



City of Annapolis

160 Duke Of Gloucester
Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Special Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Monday, February 22, 2021

7:00 PM

Mayor John T. Chambers, Jr.
City Council Chambers

Virtual Meeting

A virtual meeting is when people, regardless of their location, use video and audio to link up online. Virtual Meetings allow people to share information and data in real-time without being physically located together.

Call to Order

Mayor Buckley called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Invocation

Given by Alderman Gay.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Buckley.

Roll Call

Tonight's roll call began with Alderwoman Finlayson.

Present: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderman Paone, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Approval of Agenda

Alderman Savidge moved to amend the agenda to add an Legislative Action – Second Reader Section to allow ordinances O-2-21 City Council Meetings – Agenda; and O-3-21 Port Wardens – Authority to be added as second readers, and to add a Business and Miscellaneous Item Section to allow for a Proposed CLOSED SESSION in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b) (7). Disclosure of the topic discussed for citation: Legal briefing by counsel as the last agenda item. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Ceremonial Items

[ID-4-21](#)

City Council Citation - Ms. Phyllis Gray

This Ceremonial Item - City Council Citation was presented by Alderwoman Pindell Charles to:

Live Testimony:

Phyllis Gray, 1 Bens Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

[ID-5-21](#)

City Council Citations - USNA Midshipmen Honoring "Black History Month"

This Ceremonial Item - City Council Citation was presented by Mayor Buckley to:

Live Testimony:

US Naval Academy honoring Black History Month

Sydney Barber is the Brigade's first black female commander

Madeleine Cooke is the Brigade Dignity and Respect Officer, overseeing diversity initiatives

Barnave Seguy – 5th Battalion Commander

Jonathan Lee – 2nd regiment commander

Cayla Hannibal - 2nd regiment Executive Officer

The United States Naval Academy has, for the first time in its history, an all-black executive board on the student council:

Kenna Pierce – president

Grant Booker – vice president

Zion Armstrong – treasurer

Jacobi Rice – secretary

[ID-6-21](#)

City Council Citation - Temple Cone, Poet Laureate for the City of Annapolis

This Ceremonial Item - City Council Citation was presented by Mayor Buckley to:

Live Testimony:

R Cone, Temple Cone, 492 Fawns Walk, Annapolis, Maryland 21409.

Appointments

[AP-2-21](#)

The Appointment of Kathy Ebner to the Affordable Housing and Community Equity Development Commission

Alderman Arnett moved to confirm AP-2-21. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderman Paone, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

[AP-3-21](#)

The Appointment of Grace Matthews to the Education Commission

Alderwoman Finlayson moved to confirm AP-3-21. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderman Paone, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

[AP-4-21](#)**The Appointment of India Ochs to the Education Commission**

Alderwoman Pindell Charles moved to confirm AP-4-21. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Petitions, Reports and Communications**A. Update from the Mayor**

Mayor Gavin Buckley Council Remarks February 22, 2021 - 7 p.m.

Good evening! Later this week, we will have an event at Waterworks Park celebrating that Recreation and Parks Director Archie Trader, City Manager David Jarrell and I will be receiving, on behalf of the City and residents, the Land Manager of the Year award from the Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, or MORE.

The city owns a 600-acre park on Defense Highway, Waterworks Park. Back in the 1920s, the water in that reservoir, essentially stormwater runoff, was used as the city's drinking water.

The reservoir was retired when we tapped the underground aquifer for City drinking water a century ago. But the park is a beautifully undisturbed parcel that is in the city's portfolio.

A few years ago, we opened a solar park, generating electricity on what was once the city dump, finding a great use for what is known as a brownfield.

But the rest of the park is relatively undisturbed. We let MORE volunteers come in and make hiker and biker trails that are open to the public. You can access it off Housely Road or Defense Highway.

As we work toward a plan for maker space, we will also be working on parking at the site.

However - you can ride or hike in to find 11 miles of trails. I encourage folks to check it out.

You can find more information on the Recreation and Parks website under "Waterworks Park" or on the MORE website, also using the keywords "Waterworks Park."

These kinds of public, private, and non-profit partnerships take time and nurturing. However, when they payoff, they payoff big. I am happy to deliver this for residents with no taxpayer funding.

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Last week I had the privilege of swearing in Stanley Brandford to become our Deputy Police Chief. We had a brief and socially distanced swearing-in ceremony in City council chambers with his immediate family and Chief Ed Jackson.

