



# City of Rockville

City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave  
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved:   
Attest:   
Approved Meeting No. 17-26  
June 29, 2026



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 2026

6:30 PM

Meeting No. 16-26

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 6:35 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2026, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, and via Webex.

Staff Present: City Manager Jeff Mihelich, Acting City Attorney Cynthia Walters, and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations, Sara Taylor-Ferrell.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Monique 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 Michelish reported Rockville is in high season for community events. Rockville Pride was well attended. Suds and Soles will take place on Saturday, June 13, 7-9 p.m. Several new Pickleball courts were installed at Isreal Park and Welsch Park. The City is finalizing plans for RedGate Park improvements. The City continues to work on the Climate Action Plan, including working on the final phase of the LED streetlight conversion plan and the acquisition of new Electric Senior buses.

6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - NONE

7. Community Forum

**Community Forum  
In-Person/Virtual Speakers and Written Comments List  
(June 8, 2026)**

NAME	TOPIC
<b>In-Person</b> David Weinberg	Rank Choice Voting
<b>In-Person</b> Michelle Whittaker	Rank Choice Voting
<b>In-Person</b> Milton Halen	Rank Choice Voting
<b>In-Person</b> JD Kumar	Campaign
<b>In-Person</b> Ellen Bach	Rank Choice Voting

NAME	TOPIC
<b>Written Comments</b>	
David Sloane	RMD-10 for Plot ZOR ID 17
James D. Nations, President, Board of Directors New Mark Commons Homes Association, Inc.	Rezoning of RMD-15

8. Special Presentations

- A. Presentation by Montgomery County Department of Transportation on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Montgomery County Government, BRT Implementation Manager, Jamie Henson, Montgomery County Government, MD355 BRT Project Executive, Zouli Bereddad, and Montgomery County Government, Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) BRT Project Manager Pam Destino, provided the Mayor and Council with a presentation on the Bus Rapid Transit project.

Staff recommend the Mayor and Council receive a presentation from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) provided a presentation to update the Mayor and Council on the Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) and MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects. Montgomery County’s BRT is a bus-based transit system will deliver faster, more reliable, and more convenient services with the capacity and quality of rail transit. BRT is a national movement towards upgraded bus systems focus on faster, more convenient, and more reliable bus services.

Veirs Mill Road BRT

The MD 586 BRT connects major activity centers, Rockville and Wheaton. It consists of a 7.6-mile corridor with 12 stations along Veirs Mill Road and MD 355. Approx. 51,000 residents and 38,900 jobs within a half mile of the stations. Half of the route is in the City of Rockville and includes the following stations: Twinbrook Parkway, Atlantic Avenue, Edmonston Drive, Rockville Metro Station, and Montgomery College.

MCDOT is developing a Small Starts Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to be signed in summer 2026. Once the agreement is signed, it will enable MCDOT to complete a construction contract. MCDOT is scheduled to start construction in early 2027 and open the project by December 2028. The estimated cost of this project is \$230M.

## MD 355 BRT

The goal of the MD 355 Flash BRT corridor, identified in the 2013 Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, is to provide a new transit service along MD 355 (Wisconsin Avenue/Rockville Pike/Frederick Road) with greater travel speed and frequency. Among the project's objectives is to create new connections and support growth and redevelopment at key activity centers along the corridor, including Rockville and Gaithersburg. The MD 355 BRT project will implement a roughly 22-mile BRT corridor connecting Bethesda to Clarksburg, primarily along MD 355. The central phase of the MD 355 BRT project is advancing and consists of a 10-mile corridor between Rockville and Germantown, with three stations in Rockville: Rockville Metro Station, Montgomery College, and Shady Grove Metro Station.

MCDOT continues to coordinate engineering design reviews with the City of Rockville's Public Works and Planning staff regarding BRT station locations and access, bicycle and pedestrian facility design, new development coordination, and refinement of right-of-way needs. The proposed bike facilities vary to mostly shared-use paths for the northbound direction and a mix of cycle track and sidewalks for the southbound direction. The city will need to modify its Bikeway Master Plan and the Rockville Pike Plan to match the facilities proposed by the BRT project. Concurrently, MCDOT is coordinating with the FTA regarding submission of the project for federal funding and environmental documentation.

