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CITY OF COLLEGE PARK  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
FEBRUARY 18, 2008

**MINUTES**

Present: Mayor Jack P. Longino; Councilmen Ambrose Clay, Joe Carn, Tracey Wyatt, and Charles E. Phillips, Esq.; Interim City Manager Jim Smith; City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves; City Attorney Michael Williams.

Absent: None.

1. Opening Ceremonies.

1a. Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

1b. Invocation by Elder Catherine Martin.

2. Additions, Deletions, Amendments, Or Changes To The Agenda.

Councilman Clay suggested adding an item to discuss a letter of support for a charter school in the area.

Mayor Longino said we can hear your request during Report of Mayor & Council.

3. Presentation Of Minutes Of City Council.

3a. Regular Session held February 4, 2008.

**ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Councilman Phillips and motion carried as follows:

Page 11, line 494 – should read “do we really want to levy the full fee?”

Page 11, line 457 – should read “the tariff currently levied doesn’t come close to balance out our 911 budget.

Page 11, line 474 – should read “these requests following the format coming out of Parks and Recreation do not have any indication on them as to whether item is budgeted or not.”

Page 14, line 591 – should read “...the interest due on the amount of money that was inadvertently transferred to them...”

Page 17, line 713 – should read “Councilman Clay stated that he recommended giving \$3,000.00, before he knew about Councilman Slider’s contribution.

3b. Executive Session held February 4, 2008.

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**ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Phillips and motion carried.

3c. Special Called Meeting held February 4, 2008.

**ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Phillips and motion carried.

4. Proclamations, Resolutions, Plaques, And Announcements. None.

5. Remarks Of Citizens.

a. Phillip Stanley Mohammad, Student Minister at 4850 Old National Highway, College Park, Ga., came forward and expressed concern of a police shooting that led to a fatality of one of his brothers in this city. City Council representative of the ward did not come to guide the girlfriend and show compassion. Most of the citizens in the community see this as a gross injustice as we see police brutality is increasing in the community as opposed to decreasing. We must make sure that justice prevails. There should be a town hall meeting to address this issue.

Councilman Wyatt said he would like the record to reflect that before going to work that morning, he did go down to the apartment complex and called the president of the association and told her that he would help in any way.

Councilman Carn said there was a suicide in his ward, and he makes it a point in his ward, whether good or bad, to take a look at things.

Councilman Phillips asked Chief Yandura, is this still under investigation?

Chief Gary Yandura said the report will be ready within two months.

Councilman Wyatt said he talked with Mr. Evans the morning of the shooting.

b. Larry Brady Evans, 2112 West Princeton Avenue, College Park, Ga., came forward and expressed concern of an incident on February 9, 2008 on Columbia Avenue where he was brutally surrounded by six College Park Police Officers with guns drawn. He prays that each one of those officers have to experience what he experienced.

Mayor Longino stated to Mr. Evans that his time is up. Does Council want to continue?

It was the consensus of Council to let Mr. Evans continue.

Councilman Phillips asked Mr. Evans, did you report this to anybody?

Mr. Evans said no, I did not, sir.

93  
94 Councilman Phillips asked Mr. Evans, is this the first time you mentioned it to  
95 anybody?

96  
97 Mr. Evans said yes, sir.

98  
99 Councilman Phillips said I want the Chief to make a note. Can you give Chief some  
100 details so he can look into this?

101  
102 Mr. Evans said from my understanding they was raiding a house on Columbia Avenue.  
103 And I happen to be coming down the street when they were raiding this house. And  
104 Officer Garrett, he told me what was going on. And I said yes, sir, and I got back into  
105 my car to drive away. And that's when I was brutally attacked by these officers.

106  
107 Councilman Carn asked Mr. Evans, where was Officer Garrett when that happened?

108  
109 Mr. Evans said he happen to be sitting in a police car. He intervened. And he stopped  
110 the officers and told them that he had told me to get back into my car.

111  
112 Councilman Wyatt said I would like to talk about this in executive session. Because I  
113 have some concerns with this.