We are moving in a new direction with APD. We all know that this is a tough time for police departments across the country with a unique set of challenges for our time. However - I know in Annapolis we have a forward-looking team and are fortunate to have the experience and expertise we have found in Chief Jackson, Deputy Chief Brandford and the team they are putting in place.

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In celebration of Black History Month, I hope you all have enjoyed seeing the flags of the African Diaspora in downtown and the daily social media posts highlighting our leading

ladies of Black History here in Annapolis, including Alderwomen Sheila Finlayson and Rhonda Pindell Charles. Tune in this Saturday for a Facebook Live event Saturday at 5pm: "Lift Every Voice" a virtual black history month celebration in partnership with Grand'Mere's Touch.

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We are coming up on a year of COVID in Annapolis. On March 12, 2020, we declared our State of Emergency and shut the doors of City Hall to the public. What a year it has been.

On March 16 of this year, at 6 p.m., we will host a virtual Town Hall with Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman and OEM Director Kevin Simmons. We will take a look back at where we have been, what our residents and city staff have been through, and we'll talk about where we go from here

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You can tune in on City of Annapolis TV, Facebook, and YouTube. That is Tuesday, March 16 at 6 p.m. I hope you will join us.

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One of the things that I am very proud of in my office is our health equity work in the City during COVID. We share a health department with the County and we are sometimes at their mercy for initiatives that help us reach into vulnerable communities.

Last year, in June, we hired a new Hispanic Community Liaison in my office, Laura Gutierrez. By late summer, Laura was putting together a pilot program that would essentially tackle two problems:

1. - A very high case rate in the Annapolis Latino community, nearly 70 percent.
2. - The issue of brain waste, with roughly 35,000 immigrants in Maryland with health-care related degrees in their home country not being meaningfully utilized.

Laura believed that if we could put some CARES funding toward hiring a small group of community health promoters, that we could drive that case rate down and slow the spread in a community that often lives in the shadows while putting their expertise to good use.

After securing funding, she hired a team. Four promoters and a coordinator. These were nurses, doctors and other health care professionals who were not working in their chosen field, but who could navigate the medical issues, the science and who had the necessary language skills to reach deep into the Hispanic community.

They conducted a needs assessment survey where they went to food drives, to apartment complexes, to places like the Home Depot parking lot to hand out PPE and ask people to take the survey. With those results, they learned that the best way to reach people on a regular basis was through a texting app.

They signed up 750 families, with each family averaging at least four members who they regularly text updates to. They sent 52 messages in the past four months.

They inform on testing, vaccinations, myth busting, food resources, rental and utility assistance and more.

Hold on to your "virtual" seats to hear the achievements of this group:

- They have preregistered 160 people for vaccines.
- They give out more than 3,000 PPE resource kits that includes things like masks and hand sanitizer and laundry detergent.
- They delivered business PPE kits to 60 businesses
- They hung more than 300 "Mask Required" signs in Spanish, and
- They have helped our Hispanic community with nearly 300 flu shots.

These are all significant benchmarks and accomplishments. However, they have also driven the case rate in the Annapolis Hispanic community sharply down. From a monthly case rate of nearly 40 percent over the summer to 10.5 percent in the last data that the County health department delivered earlier today.

That means the average case rate went from 67.3 percent overall to 36.3 percent. Looking macro or micro, that is an astonishing bend in the curve and the team has used the science and the data to show that what they are doing is working.

In addition, we are not just proud internally. Laura's team is getting outside attention for her work. The City of Annapolis is recognized from agencies including the County's Department of Health, the State Department of Health and even the CDC.

Annapolis now has a seat at the table in the health equity discussion on Maryland's Mass Vaccination Community Outreach Committee.

She is presented to the Latino Caucus in the Maryland General Assembly. The county has had her sit in on no fewer than eight panels and Facebook Live events. Maryland Nonprofits, Anne Arundel Giving and the CDC Foundation are all asking Annapolis: "what are you doing right?"

She even had her health coordinator, Alexa Moran, a Medical Doctor from Ecuador hired out from underneath her group by Luminis Health Care -- Anne Arundel Medical Center -- because they understood the need to work within the Hispanic community.

This is not all we have done in Annapolis, but I wanted to highlight this accomplishment.

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The City's Office of Emergency Management is collaborating with Luminis Health Care to host "Pop up Vaccination Clinics" to our most vulnerable and underrepresented seniors. Many of our elderly residents in low-income senior housing are at a disadvantage in their efforts to register for a COVID-19 vaccination because some do not have access to the technology to sign-up. In addition, transportation can pose a challenge because the Department of Health is not hosting ANY vaccination clinics inside city limits. OEM and Luminis bring the vaccination clinics directly to the seniors where they live.

