



Mayor and City Council
Hybrid (In-Person / Virtual)
www.gaithersburgmd.gov/meetings
City Hall 31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

MINUTES
Regular Session
Monday, May 20, 2024, 7:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at 7:30 PM with Mayor Jud Ashman presiding.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jud Ashman	Mayor	Present	
Jim McNulty	Council Vice President	Present	
Neil Harris	Council Member	Present	
Lisa Henderson	Council Member	Present	
Yamil Hernández	Council Member	Present	
Robert Wu	Council Member	Present	

Staff present: City Attorney Ingram, Deputy City Manager Enslinger, Deputy City Attorney Johnson, Assistant City Manager Lonergan-Seeger, Community Planning Manager Mann, Long Range Planning Manager Robinson, Cultural Events and Services Division Chief Williams, Planner II Mehfoud, Police Corporal Davis, and City Clerk Jones.
Planning Commission present: Bauer, Kaufman, Wessell, and Rieg.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was led by Julie Palakovich Carr, District 17 Delegate.

3. REFLECTION

Mayor Ashman called for a moment of silence.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Session held May 6, 2024

Motion was made to approve the above minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lisa Henderson, Council Member
SECONDER:	Neil Harris, Council Member
FOR:	McNulty, Harris, Henderson, Hernández, Wu

Cheryl Kagan, District 17 Senator

1. Mentioned that her website has a new portal for constituents.
2. Extended special thanks to Delegates Vogel and Lopez who represented their districts during the legislative session but were also candidates for Congress.
3. Announced that during the last legislative session, she and her team worked to Address the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge; Focus on public safety; Update election protocols and transparency; Support student mental health; Boost nonprofits; Require gas price clarity; Tackle the climate crisis; Ensure abortion access; Enact new gun laws; Promote equity; Combat hate and bigotry; Extend access to health care; Elevate seniors; Debate “Death with Dignity”; Expand after-death options; Assist parents; Advance Governor Moore’s priorities; Build a stronger economy; Increase affordable housing; Reform climate justice; and Compromised on the FY2025 budget.
4. Mentioned that they secured funding for the following: \$37.8M to build the new Crown High School; \$3.27M to upgrade mechanical systems at Gaithersburg Middle School; \$1.897M for a new Montgomery County Detention center; \$1.4M for MCPS playground renovations; and \$300,000 to replace the Bohrer Park gym floor.
5. Extended a special thanks to Assistant City Manager Lonergan-Seeger for his work throughout the legislative session.

The Mayor and City Council thanked both District teams for their hard work representing the City.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. *Lindsay Bouie, Gateway Apartments*, congratulated husband David Mullins on his reappointment to the Commission of Landlord-Tenant Affairs. Mentioned the recent Economic and Business Development Committee meeting. Stated that the City should change the way they think and talk about renters.

There were no other speakers from the public.

8. JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Chapter 24, Known as the City Zoning Ordinance, of the City Code (CTAM-9739-2024)

Long Range Planning Manager Robinson and Community Planning Manager Mann presented the above for a second public hearing. The Mayor and City Council and the Planning Commission conducted a joint public hearing on April 15, 2024 on the comprehensive update to the City’s Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 24 of the City Code, referred to as Retool. Over the course of that hearing, the Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission agreed on incorporating an amendment to the draft ordinance which would create a ten (10) year expiration date for new schematic development plans that do not result in a vested final site plan. As this requested amendment was more restrictive than the previous draft ordinance language, another public hearing was required. The revised draft was posted for public review on April 23, 2024.

Council Member Hernández questioned how a public health emergency, or a building moratorium would affect the time requirements set in the proposed City Code amendments. Staff stated that there was no consideration made for those circumstances.

There were speakers from the public.

Motion was made to hold the Planning Commission record open until 5 p.m. on June 7, 2024 (18 days), with recommendation to the Mayor and City Council on June 20, 2024.

RESULT:	PASSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lloyd Kaufman
SECONDER:	Philip Wessell
FOR:	John Bauer, Lloyd Kaufman, Philip Wessell, Carol Rieg

Motion was made to hold the Mayor and City Council record open until 5 p.m. on June 28, 2024 (39 days), with anticipated final action on July 15, 2024.

RESULT:	PASSED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Neil Harris, Council Member
SECONDER:	Lisa Henderson, Council Member
FOR:	McNulty, Harris, Henderson, Hernández, Wu

9. FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Jim McNulty

1. Mentioned that he has been under the weather dealing with COVID for the third time. Encouraged everyone to take care of themselves.
2. Attended the Gaithersburg Book Festival. Mentioned that it was an honor to introduce Susan Page who wrote a biography on Barbara Walters. Stated that it was a wonderful event.
3. Extended his condolences for being unable to attend Bethany Day but congratulated them on their event.
4. Looking forward to attending the upcoming events celebrating the Memorial Day holiday.

Yamil Hernández

1. Extended appreciation to staff and volunteers for the Gaithersburg Book Festival.

Lisa Henderson

1. Announced that the Benjamin Gaither Center has secured a plot in the community garden at Pleasant View Park. Extended thanks to Deputy City Manager Enslinger and Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Muller. Mentioned that the youth centers have also volunteered to help. Stated that this will encourage intergenerational activity.
2. Announced that she was elected Treasurer for the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League.
3. Attended the Gaithersburg Book Festival. Stated that it was wonderful introducing Shannon Sanders and Paul Yoon. Mentioned that it was a fantastic event.
4. Extended congratulations to the graduating class of 2024 at Thomas Johnson High School. Stated that her great-niece will head to Jacksonville University on a full academic scholarship.