



**Mayor and City Council**  
Council Chambers  
www.gaithersburgmd.gov/meetings  
16 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Session**  
Monday, September 16, 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
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	Remote	
Jud Ashman	Mayor	Present	

Staff present: City Manager Briley, City Attorney Ingram, Deputy City Manager Enslinger, Assistant City Manager Lonergan-Seeger, Assistant City Attorney Perla, Police Chief Sroka, Police Lieutenant Leache, Police Office Kendall, Lieutenant Eastman, Sergeant Delgado, Corporal Leach, Police Officer Sample, Police Officer Bower, Planner III Eby, Neighborhood Services Division Manager Andion, Capital Projects Program Manager Prithviraj, Engineering Services Division Chief Fields, Project Engineer Transportation Smith, Police Officer I Del Solar, and City Clerk Jones.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was led by Natalie Leache, Centerville Elementary School.

**3. REFLECTION**

Mayor Ashman called for a moment of silence.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Session held September 3, 2024**

*Motion was made to approve the above minutes.*

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

**B. Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating September 17-23, 2024 as "Constitution Week" in the City of Gaithersburg**

Council Member Harris joined Mayor Ashman to issue a Proclamation for "Constitution Week." On September 17, 1787, 39 delegates approved and signed the Constitution and sent it to the then Congress of the Confederation of the United States. On September 28, Congress sent the Constitution to the states. Maryland was the seventh state to ratify on April 28, 1788. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the document, which made for a two-thirds majority. The last four states approved the constitution by May 29, 1790. The ten amendments that are the Bill of Rights became effective on December 15, 1791. This September 17th will mark the 237th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

Accepting this year's proclamation were students from Liberty's Promise, a local non-profit that supports young immigrants while encouraging them to be active and conscientious American citizens.

**C. Certificate of Recognition Presented to Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger**

Mayor Ashman presented a Certificate of Recognition to Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger. After almost 11 years of dedicated service, Dennis will retire from the City.

**7. COURTESY REVIEW**

**A. ASK-9892-2024: Amendment to the Sketch Plan for Block R at the Spectrum at Watkins Mill to Remove the Age Restriction, Increase the Height from Six to Seven Stories, and Increase the Number of Dwelling Units from 158 to 244**

The Applicant, HIP Projects LLC, submitted application ASK-9892-2024 (Courtesy Review Item A) for an Amendment to Sketch Plan for the Spectrum at Watkins Mill, requesting the following changes to Block R: remove the age restriction, increase the height from six to seven stories, and increase the number of dwelling units from 158 to 244. The application was submitted prior to the adoption of the City's new zoning ordinance (Chapter 24), and therefore the changes requested pursuant to the prior zoning ordinance requirements of Sections 24-160D.11. and 24-198(c) of the City Code. The subject property is located north of Watkins Mill Road, east of Interstate 270, south of the Pepco utility corridor, and west of Maryland Route 355, and is zoned MXD (Mixed Use Development). Of note, none of the age-restricted units (Block R) have been constructed, none of the nonresidential uses on Blocks B, K, and L have been constructed, one of the public uses (County police station/Block P) is under construction, and the other one (City senior center/Block Q) remains undeveloped. All other areas of the development have been completed. The Applicant has submitted a written request and justification statement in support of the application, included as Courtesy Item B.

Staff recommended that the Mayor and City Council refer the amendment to the Planning Commission for further evaluation, public hearing, and recommendation, followed by policy discussion and final action by the Mayor and City Council. The tentative date for the Planning Commission's public hearing is Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Staff further recommended that the Mayor and City Council hold their record open until Friday, November 15, 2024, at 5 p.m., with anticipated policy discussion during their December 2, 2024, Regular Session.

Staff provided historical data on the approval process of similar projects and stated that the Planning Commission has made the final decision in the past.

There was a general consensus to have the project come back before the Mayor and City Council as a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission.

*Motion was made determining that this is not a minor change and to refer the amendment to the Planning Commission for further evaluation, followed by a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission, followed by policy discussion and final action by the Mayor and City Council.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lisa Henderson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jim McNulty, Council Vice President
<b>FOR:</b>	McNulty, Harris, Henderson, Hernández, Wu

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no speakers from the public.

**9. FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

Lisa Henderson

1. Attended the September 11th Honor event at rio Washingtonian Center. Stated that it was a beautiful tribute to the lives lost.
2. Attended the soft launch for Pleasant View Park. Mentioned that the park was filled with children and community members. Encouraged the public to visit the City’s newest park.
3. Mentioned that the recent Council in the Communities meeting was well attended by the public.
4. Attended the City’s Employee and Retiree Fall Festival.
5. Extended congratulations to all the Police Officers recognized earlier in the evening. Stated that it speaks highly of Chief Sroka’s leadership and the entire Police Department.
6. Mentioned the recent Quince Orchard and Gaithersburg football game. Stated that Quince Orchard won but Gaithersburg did not go down without a fight.
7. Go Washington Commanders.
8. Thanked Deputy City Manager Enslinger for guiding her through National League of Cities and wished him the best.

Jim McNulty

1. Echoed previous comments.
2. Stated that he does not believe that there is a better Police Department than Gaithersburg in the United States.
3. Attended the September 11th Honor event at rio Washingtonian Center. Mentioned that these types of ceremonies always choke him up.
4. Attended several events and meetings including the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce’s Picnic for a Purpose, constituent meetings, and Council in the Communities.
5. Announced the retirement of Shellie Williams, former City Culture Events and Services Division Chief and Liaison to the Cultural Arts Advisory Committee.
6. Go Philadelphia Eagles.

Questioned the outreach plan as this is considered a pilot program. Staff clarified that the intent is to have these changes be permanent, but the speeds may be changed in the future if the data comes back in favor of that. Further clarified that HOA will be contacted. In the event that there is no HOA direct mailings and signage will be used to notify the public of the changes.

*Motion was made to approve the above resolution.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jim McNulty, Council Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Neil Harris, Council Member
<b>FOR:</b>	McNulty, Harris, Henderson, Hernández, Wu

**13. FROM CITY ATTORNEY / OTHER STAFF**

City Attorney Darnell Ingram  
1. No report.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Staff
- B. Outside

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the session was adjourned at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Betancourt, Administrative Assistant III

Lia Jones, City Clerk