
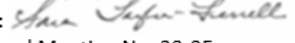


# City of Rockville

City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave  
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved:   
Attest:   
Approved Meeting No. 23-25  
September 29, 2025



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, September 8, 2025**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Meeting No. 21-25**

**WebEx**

## Mayor and Council

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Monique Ashton	Mayor	Present
Kate Fulton	Councilmember	Present
Barry Jackson	Councilmember	Present
David Myles	Councilmember	Present
Izola Shaw	Councilmember	Present
Marissa Valeri	Councilmember	Present
Adam Van Grack	Councilmember	Present

**1. Convene**

Mayor and Council convened in a Hybrid Open Meeting at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2025, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, and via Webex.

Staff Present: City Manager Jeff Mihelich, City Attorney Robert E. Dawson, and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Ashton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Proclamation and Recognition – NONE**

**4. Agenda Review**

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Sara Taylor-Ferrell reported no changes to the agenda.

**5. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Jeff Mihelich reported that the City received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Presentation award. There is new signage over the Route 355 pedestrian bridge in Town Center. Lights in and around the City are currently purple as a part of the Rockville Goes Purple program, and in support of National Recovery Month. The City is keeping open the Swim and Fitness Center for two more weekends.

**6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - NONE**

**7. Community Forum**

	NAME	TOPIC
1.	Jamie N.	Rent Stabilization
2.	Anika Halota	Leaf Collection
3.	Sameer Merchante	Rent Stabilization/ Rent Freeze
4.	Milton Hallin	Ranked Choice Voting
5.	Tyler M.	Rent Stabilization

	NAME	TOPIC
6.	Norma P.	Bocce Ball
7.	Nancy Wallace	Ranked Choice Voting
8.	Ashley Haughton	Ranked Choice Voting
9.	Adam Wise	Ranked Choice Voting
10.	Ellen Bek	Ranked Choice Voting
11.	Aurora Bristor	Ranked Choice Voting
12.	Dhruva D. Kumar	Racial Comments
13.	Vincent Russo	Election Report
14.	Christopher Madden	Rent Stabilization
15.	John Becker	Congratulations to Rockville Police, Election Report
16.	Speaker/Written Comments Christopher Hughes	Ranked Choice Voting
17.	Written Comments Delaney Higgs	Ranked Choice Voting
18.	Written Comments Michael Higgs	Ranked Choice Voting
19.	Written Comments Christopher Hughes	Ranked Choice Voting

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

September 8, 2025, Agenda item 7.

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**8. Special Presentations – NONE**

**9. Consent Agenda**

- A.** Ratify and approve the City Manager’s earlier execution of a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Program Host Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the

Environmental Management Division to host a 2025-2026 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Member

- B.** Authorize the City Manager to Execute Amendment Number 1 Between the City of Rockville and the State of Maryland, Maryland Energy Administration to Provide a No Cost Extension of Contract No. 2024-16-520S1 to September 30, 2026

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved to approve consent agenda items A and B.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barry Jackson, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

**10. Public Hearing**

- A.** Public Hearing on Community Needs: FY 2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding

Grant and Program Analyst, Sarah Maizel, provided the Mayor and Council with a brief overview of FY2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council (1) receive a brief overview of the upcoming CDBG funding cycle and application process, (2) conduct a public hearing on community needs, and (3) hold the public record open until September 25, 2025.

Each year, the City of Rockville receives federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through a cooperative agreement with Montgomery County. CDBG funds must be used for housing and community development projects that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons or neighborhoods. It is anticipated that Rockville will receive approximately \$263,000 in CDBG funding for federal Program Year 52, which is FY2027.

The City has used its CDBG allocation to rehabilitate multi-family rental housing and single-family homes.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:51 p.m.

The complete testimony of this evening's speakers can be found in the official Public Hearing records in

the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations office. There being no speakers testifying, the Public Hearing closed at 7:52 p.m.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

September 8, 2025, Agenda item 10A.

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### **11. Action Items**

#### **A. Accept Consultant's Final Report on the Election Code Update**

City Manager Jeff Michelich introduced the consultant's Final Report, and Jason Gant of the Gant Group provided a brief overview of the final report on the Election Code Update.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council accept the Final Report from the Gant Group on the City Election Code update.

The Mayor and Council held a series of work sessions on City Election Reform, with Jason Gant of the Gant Group (election consultant) facilitating the discussions. The governing body provided feedback and guidance on various topics, including topical areas that were pertinent as the Gant Group worked to finalize the report with their recommendations to include:

- Election Laws
- Election Process and Procedures
- Campaign Finance
- Board of Supervisors of Elections
- 2023 Ballot Measures

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by the consultant, Jason Gant. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

Councilmember Izola Shaw moved to accept the consultant's Final Report on City Election Code update.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Izola Shaw, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

September 8, 2025, Agenda item 11A.

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## **12. Worksession**

### **A. Vision Zero Progress Update**

Principal Transportation Planner Bryan Barnett-Woods and Chief of Traffic and Transportation Emad Elshafei provided an overview of the Vision Zero progress update.

Staff recommends Mayor and Council receive a progress update briefing on the implementation of the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Bikeway Master Plan.

This Vision Zero biannual report provides an update on progress made on Vision Zero action items between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025. This report also includes a progress update for implementing the City's Bikeway Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. While no new Vision Zero Action Items have been fully completed, City staff continue to advance on-going action items, such as evaluating, designing, and constructing sidewalks, assessing and improving intersections, and building out the City's bicycle network. City staff continues to engage with the community and participate in public events, organize and schedule infrastructure improvements, identify new projects, and coordinate with other agencies.

The Vision Zero Action Plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council in July 2020. It includes 30 action items organized into four categories - Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Policy - to eliminate all serious injury and fatal crashes by 2030. Updates for all action items are included in the Vision Zero Action Item Progress Report.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

September 8, 2025, Agenda item 12A.

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## **13. Mock Agenda**

There were no changes to the mock agenda.

## **14. Old / New Business**

There were no old/new business items.

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barry Jackson, Councilmember
<b>IN FAVOR:</b>	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack