



The City of Glenarden  
Regular Meeting (Virtual)  
Monday, September 13, 2021, at 7:30 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  
Mayor – Cashenna A. Cross

**Additional Guest:**

Human Resources – Karen Shoultz

- Called to Order at 7:30 PM
- Invocation led by Council 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
  - Council Vice President Angela D. Ferguson to adopt the agenda – Second by Councilwoman Robin Jones.
- Discussion
  - **K. Guillaume** – Can Staffing be moved to the admin report?
    - **President Curtis** – It will go in conjunction with the high-level administrative reports.

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**

- Presentation on Traffic Calming Measures
  - Rescheduled/Tabled until later date
- Administrative Reports
  - Treasurer’s Report
    - **Mayor Cross** – A review of the finance operations progress from the month of July – Aug:
      - Brought up to date the disbursements for all vendors invoices
      - Actively preparing a 4-year strategy to utilize the ARPA funds received
      - Set the date for the FY2021 audit
      - Making regular bank deposits and seeking to reconcile petty cash
      - Working toward bringing our retirement accounts up to date
        - Partnering with Mutual of America
    - **J. Herring** – Please have the treasurer address the service charge for street light assessments and special assessments section; there is no revenue notated. The tax revenue listed at the top in the amount of \$540,000 which is overstated may be better suited for the special revenue section of the report.
    - **E. Carter** – Please share the reports on screen going forward for virtual meeting so the attendees can follow.
      - **Mayor Cross** – The Administration is working on providing a financial dashboard online for residential access
    - **C. Smallwood** – Have the money that has been spend on MLK Park been returned to the city by from the Open Space Grant?
      - **Mayor Cross** – Will take action to investigate this. The Code Enforcement report provides an update on the status of MLK Park.
  - Chief’s Report

- **Mayor Cross** – Introduced 4 new officers to the Glenarden citizens at National Night out August 3, 2021.
  - Wants better tracking on the return of police equipment back to city upon exit interviews.
- **R. Jones** – Have we received the Wegmans grant money yet to purchase new equipment for the Police Department?
  - **Acting Chief Jackson** – Yes, the grant funds have been received as of early June 2021. An order is being placed and it take 120 days for the materials to ship out.
- **R. Jones** – We lost a lot of experienced officers...are we balancing that recruiting with candidates who both new graduates from the Anne Arundel Police Academy and hiring experienced officers as well?
  - **Acting Chief Jackson** – We are currently reviewing applications of candidates who are considered PO's/experienced officers from other agencies.
- **C. Smallwood** – Why are we not seeing patrolling in Ward 1?
  - **Acting Chief Jackson** – Currently working on a strategy to improve patrol efforts like assigning officers to patrolling certain wards.
- **C. Smallwood** – Can you provide a turnaround on implementing these improved efforts?
  - **Acting Chief Jackson** – By the months end is the projected turnaround on this expectancy due to the fact we currently have new officers in training.
- **C. Smallwood** – Raises concerns about cars being parked and children riding their bikes at the park after dark. Mentioned cars being worked on and wanted more frequent patrolling.
  - **Acting Chief Jackson** – If you see something wrong, please contact the police to report it. The City will increase patrolling, however, please keep in mind we are limited in personnel and only have two officers available on a street sometimes. We are currently training new officers to improve our patrol efforts.

- **Mayor Cross** – If you see atrocious behavior in your neighborhood, please report it to build up metrics to pinpoint the areas of concern.
  - **C. Cash** – Why aren't we hiring officers from the PG County Academy's instead of Anne Arundel County?
    - **Acting Chief Jackson** – PG County recruits do not graduate until November 2021.
  - **C. Cash** – Consider making “**Community Block Captains**” to assist the local patrolling of our neighborhoods
  - **A. Hunter** – Ward 1 needs more police presence. If your presence isn't there it will breed more crime. If the citizens can help in anyway, please inform us so we can help in the initiative.
  - **C. Smallwood** – What are we going to do about the back up traffic on Piedmont?
    - **Mayor Cross** – This is due to the nationwide lack of school bus drivers, and delay on before and after care licensing coverage. The School Superintendent will provide updates regarding this matter.
- Mayor/City Manager Report
- **Mayor Cross** - The city has received visitation from various district level community engagement events such as 8 school backpack drives, and church events.
    - Job vacancy posting for the City Manager, Chief of Police, and Executive Assistant positions have been posted to ICMA, ICML, and Indeed.
      - Will be reaching out to the council to schedule a closed meeting to interview potential candidates.
    - The city will be implementing an Robocall Emergency Notification Service as well as emergency 311 extension you can reach by dialing the main 301-773-2100 number which will provide emergency information, city updates, event details, and the city operation status.
      - The American Legion #275 has an amateur radio team who has an emergency alert notification response system and are willing to provide the City of Glenarden a radio that links directly into the Emergency Service System.

- The Administration volunteer list has been announced via the City of Glenarden website. We are in need of citizen support and are requesting parties interested in the following committees to contact Michelle Cheek at 301-773-2100:
  - Election Board (Full)
  - Permit Review Committee
  - Youth Advisory Committee
  - Ethic Commission
  - Glenarden Civic Association
  - Financial Advisory Committee
  - Public Safety Committee
- The City Manager will be looking into improving the office spacing issues.
- Will look into reviewing our positions descriptions to make them more aligned with the city's needs.
- The city website is being updated with the statewide zoning planning, parks and planning committee meetings, and hearing information under "Community Support, and City Government".
  - **E. Fareed** – Regarding the municipal center reopening, will the Administration keep in line with the County by placing social distancing space markers, have all visitors fill out an electronic pre-screening consent form, and check temperatures via IR Scanner? Regarding employees are you looking to mandate the vaccine?
    - **Mayor Cross** – Once a mandate has been issued at the county level the City of Glenarden will follow suit with the County mandates.
      - The office already has two IR Scanners which are being utilized by the entry doors by the reception desk and treasury.
  - **K. Guillaume** – Citizens are inquiring why the Inaugural Ball is being held outside the city and not in the Gold Room.
    - **Mayor Cross** – The Camelot has the proper spacing to adhere to the COVID requirements and parking to accommodate 300+ guest.

