

City of Rockville

City Hall
111 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved: 
Attest: 
Approved Meeting No. 29-25
December 1, 2025



Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 3, 2025

5:30 P.M.

Meeting No. 26-25

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 5:36 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 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

A. Proclamation Declaring November 2025 as Municipal Government Works Month in Rockville, Maryland

Mayor Monique Ashton read the proclamation declaring November 2025 as Municipal Government Works Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager. The proclamation was moved by Councilmember Van Grack.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kate Fulton, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

B. Proclamation Declaring November 2025 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Councilmember Marissa Valeri read and moved the proclamation declaring November 2025 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Karen Brubaker Miller, President and CEO, Montgomery Hospice.

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

C. Proclamation Declaring November 2025 as Native American Heritage Month in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember Adam Van Grack read and moved the proclamation declaring November 2025 as Native American Heritage Month in Rockville, Maryland.

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

D. Proclamation Declaring November 2025 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember David Myles read and moved the proclamation declaring November 2025 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Carl Young, City of Rockville Fire Marshal.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Myles, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Kate Fulton, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

E. Proclamation Declaring November 11, 2025, as Veterans Day in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember Kate Fulton read and moved the proclamation declaring November 11, 2025, as Veterans Day in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Timothy Graber, US Army Major (retired), accepting on behalf of Henderson-Smith-Edmunds American Legion Post 86.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kate Fulton, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

F. Proclamation Declaring November 15, 2025, as America Recycles Day in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember Barry Jackson read and moved the proclamation declaring November 15, 2025, as America Recycles Day in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Erica Shingara, City of Rockville Chief of Environmental Management, who announced a Paper Shredding event on November 15, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barry Jackson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	David Myles, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

G. Proclamation Declaring November 16, 2025, as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

Councilmember Adam Van Grack read and moved the proclamation declaring November 16, 2025, as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Kathleen Kleinmann, Chair of the Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
SECONDER:	David Myles, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

H. Proclamation Declaring November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember Izola Shaw read and moved the proclamation declaring November 29, 2025, as Small Business Saturday in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Marcely V. King, Founder & Creative Director of MVK SCARF Jewelry & Sustainable Accessories.

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

I. Certificates of Recognition for the Latino Youth Development Soccer Program 2025 Finals

The Mayor and Council presented Certificates of Recognition to the Latino Youth Development Program Soccer Team to congratulate them on making it to the Finals of the High School Sam's Select League and winning the championship (5-3)!

Team Members:

Eduardo Acosta, German E. Chapparo, German R. Chapparo, Brayan Campos, Edzon Canchanya, Erick Castillo, Javier Claros, Joyser Coreas, Jose Delgado, Moris Flores Gaitan, Jonathan Garay, Paolo Gonzalez, Manuel Lopez, Wilmer Nolasco, Yovani Parada, Brayan Ramos, Emiliano Ramos Samuel Ramos, Saul Rodriguez Soriano, Nelson Rodriguez

Coaches:

Alex Castro, Abraham Castro, Balmory Moran

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 6:17 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 6:35 P.M.

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 the City continues to move forward with sustainability issues, as the City is now the recipient of an \$800,000 grant to install 4 publicly available fast charging EV (Electric Vehicle) stations at the City's Swim and Fitness Center. The Recreation and Parks department allows residents with SNAP benefits to take advantage of the benefits at the Saturday Farmers' Markets in the month of November 2025. During the upcoming season of giving, there are several City-sponsored events residents can take advantage of, including a Thanksgiving food drive and a December toy and book drive. Anyone who wants to contribute can make an item or monetary donation.

Mayor Monique Ashton comments that Rockville Reports lists several non-profits that are accepting donations, and several faith-based institutions are offering food drives and multiple giving opportunities. Mayor Ashton announced that the Maryland Business Center and Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) launched Founders Rising, a program to assist federal employees who want to own their own business.

Councilmember Adam Van Grack requested an update from the City Manager on the scare that occurred during Halloween. City Manager Michelich stated the Rockville Police investigated and found

it to be a prank.

6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - NONE

7. Community Forum

	NAME	TOPIC
1.	In-Person James Pontius	Basketball Court in Westend, certificate denied
2.	In-Person Jeffrey Land	Parking in The Square, Paying with an App
3.	In-Person Dhruva Diego Kumar	Statements

8. Special Presentations

- A.** Special Presentation to the Mayor and Council by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) about the development of the County's new Cultural Plan.

Anne O'Dell, Culture, Arts, & History Program Manager, and Susan Jenkins, CEO, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC), provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the development of the County's new Cultural Plan.

Staff recommends the Special Presentation be given so that the Mayor and Council will be aware of the goals, values, and intention of the new cultural plan, better understand the community engagement and data collection methods that were undertaken, and learn about some of the ways it may intersect with and support the City of Rockville as an important member of Montgomery county's vibrant arts and culture ecosystem.

Discussion

The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) began its cultural planning process in FY2022 by contracting three expert consultancies to conduct focused community research projects in three specific areas: Cultural Asset Mapping, Resident Cultural Engagement, and Long-term Cultural Economic Impact to inform our upcoming county cultural planning effort in FY2024.