Montgomery County's Department of Transportation is continuing its close coordination with the City of Rockville as design work progresses on the Bus Rapid Transit project. Engineering teams from both jurisdictions are working through station siting, access needs, and the integration of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the corridor. As currently envisioned, the project introduces a range of new bike accommodations—primarily shared-use paths on the northbound side of Rockville Pike, paired with a combination of cycle tracks and sidewalks on the southbound side. Because these designs differ from what is currently outlined in Rockville's adopted plans, the City will need to amend both its Bikeway Master Plan and the Rockville Pike Plan to reflect the updated facility types.

MCDOT is coordinating with the Federal Transit Administration as it prepares the project for federal funding consideration and advances the required environmental documentation. The project has reached the 35% design milestone, and a Progressive Design Builder is now under contract. The team is in the scope-validation phase, examining opportunities to refine the design, reduce impacts, and lower overall costs. Full design work is expected to resume later this summer, with final design beginning in 2026. Construction is planned for 2028 through 2031, leading to an anticipated opening of BRT service in 2031.

The total project cost is estimated at \$517 million, and the corridor is eligible for funding through the FTA's Capital Investment Grant New Starts program. One notable omission from the current capital budget is funding for a bus depot or a transit center near Mannakee Street, which would need to be addressed separately as planning continues.

For the MD 355 BRT project, MCDOT anticipates initiating the next phase of design work later this summer. With design advancing over the next several years and construction planned for the late decade, the department continues to project BRT service along MD 355 will open to riders in 2031.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

June 8, 2026, Agenda Item 8A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting - June 8, 2026 \(Meeting No. 16-26\)](#)

Timestamp 0:20:48

### **B. Special Presentation - Planning Commission 2025 Annual Report**

Community Planning and Development Services Chief of Zoning, Jim Wasilak, and Chair of the Rockville Planning Commission, Meng Sun, presented the Planning Commission's 2025 Annual Report to the Mayor and Council.

The Planning Commission's Annual Report for 2025 serves as the Commission's formal review of its activities and accomplishments over the past year. In accordance with the annual reporting requirements of the Maryland Department of Planning and the State's Land Use Article, the report documents the Commission's work in comprehensive planning, zoning, and development review, as well as the major planning initiatives and issues considered during the reporting period. Development Review Activity in 2025.

Throughout 2025, the Planning Commission reviewed and approved several significant development applications. These applications are detailed within the report and reflect ongoing development trends within the jurisdiction. The proposed projects were primarily located in transit-oriented areas, aligning with local and state planning priorities. Many of the approved developments consisted of large-scale residential or mixed-use projects, frequently situated on vacant parcels or urban infill sites where redevelopment supports efficient land use and community revitalization goals.

#### **Zoning and Policy Actions**

In addition to development review, the report summarizes the Commission's actions on zoning text amendments and other policy matters. These actions demonstrate the Commission's role in shaping the regulatory framework guides growth, land use, and community development.

#### **Anticipated Work Plan for 2026**

The report concludes with an overview of the Planning Commission's anticipated 2026 work program. This section outlines the major planning efforts and initiatives staff expects the Commission to advance or complete by year's end. The work plan provides a forward-looking perspective on ongoing priorities, emerging issues, and the Commission's continued commitment to supporting thoughtful, sustainable development within the jurisdiction.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

June 8, 2026, Agenda Item 8B.