114  
115 Councilman Phillips directed Mrs. McDaniel to provide a verbatim transcript of Mr.  
116 Evans' comments on the incident to Mayor & Council.

117  
118 Mayor Longino said this takes some preliminary investigation. I will not stand for us  
119 to try to cover up anything, as long as I sit in this chair. That's all the comment I have  
120 on that.

121  
122 6. Public Hearings. None.

123  
124 7. Bids, Change Order Requests And Contracts. None.

125  
126 8. Travel Requests.

127  
128 8a. Consideration of and action on a request from Sanitation Superintendent Charles  
129 Crump for authorization to send Recycling Coordinator Dale Pepper to the  
130 Southeast Recycling Conference and Trade Show.

131  
132 **ACTION:** Councilman Phillips moved to approve a request from Sanitation Superintendent  
133 Charles Crump for authorization to send Recycling Coordinator Dale Pepper to the  
134 Southeast Recycling Conference and Trade Show held February 24-27, 2008 in  
135 Orange Beach, Alabama, seconded by Councilman Wyatt and motion carried.

136  
137 Mayor Longino asked Mr. White, what does this individual do?  
138

139 Public Works Director Dexter White came forward and said he is responsible for the drop  
140 off site and keeping up with statistics.

141  
142 Mayor Longino said there are several times over the weekend that they are overflowing.

143  
144 8b. Consideration of and action on a request from Finance Director Cindy King for  
145 authorization to send Accounting Supervisor Linda Deeds to the GFOA  
146 (Government Finance Officers Association) Intermediate Governmental  
147 Accounting Seminar.

148  
149 Councilman Clay said to be consistent, he would like for all items to show whether they are  
150 budgeted or not.

151  
152 **ACTION:** Councilman Wyatt moved to approve a request from Finance Director Cindy King  
153 for authorization to send Accounting Supervisor Linda Deeds to the GFOA  
154 (Government Finance Officers Association) Intermediate Governmental  
155 Accounting Seminar held March 10-13, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana, seconded  
156 by Councilman Carn and motion carried.

157  
158 8c. Consideration of and action on a request from Convention Center Director Hugh  
159 Austin for authorization to attend the International Association of Assembly  
160 Managers (IAAM) District V 2008 Annual Conference.

161  
162 **ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to approve a request from Convention Center Director  
163 Hugh Austin for authorization to attend the International Association of Assembly  
164 Managers (IAAM) District V 2008 Annual Conference held April 5-10, 2008 in  
165 Safety Harbor (Tampa), Florida, seconded by Councilman Carn and motion carried.

166  
167 8d. Consideration of and action on a request from Main Street Manager Steven Bush  
168 for authorization to attend the National Main Street Conference 2008.

169  
170 **ACTION:** Councilman Phillips moved to approve a request from Main Street Manager Steven  
171 Bush for authorization to attend the National Main Street Conference 2008 held  
172 March 30-April 2, 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, seconded by Councilman  
173 Carn and motion carried.

174  
175 8e. Consideration of and action on a request from Police Chief Gary Yandura for  
176 authorization to send Captain Ferman Williford to the Georgia APCO (Association  
177 of Public Safety Communications Officials) Spring Training Conference.

178  
179 **ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to approve a request from Police Chief Gary Yandura for  
180 authorization to send Captain Ferman Williford to the Georgia APCO (Association  
181 of Public Safety Communications Officials) Spring Training Conference held  
182 March 3-7, 2008 on Saint Simons Island, Georgia, seconded by Councilman Wyatt  
183 and motion carried.

184

185 9. Unfinished (Old) Business. None.

186

187 10. New Business.

188

189 10a. Consideration of and action on a request from Keith Quarles, petitioner for  
190 Cambria Suites Hotel, for a conditional height zoning permit to increase the  
191 maximum height of the future Cambria Suites Hotel on Best Road from 35 feet to  
192 55 feet 4 inches, Ward Two.

193

194 Councilman Phillips asked, is that adding a new floor, or what?

195

196 Chief Building Inspector Oscar Hudson came forward and said no, that is the new 4-story  
197 hotel they are building on Best Road with a steeple, like structure in the front that extends to  
198 65 feet.

