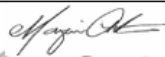



City of Rockville

City Hall
111 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved: 
Attest: 
Approved Meeting No. 23-25
September 29, 2025



Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 14, 2025

5:30 P.M.

Meeting No. 18-25

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	Absent
Adam Van Grack	Councilmember	Present

1. Convene

Mayor and Council convened in a Hybrid Open Meeting at 5:38 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 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 July 17, 2025, as Mattie J. T. Stepanek Peace Day in Rockville, Maryland

Councilmember Kate Fulton moved the proclamation declaring July 17, 2025, as Mattie J. T. Stepanek Peace Day in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Dr. Jeni Stepanek.

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

- B.** Proclamation Declaring July 26, 2025, as the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Councilmember David Myles moved the proclamation declaring July 26, 2025, as the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and presented to Human Rights Commission co-chair Gabrielle Zwi and HRC Commissioner Jake Goodman.

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

C. Proclamation Declaring July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Rockville

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved the proclamation declaring July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Recreation and Parks Foundation President and Recreation and Park Advisory Board Member Chip Boylan.

	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 Van Grack
ABSENT:	Councilmember Valeri

D. Certificate of Recognition for Student Achiever - Col. Zadok Magruder High School

Maria Webb – A Maryland State Individual Swimming Champion, and a 2024-2025 High School All-American Swimmer in the 100 Fly, and clocked the 74th fastest time in the Country.

E. Certificates of Recognition for Student Achievers - Richard Montgomery High School

National Merit Scholars:

Sujit Hegde, Molecular Biology
Yash G. Maniar, Finance
Zidane Sheng, Public Health
Caroline Zhou, Finance

Montgomery County Alliance of Black School Educators Distinguished African American Scholar Award - Audrey Oppong

2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS)

Naima Aubry-Romero
Iden Han

C-SPAN's 2025 StudentCam Competition Award Winners

Isabel Woldeab
Chloe Yang

Isisah Womack - State Championship at the Maryland State Wrestling

Ema Djordjevic - Maryland State Volleyball Player of the Year and
Maryland State Gatorade Player of the Year

2025 Maryland State Tournament 4A Tennis Girls Doubles Championship Winners

Ellen Bu
Jiajing Zheng

F. Certificates of Recognition for Student Achievers - Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School

PVAC Championship - Girls Basketball Team

Becky Silberman - Coach
Dani Bernstein – Coach
Brielle Bassin - Player
Maiya Blumenthal - Player
Jordana Dauber - Player
Gigi Gordon – Player
Shalvah Lazarus - Player
Aliza Lesser - Player
Liana Lesser - Player
Talia Loeffler - Player
Ella Longman - Player
Amalia Netter - Player
Gila Safra - Player
Caroline Salz - Player
Josie Silverberg - Player
Yarden Wilkenfeld - Player
Nolyn Ziman - Player

G. Certificates of Recognition for Student Achievers - Thomas S. Wootton High School

National Association for Music Education 2025 All-Eastern Honors Ensembles

Naysa Mustafa, Soprano, Treble Choir
Katie Hwang, Viola, Orchestra
Liam Silberhorn, Violin, Orchestra
Matthew Shoyket, Trombone, Concert Band

H. Certificates of Recognition for Student Achievers - Julius West Middle School

Shibani Mishra - National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award
Madison Shieh - National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award

C-SPAN's 2025 21st Annual StudentCam Competition Award Winners

Shibani Mishra 3rd-Prize Winner
Jeong Lee - Advisor

- I. Certificate of Recognition to Recognize the Achievements of the University of Maryland CMNS 2025 Student Commencement Speaker

Jade LeSchack – University of Maryland CMNS Student Commencement Speaker

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 6:24 P.M. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 6:39 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 that Rockville is under a flash flood warning, and vulnerable areas and City facilities are being monitored. Residents are encouraged to stay home and stay safe. Director of Recreation and Parks, Tara Stewart, and Deputy Director Chris Henry were recognized for the amazing improvements to the outdoor swimming and fitness center. The City is working on a work session on Election Reform and updating the Zoning Ordinance.

6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments - NONE

7. Community Forum

	NAME	TOPIC
1.	Mark Pierzchala	King Farm Farmstead
2.	Steven VanGrack	Exceptional budget Great safety Great economic development Housing opportunities – good, affordable housing, no rent

	NAME	TOPIC
		control. The future needs to increase the real property tax rate.
3.	Akoele Essenam	
4.	Chandra McLean	Sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mayor Ashton
5.	Kate Gould	King Fram Farmstead
6.	Ilsabe Urbon	King Farm
7.	Ulysses Santamaria	King Farm Farmstead
8.	Kyle Kosinski	Rockville Science Center
9.	Nadege Dogbo	Complaint
10.	Jacob Goodman	HRC -Thank you for the ADA Proclamation Acknowledgment. Accessible Transit
11.	Gabriella Kopowski	King Farm Community Garden

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 7.

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8. Special Presentations

A. Rockville Sister Cities Corporation FY2025 Annual Presentation

David Hill, President of the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation, Inc., provided a summary of the activities of the Sister Cities, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2025.

