



City of Annapolis

160 Duke Of Gloucester
Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Special Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, January 27, 2025

7:00 PM

Mayor John T. Chambers, Jr.
City Council Chambers

Special Meeting

Call To Order

Mayor Buckley called the Special Meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Invocation

Given by Alderman Savidge.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Buckley.

Roll Call

Tonight's roll call began with Alderwoman Finlayson.

Present: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Approval of Agenda

Alderman Arnett moved to approve the AGENDA as AMENDED to POSTPONE: Ceremonial Items, City Council Citation ID-14-25 Citation: Annapolis Santa Run UNTIL Monday, February 10, 2025 . Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

PETITIONS, REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Reports by Committees

Standing Committee Dates:

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Monday, February 03, 2025 04:00 PM

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 05, 2025 03:30 PM

Rules and City Government Committee Meeting

Friday, February 07, 2025 01:00 PM

Update from Mayor

Good evening,

Last week I attended the annual Mayor's Winter Conference in DC. I always relish this opportunity to meet with other Mayors from across the country, hear their issues, and learn from their ideas. When we're together, we don't ask about party affiliation, we just try to help each other and learn from each other. Mayors and local councils don't have the luxury of worrying too much about politics and ideology – we have to get on with the job of fixing local problems and ensuring our communities have what they need.

That's why I was proud to present on the Hillman Garage P3 (Public-Private Partnership) at the conference. The level of interest was outstanding – we had a packed audience and almost all the questions afterwards were about 'how did we do it' here in Annapolis.

So many communities need to finance infrastructure and resilience costs. We are all looking for innovative ways to get there and Annapolis can be proud that we are ahead of the curve. So many big ideas have come from this community – the Hillman P3 and the Resilience Authority for example – and I am always delighted and proud to share these with other Mayors because working together is how we solve problems.

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Speaking of big ideas: As I noted at our last meeting, the City Dock Resilience Plan, developed over four years with the community and stakeholders, with the oversight of this Council, has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.

But, as I said last week, there are some who are clearly seeking to prevent this project – designed with the community and for the community – from being completed. I find it interesting that many of these critics say 'I support the park and the resiliency' then go on to object to almost every aspect of the park and resiliency.

We've heard objections to the fountain, which was an idea first put forward in the jointly authored City Dock Action Plan, published in 2020, and which has received overwhelming positive feedback from across the community. We've heard objections to the raised covered area that can act as a stage when needed – even though the need for performance space was also first outlined in the City Dock Action Plan and is essential for so many events that are at the center of our community life.

Here at the City, we are going to invest in this kind of placemaking and create a park that is a welcoming and inviting place for everyone. A park where kids can splash in a fountain in summer, or skate on a rink in winter. A park where we can all gather and listen to great artists perform at the Singer-Songwriter Festival or where we can continue to enjoy the amazing annual boat show. A park where we can sit in the shade, walk in the sun, access the water, and learn about some of the lost history of Annapolis that hasn't been widely valued before now.

We've also heard objections based on maintenance costs – as though the City didn't already have a Recreation and Parks department or a Public Works department that already undertake this kind of maintenance all across the City. These concerns for future maintenance costs would be more credible if the individuals also showed some concern for the staggering costs to the City of flooding events that happen more frequently each year. The costs of our public safety teams and public works teams are huge and we will save those costs when we finally build this project.

Even more telling is the fact that these objectors never seem to acknowledge the costs to our businesses from this ongoing flooding. Isn't that cost worth mentioning?

That is why there is a resolution before us on second reader tonight – because this project is urgent and we cannot let a small group of narrow special interests derail all the work we've done over the past five years. That is why we changed our legal strategy and instead of opposing the stay brought by the 'anonymous' complainant we have asked the court to expedite the legal review - because we know the merits of this case and this project will speak for themselves.

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In February we will celebrate Black History Month – another chance to showcase history and stories that have not always been acknowledged. As we have each year, we will fly the flags of the African Diaspora on Main Street and we will host our weekly series 'State of Black Annapolis' in partnership with the Michael E. Busch Public Library.