199

200 Mayor Longino asked Mr. Hudson, do they have FAA approval?

201

202 Chief Building Inspector Oscar Hudson said yes.

203

204 Councilman Clay asked if there are plans to marker light the steeple.

205

206 Councilman Carn said he would imagine they probably are planning to marker light the  
207 steeple.

208

209 Councilman Wyatt said he has concerns with this because they are already at their  
210 maximum.

211

212 Councilman Carn suggested making a marker light installation a condition of the approval.

213

214 **ACTION:** Councilman Carn moved to approve a request from Keith Quarles, petitioner for  
215 Cambria Suites Hotel, for a conditional height zoning permit to increase the  
216 maximum height of the future Cambria Suites Hotel on Best Road from 35 feet to  
217 55 feet 4 inches with the condition that they put a light on top of the building,  
218 seconded by Councilman Clay and motion carried.

219

220 11. Other Business. None.

221

222 12. City Attorney's Report. None.

223

224 13. City Manager's Report.

225

226 Interim City Manager Jim Smith passed out the agenda for Tuesday's meeting between City  
227 Council and Grove Street Partners, along with BIDA.

228

229 Mayor Longino asked, how long do we expect this meeting to take?

230

231 Interim City Manager Jim Smith said the meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

232

233 Councilman Phillips said he would like to concentrate on major issues.

234

235 Mr. Austin came forward and said we are going to recommend tomorrow night that we first  
236 review the second amendment to the Master Design Development and Operating  
237 Agreement, and the next will be the second amendment to clean up some of the items, and the  
238 third is the Headquarters Hotel Parcel DDO for the Marriott Hotel property. There is an  
239 executive summary in your binder. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the GICC in Salon #1, the  
240 Ball Room.

241

242 **ACTION:** Councilman Phillips moved to recess regular session, after Report of Mayor &  
243 Council, to take up executive session to discuss personnel, pending litigation, and  
244 potential purchase of real estate, seconded by Councilman Carn and motion carried.

245

246 14. Report Of Mayor And Council.

247

248 Councilman Clay – said he received an email asking him to write a letter of support for  
249 Main Street Academy, a charter school, that a number of citizens are trying to get started.  
250 They are trying to get letters of support to take to the Fulton County School Board.

251

252 Councilman Clay said he had written a letter prior to being elected as Councilman, and has  
253 been asked to write another letter on City letterhead. But at the ethics class he attended,  
254 they recommended to him to write a letter as a whole council body. A lot of parents of  
255 young children cannot afford Woodward, and are concerned about sending their children to  
256 public schools. They want a choice and want a specialty in Hispanic International Studies.

257

258 Mayor Longino said this is not something that the school board has been in favor of.

259

260 Councilman Clay suggested that a representative come to us and present it during a meeting.

261

262 Mayor Longino directed Interim City Manager Jim Smith to put the group on the next  
263 workshop session. I know that I have written a letter of support.

264

265 Councilman Wyatt said there are some questions based on some of the feedback he received  
266 when he went out into the community.

267

268 Councilman Phillips said he would like more detail on the charter school. But if the  
269 emphasis is on the Hispanic studies, he will not vote for it, unless we change it to be more  
270 inclusive to the people who live here.

271 Councilman Carn – expressed concern of a long-standing business in the city not knowing  
272 how to do business with the City, and would like to meet with the businesses next month  
273 and support them.

274

275 Councilman Wyatt said we should take our time and do it right. This is important.

276

277 Councilman Wyatt – reiterated to Interim City Manager Jim Smith that all correspondence  
278 coming before City Council have the pages numbered.

279  
280 Mayor Longino agreed.

281  
282 Councilman Wyatt thanked Mayor Longino and Councilman Phillips for their long tenure  
283 serving the citizens of the City and keeping this City financially sound. Hopefully, we can  
284 continue to keep the City financially sound.

285  
286 Councilman Wyatt asked for an update on the consent agenda.

287  
288 Councilman Clay said he mentioned a consent agenda to a couple of people, but never  
289 brought it up before Council. It is something he thinks we should do.

