

**City of Rockville**  
**Leadership Planning Team Meeting Notes**  
**April 20, 2026**

**Meeting Participants:**

Mayor Ashton  
Councilmember Jackson  
Councilmember Shaw  
Councilmember Valeri  
Councilmember Van Grack  
Jeff Mihelich, City Manager  
Sara Taylor-Ferrell, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations  
Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager  
Dave Gottesman, Assistant City Manager  
Linda Moran, Associate City Manager

**Agenda Review**

**General Comment:**

**Comment:** The City Manager asked that the Leadership Planning Team's notes reflect that a Closed Session was added to the April 20 meeting agenda.

**April 20, 2026 Meeting Agenda**

**Comment:** The City Manager reviewed the meeting agenda. He noted that staff are working on responses to Mayor Ashton's questions, and they will be sent by mid-morning.

**Comment:** Mayor Ashton noted that she will raise an issue with the body and send an email about a communication to the County Council on their proposed budget letter, which has implications for municipal tax duplication. She is currently gathering additional information.

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**April 27, 2026 Meeting Agenda**

**Comment:** Mayor Ashton noted that the team may want to look at the timing for the election code public hearing. She believes that there will be significant public participation. She noted the meetings should include no more than two public hearings.

**Comment:** Councilmember Valeri agreed with Mayor Ashton's comments regarding the timing of the election public hearing.

**Comment:** The Election Code Update Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for the June 1 meeting.

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### **Review and Comment on the Six Month Agenda Planning Calendar**

#### **May 4, 2026 Meeting Agenda**

**Comment:** Mayor Ashton noted that additional time will be needed for the Zoning Ordinance public hearings.

**Comment:** Councilmember Valeri concurred with the Mayor's comments on the timing for the Zoning Ordinance public hearings and noted that additional time is needed for the budget adoption discussion.

**Response:** The timing has been adjusted on the six month planning calendar.

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#### **May 11, 2026 Meeting**

**Comment:** Councilmember Valeri asked if the District 17 2026 Wrap Up Presentation is a Special Presentation.

**Response:** City Manager Jeff Mihelich noted that it is not a Special Presentation and the Mayor and Council will have the opportunity to ask questions.

**Comment:** Mayor Ashton indicated that she is working with the City Clerk's Office to have the Mini Mayor read her winning essay for the If I Were Mayor's Contest and to have her meet the District 17 Delegation at the May 11 meeting.

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#### **May 18, 2026 Meeting**

**Comment:** Mayor Ashton requested that the Landlord Tenant Code Update adoption time be extended to one hour.

This adjustment has been made to the six month planning calendar.

## **June 8, 2026**

**Comment:** Several comments were made by members of the Mayor and Council.

**Response:** City Manager Jeff Mihelich responded with the following information:

- The Bus Rapid Transit item will be changed to a presentation, and members of the Mayor and Council will have the opportunity to ask questions. This revision has been made to the six month planning calendar.
- He will make sure that the Housing Needs Assessment Special Presentation includes details on community engagement.
- The May 18 Chapter 18 Landlord Tenant Code Update will include housing needs assessment data points (equity and demographics) that are informative to the Landlord Tenant Code discussion. While the Housing Needs Assessment report will likely not be ready for the May 18 meeting, staff will do what they can to try to incorporate the request for information.

## **June 29, 2026 Agenda**

### **Comment:**

City Manager Jeff Mihelich provided the following updated information on the meeting:

- There is a new Election Code Update schedule that staff is recommending, which could include adopting the Election Code changes on June 29. He gave the Gaithersburg City Manager notice that the joint meeting between the Rockville Mayor and Council and the Gaithersburg Mayor and Council may be moved to a later date or designated as TBD.
- Regarding the Election Code the plan is to get through the first worksession, confer with the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE), and come back to do a second worksession with the Mayor and Council, which could be done on June 29. What staff learned from the BSE would be presented in the second worksession. He noted that he received positive feedback on the new election code adoption schedule from members who were able to attend the one-on-one meetings. He will proceed with the new schedule unless he hears otherwise.

### **General Comments:**

**Comment:** There were comments made about scheduling the Adoption of the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite for the July 6 meeting.

**Response:** City Manager Jeff Mihelich noted that he agrees that the July 6 timing of the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite may not be ideal. He recommends that we get through the first

two work sessions and assess the status. If changes to the schedule are needed, he will consult with the Mayor and Council in one-on-one meetings to ask for their feedback if July 6 works or not. He noted that last year, this meeting was cancelled.

**Response:** In response to the question about revisiting Street Tree Management Plan, City Manager Jeff Mihelich will find the detailed email he sent to the Mayor and Council about this matter.