

City of Rockville
Leadership Planning Team Meeting Notes
November 17, 2025

Meeting Participants:

Mayor Ashton
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Valeri
Councilmember Van Grack
Jeff Mihelich, City Manager
Robert Dawson, City Attorney
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

November 17, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda.

Comment: Mayor Ashton indicated there may be questions from the Mayor and Council regarding the rationale for the CDBG item, which may be pulled off the agenda. The concern is related to what the City can do for Rockville Housing Enterprises (RHE).

Response: The City Manager asked the Mayor and Council to forward their specific questions so that staff can answer them in advance of the meeting.

Comment: Councilmember Valeri noted that she intended to pull this item off the agenda, and it would be helpful to receive additional information. The staff report did not show the rationale for not allocating CDBG funds to RHE or to the Interfaith Women's Shelter. Regarding the Consent agenda item related to storm drain easements, it would be helpful to know where the items are in the development review process, and for the items to be added to the six month planning calendar.

Comment: Mayor Ashton noted that questions have been raised previously about how to support residents currently living in units that will be shifted. She asked that the applicant for 41 Maryland Avenue be prepared to answer these questions at the meeting tonight.

Response: The City Manager thanked the elected officials for their comments.

Comment: Councilmember Valeri stated that the agenda item for the consideration of Acceptance of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation

Fund Grant for RedGate Park is not included in the materials for the November 17 meeting on the Legistar agenda web page.

Comment: Mayor Ashton clarified that the content was included in the full PDF packet on the Legistar agenda page.

Response: The City Manager and City Clerk/Director of Council Operations stated that they would look into this and correct the issue. The CC/DCO emailed the Mayor and Council to let them know that item 11#B was regenerated and posted.

December 1, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda.

Comment: Mayor Ashton indicated that she hopes to receive the December 1 breifbook materials by around November 19 or so, given the holiday schedule next week.

Response: The City Manager thanked Mayor Ashton for her comment.

Review and Comment on Six Month Agenda Planning Calendar

December 8, 2025 Meeting

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda. There were no questions or comments.

December 15, 2025 Meeting

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda. There were no questions or comments.

January 12, 2025 Meeting

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda. There were no questions or comments.

General Mayor and Council Agenda Questions:

Comment: Mayor Ashton noted that there is the potential for the 1/26 meeting to be removed from the six month planning calendar due to District 17 Night in Annapolis.

Response: The City Manager stated that he is waiting to receive input from all members of the body as to how they would like to proceed.

Comment: Mayor Ashton requested an update on the Election Code Update dates for the six month planning calendar. She also asked that the REDI meeting in February be added to the “unassigned agenda items” section on the six month planning calendar until it is scheduled. Staff is coordinating the date with REDI. As soon as a February 2026 date is selected, it will be added to the six month planning calendar.

Comment: Councilmember Valeri noted that the Election Code Update should be added to the calendar. She noted that the City needs to keep this moving forward so that any approved changes are made in time for the next election. If there is no specific date, please issue a public update on the status of the changes.

Response: The City Manager thanked Councilmember Valeri for her comments.

Comment: Councilmember Jackson echoed the comment of his colleagues on the Election Code Update. He noted it is important that the Mayor and Council receive an update and have the opportunity to review it. The body needs to know where this is in the process, and it should be sooner rather than later.

Response: The City Manager thanked the elected officials for their comment. He stated that he thought he had sent the Election Code update schedule a few weeks ago. He will take a look and will follow up with the Mayor and Council.