290  
291 Councilman Phillips said we should look at every item on the agenda. It is what makes the  
292 system work.

293  
294 Mayor Longino agreed with Councilman Phillips.

295  
296 Councilman Clay said his intent would never be to blindly approve items.

297  
298 Mayor Longino gave the example of the purchase of City vehicles with Council's approval.

299  
300 Councilman Wyatt directed staff to bring back approval of the purchase of City vehicles to  
301 Mayor & Council.

302  
303 Councilman Wyatt stated that the citizens need to have their facts straight before coming  
304 before Mayor & Council.

305  
306 Councilman Wyatt directed Interim City Manager Jim Smith to make sure that Chief Gary  
307 Yandura attends the executive session.

308  
309 Councilman Phillips – asked for an update on the liquor licenses.

310  
311 Mayor Longino asked to talk about the liquor licenses in executive session.

312  
313 Councilman Phillips said we talked about it out here in open session last time.

314  
315 City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves stated that the deadline for payment of the liquor licenses was  
316 Friday. Barbara gave her a list of those that have not paid.

317  
318 Mayor Longino asked City Clerk, how many people have not paid their fee?

319  
320 City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said there are about seven or eight that have not paid their fee.  
321 There are two more that I have concerns about, because they have not done other things that  
322 they should have done, prior to getting their license.

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Councilman Phillips said we do not have the authority to waiver on these licenses.

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said there are two businesses that were here at the last meeting that would like to have a payment plan for their license fees.

Councilman Phillips said he does not know that the law allows that. They are operating without a license now, right?

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said yes.

Councilman Clay asked, how can we let them do something that is illegal?

Councilman Phillips said because we are not enforcing it, that's how they are doing it. Before, we have shut them down. It is our duty to enforce the law on this stuff. According to this, they are operating out there without a license at all.

Mayor Longino said that is correct.

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said the Feed Store has paid. I can take them off.

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves passed out to Mayor & Council a copy of the businesses that have not paid their license fee. The Feed Store and Big Daddy Mart can come off the list.

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves stated that Mr. Johnson last year had given approval to a couple of the business to make payments over a two or three-month period.

Councilman Wyatt expressed concern of a pattern being set from past actions. We need to be consistent. And if we give our word to people, we need to keep it.

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves stated that over the years, arrangements have been made between the store owners and city managers.

Councilman Phillips said he never knew about any special arrangements.

Councilman Clay said this should have been budgeted; and two, they may have to go out and get a loan. It is an economic penalty to the business owner. That is the cost of doing business. And what we are doing is not legal.

Mayor Longino asked City Clerk, how long have two of the people not been paying their tax either?

City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said about four months. They have not paid their monthly drink tax.

369 Mayor Longino asked City Clerk, how much is it for them to catch up their monthly drink  
370 tax and the license fees?  
371

372 City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said the cost is about \$6,000.00.  
373

374 Councilman Phillips said Shirley Franklin's ex-husband got locked up at the airport for the  
375 same reason. He is now out of business.  
376

377 Mayor Longino said you have to do the same for all. He has asked City Clerk to find in the  
378 minutes where we helped Oscars and Cosmo's at one time.  
379

380 Councilman Carn suggested giving everyone a final date to catch up. Let's give them to the  
381 end of the month.  
382

383 Councilman Phillips said let's give them til next Friday.  
384

385 Councilman Wyatt asked City Clerk, can you tell me the arrangements made for the last four  
386 on the list?  
387

388 City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said we have done this for prior years. They are asking me if I  
389 will accept post dated checks for the next couple of months. The last two at the bottom, they  
390 have DUI charges. And you cannot have a DUI charge and have an alcohol license.  
391

392 Mayor Longino said they have to quit selling until they get their license.  
393

394 Councilman Clay asked City Attorney, can we legally allow them the time or not?  
395

396 City Attorney Michael Williams said there is no provision for that in the code. If you don't  
397 pay by the time period, there is a 25 percent penalty.  
398

