



City of Annapolis

160 Duke Of Gloucester
Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Special Minutes - Final City Council

Friday, March 13, 2020

2:00 PM

Mayor John T. Chambers, Jr.
City Council Chambers

Special Meeting

Call to Order

Mayor Buckley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mayor Buckley.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Mayor Buckley, Alderwoman Tierney, Alderman Paone, Alderwoman Pindell Charles, Alderwoman Finlayson, Alderman Rodriguez, Alderman Savidge and Alderman Gay

Absent: 1 - Alderman Arnett

Informational Item

[ID-67-20](#)

"City's Activities Relating to Preparation for the Coronavirus Disease "COVID-19"

Briefings from:

City Attorney Lyles

OEMD Director Simmons and OEMD Deputy Director Mendel

Anne Arundel County Health Officer Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman

Melissa Maddox-Evans, Executive Director/CEO of HACA - Public Housing
Residents

Human Resources Manager Hopkins - Employees

Economic Development Manager Rice Planning and Zoning Department-
Business Community

Communications Officer Stephenson - City Closings / School Closure & Meal
Location Sites

Planning and Zoning Director Dr. Nash - Permitting

Transportation Director Gordon - Buses & Parking Garages

Recreation & Parks Director Trader - Employees & Closing

Police Chief Jackson - Service and Virtual Roll Calls

Fire Chief Remaley - Services and Staffing

Mayor Gavin Buckley

Remarks – City Special Council

13 March – 2 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Good afternoon. I have signed a Declaration of State of Emergency. The declaration allows the City to activate the Office of Emergency Management and to render and request mutual aid from other jurisdictions. It also allows the City to seek reimbursements from the state, and now that the federal government has declared a state of emergency, we can be eligible for money from the feds. That money will be important because this will also bring a tremendous financial strain to the City. We will need to tap all available resources. Yesterday, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan put the state at the highest emergency activation level. He activated the Maryland Emergency Management Agency level to full. He activated the National Guard. He prohibited mass gatherings and closed all senior centers in the state. He closed all schools. He set guidance for hospital visitation. He issued an order for mandatory telework for non-essential state employees.

In the aftermath of Gov. Hogan's declaration, I wanted to ensure that the City could follow emergency procedures by activating our Office of Emergency Management and getting all City Department heads together to determine telework and leave policies for staff and to also close City buildings in order to better secure the public health.

We want to try to strike a balance between providing essential government services and continuing to function for the sake of residents, but keeping our City staff safe. People are counting on us to get it right.

The next few weeks will test our unity as a city government and as a community. As we work to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus, we will face many challenges. In fact, I think that this may be one of the most difficult things the City has ever faced. Life in Annapolis may change over the next few weeks and maybe even months. I believe that we can be unified to face this threat, just like we were after 9/11, after countless hurricanes and Nor'easters and the gun violence that has so shaken our City. Indeed this virus, COVID-19, has threatened other parts of the world with a severity that most of us can barely comprehend.

I want to assure you that the City of Annapolis has been working on preparations for just this kind of crisis. Not just over the past few weeks, but over months and even years. We have plans and we have run drills. We have one of the best Office of Emergency Management units in the country. These men and women are smart professionals who put the public health and security of our city above all else.

We have a partner in Anne Arundel County and they are working with us not only to ensure that health professionals that we share with them have what they need to deal with this crisis, but that they are being vigilant about protecting each and every resident of this county and indeed this City.

Today, I want to bring the Council and all residents up-to-date on what we have done and will be doing to protect this community.

Today we will have briefings from

- City Attorney Mike Lyles,
- OEM Director Kevin Simmons,
- County Health Officer via Skype Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman
- Tricia Hopkins of Human Resources and
- Stephen Rice our Economic Development Manager

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Regina C. Watkins-Eldridge, MMC
City Clerk