[Mayor and Council Meeting - June 8, 2026 \(Meeting No. 16-26\)](#)

Timestamp 56:48

9. Consent Agenda

- A. Adoption of a Resolution to Revise the City's Statement of Investment Policy for the Investment of the City's Operating and Capital Funds
- B. Award and Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract Responsive to Invitation for Bids IFB # 29-26, LED Streetlight Conversion-Phase 3, to Lighting Maintenance, Inc. of Harmans, Maryland, in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,061,875.00, with final work completion to occur by October 15, 2026.
- C. Award, and Authorize the City Manager to Execute, Contracts Responsive to IFB #16-26 for Construction, Repair, and Maintenance of Concrete and Brick Infrastructure.
- D. Award of IFB #19-26, Glenora Park Stream Restoration Spot Repair Project
- E. Award and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contracts Responsive to IFB #17-26, for Streetlight Maintenance, to Lighting Maintenance, Inc.
- F. Award and Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Rider Agreement with HEF-P Rockville, LLC (a Limited Liability Company Formed by Highland Electric Fleets, Inc.) in the Amount Not-to-Exceed \$1,194,169 with Pricing Consistent with Sourcewell Contract 051123-HEF, for Electric Senior Shuttle Buses and Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) Stations.
- G. Award and authorize the City Manager to execute a Rider Agreement with Astound Business Solutions for the purchase of dark fiber, upgraded and new Internet Lines at the following City locations: City Hall, Senior Center, Police Station, Taft Court Center, and Equinix data center in Ashburn, VA, in the Amount Not to Exceed \$729,980.00 for 5 years, with the first year cost of \$185,996 (\$135,996 service and \$50,000 installation) and four (4) optional 1-year renewals of \$135,996 per year.
- H. Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract Amendments to the 28 Contracts Issued Pursuant to Request for Proposal #18-18, for Professional Architectural, Engineering and Other Related Services, for an Additional One-Year period through June 30, 2027, with a One-Year Period Option Through June 30, 2028, in Accordance with the Original Contract Terms and Conditions.
- I. Award and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contracts Responsive to IFB# 24-26, Temporary Labor Services to P2 Cleaning Services LLC and E.A.R.N. Contractors Inc.

Councilmember Barry Jackson moved to approve Consent agenda items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.

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

10. Public Hearing - NONE

11. Action Items

A. Adoption of an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2A-26 to appropriate funds and levy taxes for FY 2026 (Budget Amendment #4)

Senior Management and Budget Analyst, Finance, Mary Sue Martin, provided an overview of the adoption of an ordinance No 2A-26 to appropriate funds and levy taxes for FY 2026 ( Budget Amendment #4)

Staff recommend, in accordance with the City Charter, since the budget ordinance is adopted at the fund level, a change in the appropriated amount of any fund requires action by the Mayor and Council. The vehicle for such action is an amendment to the budget ordinance. The proposed ordinance would amend the FY 2026 budget. The FY 2026 budget was adopted by the Mayor and Council on May 5, 2025, and amended three times on August 4, 2025, November 10, 2025, and March 9, 2026.

The proposed ordinance would amend the FY 2026 budget. No Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funds will be adjusted if this budget amendment is adopted.

#### General Fund

- Increase Transfer to the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) - \$4 million expenditure increase.
- Redlight Camera Program - \$463,800 revenue and \$314,250 expenditure increase.
- Senior Center Personal Training Program - \$40,000 revenue and expenditure increase.
- Swim and Fitness Center Programming - \$32,300 revenue and expenditure increase.
- Lease and SBITA adjustment - \$2.4 million revenue and expenditure increase.

#### Special Activities Fund

- Senior Assistance Fund - \$7,000 expenditure increase.
- Housing Opportunities Fund - \$190,000 expenditure increase.
- Art in Public Places Program - \$3,700 revenue and \$9,700 expenditure increase.

Water Fund

- Depreciation - \$728,280 expense increase.
- Arbitrage - \$50,540 expense increase. Bond proceeds have been earning more in investment income than the yield paid to bondholders; the City is required to repay this excess amount to the IRS.
- Replenish Contingency - \$65,000 expense increase. Water main breaks and increased costs have contributed to a higher-than-typical draw on contingency funds in FY 2026. To ensure emergency funds are available for year-end needs, this funding will restore Water Fund contingency to its adopted level.

Sewer Fund

- Blue Plains Operating Costs - \$400,150 expense increase.
- Depreciation - \$245,000 expense increase.