Next Steps:

- DESIGN (Sept 2024 – Jan 2025)
- DISCOVER (Feb 2025 – Sept 2025)
- ENVISION (Sep 2025 – December 2025)

- CONFIRM (Jan 2025 – Feb 2026)
- CELEBRATE (Mar 2026 – Apr 2026)

The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments. Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by Anne O'Dell and Susan Jenkins.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

November 3, 2025, Agenda item 8A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting November 3, 2025 \(Meeting No. 26-25\)](#)

Timestamp 57:21

9. Consent Agenda

- A.** 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. 2024-11-420S1 to March 27, 2026
- B.** Approval of Memory Walk Park Public Art Proposal by Artist Dina Fisher
- C.** Authorization for the City Manager to sign a Supplemental Agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, for the Scott-Veirs Drive Shared-Use Path Design Project
- D.** Approval of Minutes

September 15, 2025 (Meeting No. 22-25)
September 29, 2025 (Meeting No. 23-25)

Councilmember David Myles moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, C, and D.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	
MOVER:	David Myles, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Valeri, Councilmember Van Grack

10. Public Hearing - NONE

11. Action Items - NONE

12. Worksession

- A.** Chapter IV Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance Revisions

Anne O'Dell, Culture, Arts, & History Program Manager, provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the Chapter IV Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance Revisions.

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council receive the presentation and provide their comments and feedback, and recommendations.

Discussion

Chapter IV Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance was first adopted in 1975, 50 years ago, before Arts Management and Public Art were professions. The Ordinance's Articles establish the Arts and Culture Commission (Article II, 1975), Incorporating Works of Art in Public Architecture (Article III, 1978), Publicly Accessible Art in Private Development (Article IV, 2001), and Art in Public Places (Article V, 2003).

The City of Rockville has indicated it intends to implement recommendations from the 2019 Arts and Culture Study. The Study provides many recommendations for developing arts and culture in Rockville, first and foremost creating the Arts and Culture Program Manager position placed in the City Manager's Office, which was done in Fiscal Year 2023. Recommendations also include that the Arts and Culture Program Manager evaluate and determine what needs to be done to develop arts and culture programs in Rockville so the city can fulfill its potential as an arts destination and integrate the arts into economic and community development and tourism. The job description and workplan for the Arts and Culture Manager echo the Study's recommendations and an assessment of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance is an important part of the foundation for future program development.

The revisions recommended for Chapter IV are based on professional practices established in the arts and culture sector and the Public Art field, the practical implementation of the ordinance having evolved, and the need to formalize and professionalize the city's role in developing artistic and cultural assets.

Next Steps

Staff will draft a revised ordinance based upon the Mayor and Council's feedback, present the ordinance to the Cultural Arts Commission for its review and comments, and present the revised Ordinance to the Mayor and Council.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

November 3, 2025, Agenda item 12A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting November 3, 2025 \(Meeting No. 26-25\)](#)

Timestamp 1:18:26

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 7:55 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 8:04 P.M.

B. Inclusionary Zoning Research Presentation and Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit

(MPDU) Program

Jane Lyons-Raeder, Housing Programs Manager, and Colin Maloney, Graduate Researcher, provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the Inclusionary Zoning Research Presentation and Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) Program.

Staff recommend that the Mayor and Council read the graduate researcher's report (Attachment 1), receive the presentation, discuss, and provide direction on a comprehensive update of City Code Chapter 13.5 (Moderately Priced Housing).

The following feedback is requested from the Mayor and Council to guide next steps:

1. Should the city continue to have an inclusionary zoning program?
2. Should staff explore methods of funding inclusionary zoning units?
3. Should staff explore a payment-in-lieu option?
4. Should staff explore ways to target lower household incomes?

Discussion

The Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program requires developments with 20 units or more to set aside 15% of the units for moderate-income households. This policy is the source of almost all new income-restricted affordable housing in the city. However, it also impacts market-rate development. Many components in the current ordinance have been identified in the *Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan* and by staff as outdated, unclear, or not in the best interest of the program's goals or overall city objectives. By examining the existing program from the ground up, reviewing academic research, and identifying national best practices, Rockville can create the strongest possible inclusionary zoning (IZ) policy, which is the commonly used name for policies like City Code Chapter 13.5 (Moderately Priced Housing), which governs the MPDU program. Staff are currently in the initial research phase for a comprehensive update to Chapter 13.5.

Summary of Findings

The Findings highlight the various designs, production outcomes, and trade-offs associated with IZ (Inclusionary Zoning) policies:

- Need
- Local Landscape
- Program Design
- Effectiveness
- Benefits and Drawbacks

Chapter 13.5 Rewrite

Staff intend to begin research and engagement for the Chapter 13.5 rewrite in earnest after completing the comprehensive update to City Code Chapter 18 (Landlord and Tenant Relations) in Spring 2026. Engagement will include conversations and roundtables with MPDU residents (renters and homeowners), developers, and the wider community. Before Spring 2026, staff hope to engage another graduate researcher to build off the initial paper to further hone in on strategies and recommendations, based on the Mayor and Council's feedback. The Housing Needs Assessment will also be able to offer further insights into the city's housing market and what types of policy changes may best meet the goals of the Chapter 13.5 rewrite.

Next Steps

The feedback received from the Mayor and Council will inform additional research for the comprehensive update to City Code Chapter 13.5 (Moderately Priced Housing), alongside community input and findings from the upcoming housing needs assessment

FURTHER DISCUSSION

November 3, 2025, Agenda item 12B.

[Mayor and Council Meeting November 3, 2025 \(Meeting No. 26-25\)](#)

Timestamp 2:03:05

13. Mock Agenda

A. Mock Agenda

There were no changes to the Mock Agenda.

14. Old / New Business

There was no Old/New business.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

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