The speaker series, organized by the Mayor's Office African-American Outreach Team, will feature local experts and historians on topics related to African-American culture and life, and the enduring contribution of African-American residents, past and present. The content is suitable for all ages and, each week, a free dinner will be provided by Black-owned catering companies from the Annapolis area. Each event is free and open to the public. Please go to our website annapolis.gov to learn more.

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Another event we are excited to host in February is the "Crown Affair" – a key to the City Award Ceremony to honor our own home grown, celebrity hair stylist Kendall Dorsey, for his success working in the entertainment and fashion industry with some of today's top music and fashion celebrities.

Kendall Dorsey was born and raised in Annapolis, graduated from Annapolis public schools, including Annapolis Middle and High schools. His talent has led him to work professionally in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and abroad, and he has been featured in New York fashion week, Good Morning America, Vogue Magazine, Essence Magazine, and more. Kendall is truly a hometown hero, and a force to be reckoned with in the professional hair and beauty industry. We look forward to honoring him with a Key to the City on February 16th and again, you will find all the details on our website.

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This week, we will reach an important milestone in our planning for the Carr's/Elktonia Heritage park. Our Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the Resilience Authority, will host a series of community listening sessions to hear directly from you: What do you want to see in the new park?

These sessions will be held from Thursday and Friday, at 5pm and 6.30pm, and on Saturday at 9am. Also on Saturday, starting at 10.30am, there will be special youth workshops to hear directly from young residents about what they would like to see in our new park. All sessions will be at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. Again, you can find details on our website and social pages.

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Finally I want to say thank you to our Rec & Parks and OEM staff for standing up the Stanton Center warming shelter for our most vulnerable residents, and making arrangements for a daytime location last week so that folks could get in from the extreme

cold.

I also want to commend our staff, the City Council, and all our partners, including our state elected officials and the Housing Authority of Annapolis for their effort to ensure power was restored promptly after a power outage affected Robinwood residents last Saturday.

It's been a hard time in Annapolis with extreme cold weather that we haven't seen in some years. It has truly been a team effort to see vulnerable residents safely through this cold period. We've done it by working together and that is what we'll continue to do.

Now let's get on with the meeting.

Comments by the General Public

Tim Leahy, 110 Archwood Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.
Tim Tower, 8 Taney Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.
Rachel Robinson Historic Annapolis (get address)....
(guy) 1306 President Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Mayor Buckley declared comments from the general public closed.

BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS

Appointments

[AP-44-24](#) **Re-Appointment - Mr. Robert Hruby - Building Board of Appeals**

Attachments: [AP-44-24](#)

Alderman Gay moved to approve AP-44-24. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

[AP-45-24](#) **Re-Appointment - Mr. John Jay Schwarz - Building Board of Appeals**

Attachments: [AP-45-24](#)

Alderwoman Finlayson moved to approve AP-45-24. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Supplemental Appropriations \$50,000 & Above

[SA-24-25](#) **Reforestation Fund - Planning & Zoning - FY2024 Reforestation Fund
Balance/Contractual Services**

Attachments: [SA-24-25](#)

Alderman Arnett moved to approve SA-24-25. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Fund Transfers

[FT-6-25](#)**General - Department of Recreation and Parks (Pool) - Contractual Services - Supplies & Other****Attachments:** [FT-6-25](#)

Alderman Huntley moved to approve FT-6-25. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**Ordinances**[O-2-25](#)**WRNR Radio Tower Lease With the City - For the purpose of entering a ground lease of the City-owned radio tower located at 25 Silopanna Road with Cortona Media LLC dba WRNR Radio, a Maryland limited liability company; and all matters relating to said lease.****Sponsors:** Buckley**Attachments:** [O-2-25 First Reader](#)[O-2-25 Cortona Media Radio Tower Lease](#)[O-2-25 Staff Report](#)[O-2-25 Fiscal Impact Note](#)[O-2-25 Exhibit](#)

Mayor Buckley declared the public hearing on O-2-25 closed.