399 Mayor Longino said there needs to be a time limit for delinquency.  
400

401 Councilman Clay asked City Clerk, how many of these do not have a license now?  
402

403 City Clerk Lakeitha Reeves said there are eight (8) businesses without a liquor license now.  
404 Mayor Longino said the ones that have an "application denied" should be shut down now.  
405

406 Councilman Clay suggested giving them until Friday.  
407

408 Councilman Wyatt said he thinks 10 days is more appropriate.  
409

410 Mayor Longino said the ones selling with DUI charges should be closed tomorrow.  
411

412 Councilman Phillips said he wants the letters hand delivered and signed by the license  
413 holder, if possible, not a waitress.  
414

415 Mayor Longino directed staff to deliver the letters in the morning.

416

417 **ACTION:** Councilman Phillips moved to give notification, by letter tomorrow, that any  
418 alcoholic beverages licensee that has not paid for an alcohol license to be given  
419 until Friday, February 22, 2008 to pay the fee, seconded by Councilman Clay and  
420 motion carried. Councilman Wyatt voted no.

421

422 **ACTION:** Councilman Phillips moved to give notification, by letter tomorrow, that any  
423 alcoholic beverages licensee that has a DUI charge should stop selling alcohol as of  
424 tomorrow, seconded by Councilman Clay and motion carried.

425

426 Councilman Phillips asked for an update on the Target building.

427

428 City Attorney Michael Williams said staff was charged to find out that there might be an  
429 exception to allow the training, other than communicate to the staff that there is no  
430 provision for that. And there is no real solution for that problem. It is not zoned for that.

431

432 Councilman Phillips asked, did they go ahead and do it?

433

434 Interim City Manager Jim Smith said yes, I believe they did.

435

436 Chief Building Inspector Oscar Hudson said we cited them, and told them they needed to  
437 move on with the training.

438

439 Councilman Phillips asked Mr. Hudson, have they paid the fine?

440

441 Chief Building Inspector Oscar Hudson said they have to pay the fine on March 5, 2008.  
442 They have to go before the Judge.

443

444 Councilman Phillips said he has an email from the guys who are head of NOISE. It is about  
445 the Part 150. Joe, didn't you ask for the contract to be held up until we talked about that?

446

447 Councilman Carn said he remembered we approved it. And the next day or so we found out  
448 that FAA approved the program for Hartsfield. Jim mentioned it to me, and I said well, in  
449 light of this information, I asked him if we had sent out the contract. Jim said no. Then I  
450 asked him if the contract had been signed, and he said no, it has not. I suggested Jim do a  
451 call around and let everybody know what happened, and maybe we ought to take a look at  
452 this thing.

453

454 Councilman Phillips asked, did we get a report from the Ferguson Group?

455

456 Interim City Manager Jim Smith said we have had several discussions with the Ferguson  
457 Group over the last two or three weeks regarding the strategy going forward.

458

459 Mayor Longino said he didn't know that there was a problem, so he signed the contract  
460 when it came across his desk.

461  
462 Councilman Clay said he got the call from Jamilah. Do we want to keep the Ferguson  
463 Group?

464  
465 Special Assistant Jamilah Stevens said she contacted everybody, except Councilman  
466 Phillips.

467  
468 Councilman Wyatt said we do need some representation at this point.

469  
470 Councilman Clay said we have some good measures to monitor these guys on and some  
471 good procedures.

472  
473 Councilman Phillips said he was concerned about procedures.

474  
475 Councilman Phillips asked Mr. White if there is somebody on standby on the weekends for  
476 the parks.

477  
478 Public Works Director Dexter White said we always have somebody on standby.

479  
480 Councilman Phillips said we need somebody to take a look at all parks on the weekends.

481  
482 Public Works Director Dexter White said we are in the process of hiring some temporary  
483 workers for the upcoming spring, and I will change the schedules so that one of them goes  
484 in on Saturdays.

485  
486 15. Executive Session.

487  
488 16. Adjournment.

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500 **ATTEST:**

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502

503

504 **Lakeitha Reeves, City Clerk**

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK**

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**Jack P. Longino, Mayor**