- **K. Guillaume** – The Inaugural Ball tickets states “The City of Glenarden invites you to”. Is the Inaugural Ball a City of Glenarden sponsored event or a private event for Mayor Cross? If this is a City of Glenarden sponsored event as advertised, why are we charging the citizens/taxpayers a fee to attend?
    - **Mayor Cross** – This is a private event not a city sponsored event. The Mayor offered to help citizens who need support with transportation and covering their ticket fee.
  - **E. Fareed** – It is important that this Administration is transparent both in fact and appearance as to who is actually hosting the event and the actual value of the ticket.
    - **Mayor Cross** – A 16k investment was made towards this event.
  - **Carla Cash** – Why wasn’t Mayor Cross afforded an Inaugural Ball Committee like Mayor Estes?
    - **K. Guillaume** – The Gold Room which normally would be provided at gratis to the Mayor was not available to house the inaugural ball for Mayor Estes, hence is why an event planning committee was put together to raise funds to rent a venue to hold the event.
  - **Carla Cash** – Did the city and school board do a traffic study before they started bussing students into the city of Glenarden? The City of Glenarden should meet with the school board, because the Glenarden Police should not be responsible for controlling the traffic caused by students being bussed in from other locations.
  - **President Curtis** – Suggested retitling the Inaugural Ball tickets/readvertise to be more transparent as to who is hosting this event.
- Introduction of resolution for Council Clerk
    - **President Curtis** – Tabled until public hearing.
    - **Mayor Cross** – Will setup a closed session for an interview and resolution to appoint Jeffrey P. Hammond to the Youth Advisory Committee.
      - **J. Herring** – The Council needs to vet all candidates and have a background screening checked before scheduling a closed session to conduct an interview.
  - Citizen Comments

- **C. Smallwood** – Will Mayor Cross be stepping down from her role with the Ethics Commission now that she has been appointed Mayor? Mrs. Smallwood would like to know the open vacancies within the Ethic Committee.
  - **Mayor Cross** – Yes, Mayor Cross will be resigning. Mr. White will also be stepping down which will leave two open vacancies to be filled.
  - **C. Smallwood** – would like to be considered for the ethics committee.
- **C. Smallwood** - Has the permit for D-Phi MLK Park permit been picked up?
  - **Mayor Cross** – Chief O'Donnell passed before the permit could be finalized. The documents provided by the chief cannot be supported at this time, the document number is attached to him and we may have to reapply for the permit. We will investigate the status of the permit.
- **C. Smallwood** - Are we going to buy out the contract for the acting treasurer from Robert Half?
  - **Mayor Cross** – Mr. Dean Stewart services was retained by Robert Half to serve as an Acting Treasurer, and we are paying on the temp to hire contract.
- **E. Carter** – Are we hiring someone for the cable station?
- **E. Carter** – Why weren't the signs for the council meetings as presentable as the signs for the swearing-in ceremony. Going forward can the signs go out in a timely manner to inform citizens?
  - **President Curtis** – Agrees the signs will be put out in a timely manner to notify the citizens of council meetings going forward, and the council will work on obtaining better signage.
- **E. Carter** - Are we going to open the Townhall for public meetings, and when do you anticipate doing that?
  - **E. Fareed** – Once the city became reopened to the public, we actively began renting the community room.
  - **E. Carter** – Has the rental rate been increased or is it the same rate of \$50?
  - **E. Fareed** – There may be discussion for an increased rate in the future, but currently the rate has not changed.

- **E. Carter** – Is the citizens room at Woodmore going to be available, and if so, when?
    - **E. Fareed** - Both the community center and the gold room are available to rent, please feel free to contact Bonnie Duckworth at 301-773-2100 x738 to discuss availability.
  - **C. Stevenson** – If we go back to in person meetings will zoom still be available for online access?
    - **President Curtis** – The goal is to be able broadcast via Zoom, the Cable Station, and present in person. Anyone viewing via the cable station will need to submit their question prior to the meeting which will be read live during the broadcast.
  - **A. Hunter** – What is the next step regarding the beautification of Ward 1, can we set a timeline?
    - **Mayor Cross** – We can still utilize two more years of sustainability monies to apply towards the beautification of Ward 1. Mayor Cross offered Ms. Hunter to step in to offer ideas and her voice to the Administration and take the lead as a volunteer for various committees as we need support from or residents.
    - **Mayor Cross** – Michelle Cheek is the point of contact for volunteer services and can be contacted at 301-773-2100, or via email at [mcheek@cityofglenarden.org](mailto:mcheek@cityofglenarden.org).
  - **A. Hunter** – There are drug transaction and drug use being done at the Theresa Banks Community Center and parks during football practice in front of the kids, can we increase the patrolling?
    - **Chief Jackson** – During community activities the Park Police are in charge on patrolling the parks and community centers.
- Adjourned at 9:21 PM
- Submitted by:

Victoria Lewis, Council Clerk