Legislative Actions**Second Readers****Ordinances**

[O-31-24](#)

Mobile Food Service Vendors' Signage - For the purpose of establishing sign requirements for Mobile Food Service Vendors, known as food trucks; and generally dealing with Peddlers, Hawkers and Itinerant Merchants operating restrictions.

Sponsors: Savidge

Attachments: [O-31-24 First Reader](#)

[O-31-24 Legislative Summary](#)

[O-31-24 Fiscal Impact Note](#)

[O-31-24 Staff Report](#)

[O-31-24 Amendment 1 - Savidge](#)

[O-31-24 Signed \(color\)](#)

[O-31-24 Signed \(b&w\)](#)

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt on second reader. Seconded.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-31-24 as follows:

Amendment #1:

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 11, and on line 2 insert the following:

"a. Requirements.

i. No sign shall:

(1) obstruct a clear view to and from traffic along any street right-of-way, entrance or exit; or

(2) be placed on a public sidewalk.

ii. Removable signs that are temporarily placed around the vehicle shall not be more than 25 feet from the vehicle.

iii. Signs not attached to the vehicle shall be removed and stored when the food truck is not in operation.

iv. No more than three removable signs are permitted to be displayed per vehicle.

b. Prohibited Signs. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-31-24 as amended on second reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Gay moved to adopt O-31-24 on third reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

SECOND READERS

O-35-24

Fair Cannabis Employment Practices- For the purpose of updating the City of Annapolis employment policy as a result of the State legalizing cannabis use and possession on July 1, 2023, and generally related to city employment policy.

Sponsors: Savidge, Gay, Huntley, O'Neill, Arnett and Finlayson

Attachments: [O-35-24 First Reader](#)
[O-35-24 Legislative Summary](#)
[O-35-24 Sponsor's Report](#)
[O-35-24 Fiscal Impact Note](#)
[O-35-24 Staff Report](#)
[O-35-24 Amendment 1 - Buckley](#)
[O-35-24 Signed \(color\)](#)
[O-35-24 Signed \(b&w\)](#)

Alderman Gay moved to adopt O-35-24 on second reader. Seconded.

Alderman Savidge moved to amend O-35-24 as follows:

Amendment #1:

On page 4, in lines 14 through 15, strike "that results from use of drugs, alcohol, cannabis, or controlled dangerous substances".

On page 5, strike §3.24.050(B)(3) and insert, "3. Prohibits the City from taking disciplinary action against an employee found to be impaired while on duty." Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Human Resources Manager Hopkins and Assistant City Manager Buckland were present and answered questions from the council

Alderman Finlayson - Cosponsor Added.

Alderman Schandelmeier moved to adopt O-35-24 as amended on second reader. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt O-35-24 on third reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderman O'Neill, Alderman Pindell Charles, Alderman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

Resolutions

R-3-25

City Dock Resiliency Project - For the purpose of demonstrating Annapolis City Council support for the City Dock Resiliency Project and the urgency of protecting Historic Downtown Annapolis along with the public safety of its residents and businesses from the constant and the growing threat of higher rising tides, as well as increasing frequent and more intense storms that cause extreme flooding and severe impacts to residents, businesses, public safety and the historic fabric of the City itself.

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

Attachments: [R-3-25 First Reader](#)

[R-3-25 Staff Report](#)

[R-3-25 Fiscal Impact Note](#)

[R-3-25 Amendment 1 - Huntley](#)

[R-3-25 Signed \(color\)](#)

[R-3-25 Signed \(b&w\)](#)

Alderman Gay moved to adopt R-3-24 on second reader. Seconded.

Alderwoman Finlayson - Cosponsor Added.

Alderman Arnett moved to adopt R-3-24 as amended on second reader. Seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Buckley, Alderman Huntley, Alderwoman O'Neill, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Schandelmeier, Alderman Gay, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Arnett

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

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