

City of Rockville

City Hall
111 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved: 
Attest: 
Approved Meeting No. 03-26
February 2, 2026



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 PM

Meeting No. 02-26

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 6:39 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, 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 Executive Assistant to the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Judy Penny

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Monique Ashton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Proclamation and Recognition - NONE

4. Agenda Review

Executive Assistant to the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Judy Penny reported no changes to the agenda.

5. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jeff Mihelich reported that the first closing was completed under the City’s First Time Homebuyers Program, and there are five more closings scheduled to be completed soon. The City Manager and staff are working on the recommended FY2027 budget to be considered by the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Monique Ashton encouraged seniors, or anyone who needs a hard copy of the City Budget Survey, to contact City Hall to request a copy.

6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments

A. Board and Commission Appointment and Reappointment

Councilmember Izola Shaw moved the new appointment to the Human Rights Commission of Magda Brown, to serve in an expiring three-year term until November 1, 2028.

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

Councilmember Marissa Valeri moved the reappointment to the Planning Commission of Jaime Espinosa, to serve a new five-year term until February 1, 2031.

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

7. Community Forum

**Community Forum
In-Person/Virtual Speakers and Written Comments List
(January 12, 2026)**

	NAME	TOPIC
1.	In-Person Ibo Alushe	Ranked Choice Voting Day
2.	In-Person Dhruva Diego Kumar	Statements
3.	Written Comments William Nickel	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”
4.	Written Comments Jeff Schloss	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”
5.	Written Comments Jake Rose	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”
6.	Written Comments The Reforest Rockville Team	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”
7.	Written Comments Anne Goodman Community Wildlife Habitat	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”
8.	Written Comments Marsha Douma	Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 “Forest and Tree Preservation”

FURTHER DISCUSSION

January 12, 2026, Agenda item 7.

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8. Special Presentations - NONE

9. Consent Agenda

- A. Award a Contract in the Form of a Purchase Order to 72 Hour LLC, d/b/a National Auto Fleet Group of Watsonville, CA, for the Purchase of One Freightliner M2106 Utility Truck in the Amount of \$308,854.00 Consistent with the Terms and Conditions of the Cooperative Purchase Sourcewell Contract #060920-NAF**
- B. FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), Independent Auditor Reports, and FY 2025 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)**
- C. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Rockville and the Montgomery County Board of Elections for the use of the Drop Box located at City Hall.**

Councilmember Barry Jackson moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, and C.

MOVER:	RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] Barry Jackson, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Izola Shaw, 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

- A. Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10.5 of the Rockville City Code, entitled “Forest and Tree Preservation,” to Bring the Chapter into Conformance with Current State Law and Make Various Modifications to Improve the Administration of the Chapter**

Rockville Development Review Supervisor Shaun Ryan, provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the ordinance to amend Chapter 10.5 of the Rockville City Code, entitled “Forest and Tree Preservation,” to bring the Chapter into conformance with current State Law and make various modifications to improve the administration of the Chapter.

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 10.5 of the City Code.

By way of background, on September 30, 2024, the Mayor and Council discussed proposed amendments to Chapter 10.5 of the City Code, known as the Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance (FTPO), and provided instructions to staff. Following the meeting, staff revised the FTPO to address the Mayor and Council’s recommendations, which included input from the public during the meetings held for introduction and the public hearing.

Following these revisions, staff was required to submit the updated FTPO to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to ensure its compliance with state law. To support state-wide programs in reaching

compliance before submission, MDNR developed a draft model ordinance as well as a revised State Technical Manual, both of which reflected changes in the state’s Forest Conservation Act resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 526 and House Bill 1511. MDNR therefore recommended that state-wide programs not submit their updated ordinance for review until after the draft model ordinance and the revised State Technical Manual were released. MDNR released the updated State Technical Manual in January 2025 and the draft model ordinance in May 2025.

Following the release of the draft model ordinance, city staff reviewed and made necessary edits to the FTPO to ensure compliance. Staff submitted the updated FTPO to MDNR on June 20, 2025. MDNR provided comments to staff on the updated FTPO on September 30, 2025. Staff addressed these comments and returned them to MDNR on October 20, 2025. On October 24, 2025, MDNR deemed the City of Rockville’s updated FTPO compliant with state law. Staff returned to the Mayor and Council this evening for adoption of the amended FTPO.

Staff reviewed the 2025 timeline of public hearings, Mayor and Council comments, submissions, and community outreach. Per direction from MDNR and Mayor and Council, amendments and implementations were made for the following: off-site planting (MDNR); native species requirement; native species definition; encourage biodiversity; adding "Forest Official"; and public notice extension. The cemetery exemption had not been implemented.

Staff anticipated amending the City’s Forest Conservation Manual following the adoption of the FTPO to ensure compliance with the amended ordinance. All content within the Forest Conservation Manual must follow from and act in accordance with the requirements of the FTPO.

Councilmember Van Grack moved to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 10.5 of the Rockville City Code, entitled "Forest & Tree Preservation," to bring the Chapter into conformance with current State Law and make various modifications to improve the administration of the Chapter, with additional recommended amendments to the original ordinance.

	RESULT: APPROVED [6-1]
MOVER:	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Barry Jackson, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Fulton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Van Grack
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Valeri

FURTHER DISCUSSION

January 12, 2026, Agenda item 11A.

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12. Worksession – NONE

13. Mock Agenda

There were no changes to the Mock Agenda.

14. Old / New Business

The Mayor and Council requested a staff report and update on street trees and biodiversity within the City, to determine if an Action Item will be required.

The Mayor and Council are looking forward to receiving information from the City Manager on the status, changes, and opportunities to provide comments on Wootten High School, Twinbrook, and the Operating Budget.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

	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