

City of Rockville
Leadership Planning Team Meeting Notes
November 3, 2025

Meeting Participants:

Mayor Ashton
Councilmember Jackson
Councilmember Shaw
Councilmember Valieri
Councilmember Van Grack
Barack Matite, Deputy City Manager
Sara Taylor Ferrell, City Clerk/Director of Council Operations
Cindy Walters, Deputy City Attorney
Dave Gottesman, Assistant City Manager
Linda Moran, Associate City Manager

Agenda Review

November 3, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda.

Comments: Some elected officials noted that before discussing Chapter 4 Arts and Cultural Affairs Ordinance revisions, they would like input from the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC), which would support a more substantive discussion. They noted that the CAC did not receive a copy of the staff report, and the 2019 Cultural Arts Study is not easily found online.

Response:

- The City Manager expressed his thanks and appreciation for the input provided by the Mayor and Council.
- The City Manager stated that our typical process when ordinance changes have been considered, staff brings the proposal to the elected officials first, so that we know we are moving in the right direction. Next, staff work with the advisory board to dig into the details and receive input. The ordinance is then brought back to the elected officials for consideration and approval including the feedback from the advisory bodies.
- Staff will proceed with the worksession presentation this evening. We are aware that the Mayor and Council may choose not to provide a lot of direction until after it is considered by the CAC.

- Staff will share the staff report this morning with the Cultural Arts Commission and will provide the 2019 Cultural Arts Study to the Mayor and Council. After the LPT meeting, staff shared the staff report link with the CAC and posted the 2019 Cultural Arts Study online.
- During the Leadership Planning Team Meetings, the Mayor and Council can let staff know if they are not ready to deliberate on an item and want proposed ordinance changes to be forwarded to the advisory body first.

November 10, 2025 Meeting Agenda

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

Review and Comment on Six Month Agenda Planning Calendar

November 17, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda.

Comment: Councilmember Shaw asked if data would be included in the Police Worksession and if it has been aggregated.

Comment: Mayor Ashton noted that the Police Annual Report is posted and can be used to form questions.

Response: The City Manager asked the Mayor and Council to share any detailed questions and specifics. Staff will share the information at the Work Session and follow up with any additional data sets as requested.

December 1, 2025 Meeting

Comment: The City Manager reviewed the agenda. He stated that he will share a copy of the recommended Zoning Ordinance Update schedule with the Mayor and Council, and staff will update the six month planning calendar. There were no questions or comments on this meeting agenda.

December 8, 2025 Meeting

Comment: City Manager Jeff Mihelich reviewed the agenda. He noted that the Chapter 18 Landlord/Tenant Code Revisions Work Session would be presented in two work sessions. He asked the Mayor and Council to stay tuned for more updates. There were no questions or comments on the agenda.

December 15, 2025 Meeting

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

General Mayor and Council Agenda Questions/Comments:

Comment: Councilmember Valeri asked that the Short Term Rental Work Session be removed from the listing of Unassigned Agenda Items based on previous feedback provided by the body.

Response: The City Manager stated it was his understanding that the status of the short-term rental item was “not at this time.” In his one-on-one meetings with the Rockville elected officials, he will request their input on whether the item should remain or be removed.

Comment: Mayor Ashton noted that REDI should be returning to the Mayor and Council for an update in February 2026. She requested that staff post the December 1 briefbook early so that the body does not send questions to staff over the Thanksgiving Holiday break. Regarding the Zoning Ordinance Update, several communities have been particularly engaged.

Comment: Councilmember Shaw noted that she agrees with having the December 1 meeting, and it was her understanding that the Short Term rental item was a “not at this time” response from the body. It would be good to confirm. The posted Police report is helpful. It does not have the disaggregated data that aligns with Resolution 10-21.

Response: The City Manager asked Councilmember Shaw to forward to him her specific questions. He noted that he really appreciated the feedback from the Mayor and Council regarding advisory boards. In the future, if the Mayor and Council would like a particular item to be forwarded to the advisory board first, please let him know.