin Jones.

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
- Upcoming Events
 - **E. Fareed** – With Thanksgiving and Christmas vastly approaching, discussion between the council and the administration regarding upcoming events should be had. Christmas needs to be discussed and Mayor Cross' turkey distribution.
 - **Vice President Ferguson** – Prior to the COVID shut down the city used a planning committee that manages the Christmas Party and holiday events. Preparation normally begins in early September, so preparation at this time is a bit late. Currently Vice President Ferguson doesn't have any contributions/plans towards the Christmas Party planning due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID.

- **Mayor Cross** – Volunteer hours can be obtained at the Harvest Day Rewind on November 23rd, 2021. The Polar Express Christmas Extravaganza will be held on December 18th, 2021. The MLK Celebration will kick off the events in 2022, second by Glenarden’s Black History Month Movie Night Lights taking place every Thursday night during the Month of February.
- **J. Herring** - Advertisement has been sent out via postcard regarding the Expungement Fair held at the James R. Cousins Municipal Center from 10am – 2pm on October 23rd, 2021. Shred Day & Donation Give-A-Way will be held October 30th, 2021, at the James R. Cousins Municipal Center as well.
- **E. Fareed** – What events do we want to play going forward into the holiday? Councilwoman Fareed suggest doing an Angel Tree for the children of the Glenarden Housing Authority.
 - **K. Guillaume** – What is an Angel Tree?
 - **E. Fareed** – The Angel Tree is where a cut out of a Christmas tree is placed on a door, and the children can put their name on a picture of an ornament with what they want for Christmas. The items will be purchased via the city and volunteers and distributed to the kids.
- **R. Jones** – Regarding the Polar Express, in the initial planning of this event it was mentioned that the kids would be allowed to wear pajamas. The kids aren’t still being allowed to wear pajamas, are they?
 - **Mayor Cross** - No, the kids will not have on pajamas. There will be a screening of the Polar Express movie, hot chocolate, and gift distribution.
- **J. Herring** – Suggest possibly having the council going into recess for the holidays.
- **M. Hairston** – Suggest having the citizens offer ideas for holiday events.
- Citizen Suggestions for Upcoming Events
 - **Mrs. Yvonne** – Provided detailed information regarding a Angel Tree program. Suggest doing caroling with the kids, and dress in costumes for gift distribution. The resident is willing to serve on a planning committee.
 - **Richard Arroyo-Montgomery** – Traditionally are the council and administration events usually separate? Shouldn’t this be a combined effort by both parties.
 - **President Curtis** – President Curtis is in support of the mayors events, and all events whether it’s be hosted by the council or the administration are all city events.
 - **Richard Arroyo-Montgomery** – It has come off in a previous meeting when these events were first announced that the council was ill-informed and not aware of the planning. That is why the citizen is confused as to if everts are being planned that the council isn’t aware of and why is that happening.
 - **President Curtis** – Yes, there was a previous problem with communication, however, we are all working to get on the same page and transparent communication.
 - **E. Fareed** – That was the point of adding this topic to the agenda. The administration and the council have not sat down to discuss upcoming events to

ensure everyone is aware and on the same page. All events need to be discussed before being announced to the public. Going forward we need to co-create a calendar of events.

- **R. Jones** – When we discuss the FY23 budget maybe we can designate which department will oversee planning of certain special events.
- **Mayor Cross** – The administration has submitted a three-month plan of event to the council. Mayor Cross wants to implement sending out a quarterly postcard of upcoming events.
- Citizens Comments
 - **Ricky Montgomery** – There are far greater things the city needs...there is too much money being spent on city events and fun. City funds need to be spent on the communication network and the Cable Station. If we are not spending the money on the Christmas party, use it for the cable station and communication.
 - **President Curtis** – There is a separate budget for special events and communication. The ARPA funds will be utilized toward communication and the cable station as well. The administration will be sure to make budget allocations highlighted in the monthly treasurer’s report.
 - **Ricky Montgomery** – Do you have an idea on the projected start of the communication upgrade project? Has a process be put in place, because soon we will be coming off zoom and on to the cable station.
 - **President Curtis** – The intent is not to come off of zoom, rather to offer various forms of communication regarding the town hall meetings. Going forward the council is looking to having COVID preventative in-person meeting access, multi-stream access via Zoom, Youtube, Facebook, Instagram, and the Glenarden Cable Station.
 - **Ricky Montgomery** – My concern is the seniors who are not tech savvy as well.
 - **Ricky Montgomery** – Mr. Montgomery previously served on the Christmas Party planning committee for two years with Vice President Ferguson and provided catering for the event. Mr. Montgomery is willing to assist with any event efforts made by the city.
 - **Mrs. Armstrong** – While walking her dog the citizen is having to cross the street due to unmanicured bushes on Glenarden Parkway and Fisk Ave. Also, the grass is high around the pet stations in the dog park.
 - **Richard Arroyo-Montgomery** – Is the Expungement Fair in partnership with the State Attorney’s Office, and is open to citizens outside of the City of Glenarden? Also, is the city picking up the \$30 fee associated with the expungement of records, and where is the money coming from?
 - **J. Herring** – Yes, this is a collaborative effort with the State Attorney Office, Aisha Braveboy and her Municipal Liaison Sean Wilson. They have done this program with other municipalities, and the sponsoring municipal center would pick up the cost of the expungement which is \$30 as a way to give back. If you were found not guilty there is no cost, if found guilty there is a \$30 fee for

expungement. Yes, this event is open to residents outside of the City of Glenarden, however, you must be a Prince George's County resident, and the charges must be in PG County to be considered for expungement.

- **Jessy Huff, Jr.** – Why were the previous resolutions not brought to a public hearing?
 - **President Curtis** – There actually was, a public hearing isn't a type of meeting rather a portion of a meeting that is open to public discussion on the current legislation.
- **Jessy Huff, Jr.** – The webpage is not organized and too many things are being loaded on one page. Can we please have better organization of the website?
 - **Mayor Cross** – A new website will be launched shortly. The current website is not meant to be viewed from a cellular device and can be better viewed on a desktop. Modifications are being made to accommodate each request.
- **Jessy Huff, Jr.** – Can the zoom meetings be broadcasted on the cable station after the meetings?
 - **E. Fareed** – Yes, the playbacks can be on both YouTube and the cable station. Councilwoman Fareed will speak to our webmaster about converting the content over as suggested by Mr. Jessy Huff, Jr.
- **A. Hunter** – Beautification near the A1 Liquor Store and the hair salon. A. Hunter is not able to join beautification committee however, she will assist as much as she can. Sidewalks are an issue and children are having walk in the streets. When will we start seeing some of these projects moving?
- **Victoria Persons** – Why is the City of Glenarden paying expungement fees for residents outside of the City of Glenarden?
 - **J. Herring** – The States Attorney always asks the municipality hosting the event to cover the \$30 expungement fees for the residents. Other municipalities have held this event and was open to the whole PG County and not just their local residences.
- **Victoria Persons** - What is the normal turnout expected for the event.
 - **J. Herring** – Hyattsville processed 100 forms, and Cheverly processed 150 forms where a part 2 was needed. This event is done to give back to the community to help improve their lives. The cut off is at 2pm.
- Adjourned at 9:03 pm

Submitted by:

Victoria Lewis, Council Clerk