Staff recommends Mayor and Council of Rockville receive the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation's annual presentation for FY2025.

The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

Summary of FY2025 Sister Cities Corporation, Inc., activities:

The mission of Rockville Sister Cities Corporation (RSCC) is to conduct the Sister Cities program on behalf of the City of Rockville, Maryland. The City's Sister City program started in 1957 as a task force of the municipal government and changed to a volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation as RSCC in 1986. RSCC provides the community with dynamic cultural events and international exchanges to create global municipal relationships and lifelong connections that promote peace and friendships. Pinneberg, Germany, has been a Sister City since 1957, and Yilan City, Taiwan, since 2019.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 8A.

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9. Consent Agenda

- A.** Consider adopting an Ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 15 (Personnel) of the City Code
- B.** Adoption of a Resolution to Authorize the Execution of a Certain Settlement Agreement and Release
- C.** Approval of Minutes

June 2, 2025 (Meeting No. 15-25)

June 9, 2025 (Meeting No. 16-25)

June 16, 2025 (Meeting No. 17-25)

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved to approve consent agenda items B and C.

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

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved to adopt the ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 15 (Personnel) of the City Code, with the amendment to include advising counsel of all substantive changes, including budgetary impacts to the personnel policies and procedures manual.

	RESULT: APPROVED [5-1]
MOVER:	Adam Van Grack, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Barry Jackson, Councilmember
IN FAVOR:	Mayor Ashton, Councilmember Jackson, Councilmember Myles, Councilmember Shaw, Councilmember Van Grack
OPPOSED:	Councilmember Fulton
ABSENT:	Councilmember Valeri

10. Public Hearing

- A. Public Hearing for PJT2025-00022, an amendment to the approved Project Plan for 900 Rockville Pike to extend the Project Plan's implementation period

Principal Planner, Kimia Zolfagharian, provided Mayor and Council with a brief overview of PJT2025-00022, an amendment to the approved Project Plan for 900 Rockville Pike to extend the Project Plan's implementation period.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:35 p.m.

NAME	TOPIC
Jody S. Kline Attorney Miller, Miller, and Canby	Spoke in favor of granting a one-year extension
Joel Danshes Applicant	Requested a one-year extension
Mark Pierzchala	Spoke in favor of granting a one-year extension

The complete testimony of this evening's speakers can be found in the official Public Hearing records in the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations office. There being no further speakers testifying, the Public Hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 10A.

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11. Action Items

- A. Adoption of a resolution for an amendment to the approved Project Plan (PJT2025-00022) for 900 Rockville Pike to extend the Project Plan's Implementation Period

Principal Planner, Kimia Zolfagharian, provided Mayor and Council with a brief overview of PJT2025-00022, an amendment to the approved Project Plan for 900 Rockville Pike to extend the Project Plan's implementation period.

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council adopt the Resolution to approve the extension of the implementation period.

Questions from the Mayor and Council were addressed by staff. The Mayor and Council provided their thoughts and comments.

Councilmember Adam Van Grack moved to approve PJT2025-00022, an amendment to the approved Project Plan for 900 Rockville Pike to extend the Project Plan's implementation period.

	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 Van Grack
ABSENT:	Councilmember Valeri

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 11A.

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THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 7:47 PM. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 8:02 P.M.

12. Worksession

- A. King Farm Farmstead Park Project Update and Program Concepts Review

Director of Parks and Recreation, Tara Stewart, provided Mayor and Council with a brief overview of the King Farm Farmstead Park Project Update, and introduced consultant Mike Stuber, who provided

an overview of the Farmstead Program Concepts.

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council receive the presentation, discuss, and provide feedback, additional considerations, and direction on which program and building use option will move forward to economic analysis.

Based on the direction received from the Mayor and Council during this work session, staff and the consultant will move the selected program and building use option to economic analysis. A follow-up work session will be presented in September 2025 to review the draft Master Plan. Recommendations from Mayor and Council will be incorporated, and a request for Mayor and Council approval of the King Farm Farmstead Park Master Plan is planned for October 2025.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 12A.

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13. Mock Agenda

- A.** Mock Agenda – There were no changes to the Mock Agenda

14. Old / New Business

The Mayor and Council held a lengthy discussion on Rent Stabilization on the following topics: understanding what the public is requesting, determining a Rent Stabilization policy and framework, gathering and reviewing data, reviewing staff research, and understanding rent policies, several affordability policies, and data from other jurisdictions. Mayor and Council discussed their previous worksessions on Rent Stabilization from the June 16, 2025, and July 8, 2024, meetings: market rental data, rent hikes, rent caps, junk fees, and understanding what Montgomery and Prince George's County have implemented were discussed.

The requested topic on Rent Stabilization was discussed among the Mayor and Council to bring back on a future agenda. The Mayor and Council requested that the City Manager schedule a worksession on Rent Stabilization to be added to the July 21 meeting agenda.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

July 14, 2025, Agenda item 14

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15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

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