So far, seniors at Bowman Place, Morris Blum and Bloomsbury Square have been vaccinated.

Moving forward, OEM plans to expand similar clinics as the vaccine supply becomes more widely available.

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In other partnerships on vaccines, Bay Ridge Gardens management worked with local pharmacies to do a stand-up vaccine clinic on site for residents. We will get to the other side of COVID because of these kinds of relationships.

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Over at Annapolis Fire, Chief Doug Remaley ask me to highlight some promotions in the department.

- Firefighter First Class Jonathon Krisman, a 12-year veteran of the department, was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Krisman has been assigned as EMS Supervisor/Safety Officer.
- Firefighter First Class Kenneth White, also a 12-year veteran of APD was also promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. White is in the Fire Marshal's Office.
- Three Firefighter Threes have been promoted to Firefighter First Class. All are in operations:

- Brock Hunt, who has been with AFD for four years,
- Jonathan Riffe, also a four year veteran, and
- Barbara-Ann Youngs, an 11-year veteran

Congratulations to all of our Annapolis Fire Department professional staff who have maintained high standards for our community and top-tier service to our residents!

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I want to thank Inna Young and Brian Paquin and the team from MIT for rolling out a new City website.

It has enhanced navigation, helps us resolve Americans with Disabilities Act compliance issues, and it is a beautiful design. It is all part of our contract, so again, not something, we spent on.

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I know that most of the councilmembers and certainly members of my staff have heard from constituents that the city is not doing enough or moving fast enough on water access. Let me just take a few seconds to highlight progress we have made in the past three years.

- Truxtun Boat Ramp Parking lot will be upgraded to provide easier access and fix traffic flow issues.
- Tucker Street Boat Ramp will provide easier water access by installing a slatted concrete boat ramp, an adjacent finger pier which, and small craft racks for use by City residents.

- Conduit Street - adding a floating dock
- Amos Garrett - street end water access will be upgraded
- Thompson Street will remove a dilapidated pier and add a floating dock
- Cheston Avenue will replace the bulkhead and add a floating dock plus enhance the existing submerged gravel wetland and replanting native species

- Sixth Street will explore dredging options, install a gangway and floating pier
- Hawkins Cove - in a community partnership with the Housing Authority to provide water access, stop erosion and pollution and create a usable community space. We recently completed a community survey and held community meetings to crowdsource neighborhood ideas for the site

- Robert Eades Park at Clay Street on College Creek is in the planning stages, but the initial outlook is to create a community space and add a walkway and dock for easy water access:

- Waterworks Park, previously mentioned
- Back Creek Nature Park - we worked with Maryland DNR and the Annapolis Maritime Museum to improve water quality, provide environmental education, capture Stormwater, reduce flooding and spur ecological recovery.

- The Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center, at a total cost of \$2.25 million, we purchased the Port Williams Marina for Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating or CRAB

- Truxtun Park Pool, this is not a natural body of water, but it is water that families can play in, that opened in the middle of the pandemic, in July of 2020, at a cost of \$4.5 million. I look forward to summer at the pool and just noticed that Rec and Parks is beginning a search for summer lifeguards and pool managers.

- Carr's Beach, an historic site in our City, a place where a generation of African American families were relegated for their summer beach fun due to segregation - we have

a plan to provide access at that site and we are working toward a plan that will bring added amenities

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- We have living shoreline projects on Lafayette
- We made significant improvements at Ellen Moyer Park
- We subsidize, support and are helping expand the wonderful educational and access opportunities provided by the Maritime Museum

- We had numerous camps through Recreation and Parks, Annapolis Police and pop-up camps in partnership with HACA and Annapolis Waterfront and Sailing Center that got kids out on the water - sailing and paddle boarding.

- We are taking meetings with the state and the Department of Defense on creating a gateway paddle park into the City.

- We will have water access at South Annapolis Yacht Center, and
- At Wells Cove, where that condominium community has existed since the 1980s - without resolution on this issue I might add, Alderman Arnett and I are working toward a solution. I first visited the site on October 20 of last year. In November, it was surveyed. In January, we began working on obtaining program Open Space funding. We are currently in the process of negotiating the easement. We are taking a systematic approach to ensure that the law is followed, the code is adhered to and we consider everyone's interests.

Every single day we are all working toward a common goal to enhance quality of life, bring water access to residents and improve city amenities for all.

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Thank you and let us get on with tonight's meeting!