3Q FY 2026 Financial Report

The current FY26 ending unassigned fund balance equals \$31.9 million, which is \$8.4 million above the FY26 target. This amendment utilizes \$4 million of this balance to increase the General Fund transfer to the CIP in support of the FY 2027 through FY 2031 adopted Capital Improvements Program budget.

This is the fourth budget amendment for FY 2026. The FY 2026 budget was adopted by the Mayor and Council on May 5, 2025, and amended on August 4, 2025, November 10, 2025, and March 9, 2026.

Councilmember Kate Fulton introduced the ordinance to amend ordinance No. 2A-26 to appropriate funds and levy taxes for FY 2026 (Budget Amendment #4).

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved to waive the layover period.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>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

Councilmember Marissa Valeri moved to adopt the ordinance to amend ordinance No. 2A-26 to appropriate funds and levy taxes for FY 2026 (Budget Amendment #4).

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

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

June 8, 2026, Agenda Item 11A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting - June 8, 2026 \(Meeting No. 16-26\)](#)

Timestamp 1:16:01

**THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 7:58 PM. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 8:18 PM.**

12. Worksession
  - A. Worksession - Discussion and Direction on Chapter 8 Election Code Rewrite Recommendations from the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

City Clerk/Director of Council Operations, Sara Taylor-Ferrell, and Acting City Attorney, Cynthia Walters, provided an overview of Chapter 8 Election Code Rewrite Recommendations from the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Staff recommend the Mayor and Council provide direction on the recommendations of the Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) in order to move forward with revisions to the Election Code and ensure implementation prior to the November 2027 Municipal Election.

To ensure all related forms, notices, procedures, candidate materials, and administrative documents accurately reflect the applicable law, the Mayor and Council will need to provide directions regarding whether to accept, reject, modify, and address the BSE recommendations and authorize staff to proceed with the necessary revisions to the draft rewrite.

The Board of Supervisors of Elections (BSE) is actively preparing for the November 2027 Municipal Election and has identified several operational, administrative, and policy matters requiring direction from the Mayor and Council. Current preparations and recommendations include the following:

- Utilize Vote-by-Mail (VBM) as the method to conduct the 2027 Municipal Election;
- Request assistance from the Maryland State Board of Elections and the Montgomery County Board of Elections, including training on and authorization to use the State's electronic pollbooks and election equipment;
- Provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 8 of the City Code and related Charter provisions, as summarized in reports in the attachment to

- the Mayor and Council from February 24, 2025, September 8, 2025, and May 8, 2026;
- Include proposed Charter Amendments related to voting eligibility for 16–17-year-olds and term limits;
  - Incorporate revisions to the proposed Enforcement Article intended to improve clarity, administration, and enforcement of the current law;
  - Consider additional election reform concepts for future discussion beyond the 2027 election cycle, including ranked-choice voting and public campaign financing for potential implementation in 2031;
  - BSE and staff to prepare a handbook for prospective candidates providing election guidance, filing requirements, and common compliance pitfalls; and
  - Continue development and evaluation of electronic petition signature processes and related administrative procedures.

Staff members have tentatively scheduled worksessions with BSE members to address code changes. Staff will prepare a first draft of the proposed Election Code Rewrite on a targeted date of August 21, 2026, for submission to the Mayor and Council for review.

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

June 8, 2026, Agenda Item 12A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting - June 8, 2026 \(Meeting No. 16-26\)](#)

Timestamp 1:16:01

- B. Worksession on FAST 2 improvements to the development review and permitting process.

The Mayor and Council will review the staff report and attachments for the FAST 2 (Faster, Accountable, Smarter, and Transparent - Improvements to Permitting and Development Review Processes) and provide their comments and feedback to staff.

13. Mock Agenda

There were no changes to the Mock Agenda.

14. Old / New Business

The Mayor and Council thanked staff for answering FAST 2 questions and requested staff work with Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) to get the FAST 2 presentation out, so the Rockville business community can benefit from the information.

The Mayor and Council asked to be kept informed of the progress and action plan between Montgomery County, DC Water, and the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission (WSSC).

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

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