B. Reports by Committee

Standing Committee Dates:

Public Safety Committee

Monday, March 1, 2021

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Rules and City Government Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Finance Committee Meeting

March 3, 2021, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

C. Comments by the General Public

Public Comments Web Form O-4-21 Speaker List:

List Speakers on O-4-21 Medical Cannabis Dispensaries:

- 1. Adam Kern, 407 Merryman Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.**
- 2. Juanita Cage-Lewis, 17 Hicks Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.**
- 3. Jennifer Balducci, 31 Glen Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.**
- 4. Rita Dorsey Washington, 703 Newtowne Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.**

Business and Miscellaneous

[ID-29-21](#) **SA-23-21 CDBG/Planning and Zoning**

Discussion Only - No Action Taken.

Public Hearings

[O-2-21](#) **City Council Meetings - Agenda - For the purpose of clarifying the content of City Council meeting agendas for regular and special monthly meetings; and generally relating to monthly City Council meeting agendas.**

Sponsors: Savidge, Arnett, Pindell Charles, Tierney, Gay, Buckley, Finlayson and Schandelmeier

No one submitted any live or written testimony.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-2-21 closed.

Alderswoman Finlayson - Cosponsor Added.

Alderman Schandelmeier - Cosponsor Added.

[O-3-21](#) **Port Wardens - Authority - For the purpose of requiring the Port Wardens to consider the public’s access to the harbor line from points of access at the waterline as part of its license and permit approval processes.**

Sponsors: Gay, Arnett, Savidge, Tierney, Finlayson and Schandelmeier

Written Testimony:

Gerry Perham, 954 Creek Drive, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-3-21 closed.

Alderswoman Finlayson - Cosponsor Added.

[O-5-21](#) **Tucker Street Launching Facility - For the purpose of providing procedures for use of the Tucker Street launching facility; providing certain definitions; establishing acceptable proofs of residency for issuance of certain permits; and providing penalties for violations.**

Sponsors: Paone and Tierney

Written Testimony:

1. J. Ryan Parker, 601 Monterey Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

2. Rebecca Brenia, 99 Old Crossing Lane, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 representing the West Annapolis Civic Association

3. Campbell Killefer, 317 Tucker Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 representing Tucker Landing Community Association.

4. Marie and Tom Pohida, 411 Monterey Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

5. Katie and Kevin Cooke, 415 Monterey Ave, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

6. Shane Walterhoefer, 309 Tucker Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-5-21 closed.

[O-6-21](#)

Agency Regulations - For the purpose of establishing a procedure for the adoption of regulations by a City of Annapolis department, board, or commission; requiring public notice; providing an appeal process; and generally relating to City of Annapolis regulations.

Sponsors: Arnett

No one submitted any live or written testimony.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-6-21 closed.

[R-3-21](#)

Council Compensation Commission Recommendations - For the purpose of receiving the Recommendations of the Council Compensation Commission; and scheduling a Public Hearing on the Recommendations of the Council Compensation Commission.

Sponsors: Buckley

No one submitted any live or written testimony.

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on R-3-21 closed.

Legislative Actions

Second Reader

[O-2-21](#)

City Council Meetings - Agenda - For the purpose of clarifying the content of City Council meeting agendas for regular and special monthly meetings; and generally relating to monthly City Council meeting agendas.

Sponsors: Savidge, Arnett, Pindell Charles, Tierney, Gay, Buckley, Finlayson and Schandelmeier

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-2-21 on second reader. **Seconded.**

Alderman Savidge moved to amend as follows:

“On page 1, in line 41, after "agenda;" insert "CEREMONIAL ITEMS;". **Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.**

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-2-21 as amended on second reader. **Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.**

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-2-21 on third reader. **Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:**

Aye: 8 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Nay: 1 - Alderman Paone

[O-3-21](#)

Port Wardens - Authority - For the purpose of requiring the Port Wardens to consider the public’s access to the harbor line from points of access at the waterline as part of its license and permit approval processes.

Sponsors: Gay, Arnett, Savidge, Tierney, Finlayson and Schandelmeier

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-3-21 on second reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Savidge moved to adopt on third reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Nay: 1 - Alderman Paone

Business and Miscellaneous Items

[ID-33-21](#)

CLOSED SESSION in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b) (7). Disclosure of the topic discussed for citation: Legal briefing by counsel

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to enter closed session in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article § 3-305 (b) (7). Disclosure of the topic discussed for citation: Legal briefing by counsel. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderman Paone, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Gay, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

The City Council entered into the closed session at 8:43 pm.

The City Council exited out of Closed Session at 9:50 pm.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

**Regina C. Watkins-Eldridge, MMC
City Clerk**