


# City of Rockville

City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave  
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved: 

Attest:   
Approved Meeting No. 05-26  
February 23, 2026



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

5:30 PM

Meeting No. 04-26

## 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

**Convene in open session to vote on motion to go into closed session pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to consult with the Office of the City Attorney to obtain legal advice regarding a draft zoning text amendment.**

The Mayor and Council convened into an Open Session in the City Hall Council Chambers to entertain a motion to go into closed session pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to consult with the Office of the City Attorney to obtain legal advice regarding a draft zoning text amendment.

Upon motion to convene in Closed Session by Councilmember Marissa Valeri, seconded by Councilmember Barry Jackson, the motion passed unanimously Mayor Monique Ashton, Councilmember Kate Fulton, Councilmember Barry Jackson, and Councilmember Marissa Valeri.

Absent: Councilmember David Myles, Councilmember Izola Shaw, and Councilmember Adam Van Grack.

The Mayor and Council convened in Closed Session at 5:35 p.m., in the Diamondback Terrapin Conference Room, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland.

Present at the closed session were Mayor Monique Ashton, Councilmember Kate Fulton, Councilmember Barry Jackson, Councilmember David Myles (*arrived 6:16 pm*), Councilmember Izola Shaw (*arrived 5:45 pm*), Councilmember Marissa Valeri, and Councilmember Adam Van Grack (*arrived 6:14 pm*).

Staff present: City Manager Jeff Mihelich, City Attorney Robert Dawson, Senior Assistant City Attorney Nicholas Dumais, and Acting City Clerk Doris Stokes

Topic: Consult with the Office of the City Attorney to obtain legal advice regarding a draft zoning text amendment.

No deliberation or actions were taken at this session. The Mayor and Council directed the Offices of the City Attorney and City Manager to continue working together on this matter regarding a draft zoning text amendment.

There being no further discussion, the Closed Session adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Motion: Moved by Councilmember Marissa Valeri, seconded by Councilmember Barry Jackson, and unanimously approved.

**1. Reconvene**

Mayor and Council reconvened in a Hybrid Open Meeting at 6:43 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 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

**COUNCILMEMBER IZOLA SHAW JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:54 PM**

**COUNCILMEMBER DAVID MYLES JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:04 PM**

**COUNCILMEMBER ADAM VAN GRACK JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:16 PM**

**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 provided a statement on the recent shooting at Wootton High School and thanked the Rockville City Police and local law enforcement agencies for their assistance during this incident.

**6. Boards and Commissions Appointments and Reappointments – NONE**

**7. Community Forum**

NAME	TOPIC
<b>In-Person and Written comments</b> Marji Graf	Sign Ordinance Language
<b>In-Person</b> James Dhruva Kumar	Statement
<b>In-Person</b> Ulysses Santa Maria	Rockville Science Center Funding

**8. Special Presentations – NONE**

**9. Consent Agenda**

- A.** Award a Contract in the Form of a Purchase Order to Mid Atlantic Truck and Equipment, of Clinton, MD, for the Purchase of One Leaf Collection Truck in the Amount of \$293,676.00, Consistent with the Terms and Conditions of the Cooperative Purchase Virginia Sheriff’s Association Contract #26-07-0711

Councilmember Marissa Valeri moved to approve consent agenda item A. (referred to on the recording as 9.1)

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

**10. Public Hearing – NONE**

**11. Action Items – NONE**

**12. Worksession**

- A.** Mid-Year Report Presentation and Update on Impact of Government Restructuring and Effects on Rockville - Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

Cindy Rivarde, Chief Executive Officer of the Rockville Economic Development, Inc., provided the Mayor and Council with a mid-year report and an update on the impact of Government restructuring and its effects on Rockville and the Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council receive the Mid-Year Report Presentation as well as the Report on the Impact of Government Restructuring & Effects on Rockville 2025-Year-End Round Overview from Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI)

REDI Chief Executive Officer Cindy Rivarde and her staff addressed questions and comments from the Mayor and Council.

REDI received funding from the city pursuant to a Funding Agreement dated July 1, 2024 with a termination date of June 30, 2027. The Agreement requires both parties to fulfill certain obligations. One of those requirements is for REDI to present a mid-year report in February.

**IMPACT OF FEDERAL RESTRUCTURING**

## WORKFORCE IMPACT

- The Washington D.C. region lost 52,400 jobs since Nov. 2024
- Maryland lost approximately 25,000 federal jobs - leading the region and nation
- 9,900 jobs lost in Frederick-Gaithersburg-Bethesda area between Jan. and Nov. 2025
- Rockville unemployment rose to 4.2% (Sept. 2025) from 2.7% (Sept. 2024)
- Deferred resignations began at the end of September 2025, resulting in 10,000+ workers lost nationwide through October and November 2025

## POLICY & SERVICES IMPACT

- Deregulation of energy, increasing tariffs, and changes to federal agencies potentially impacting climate, health, and worker protections
- Disruptions to SNAP, Head Start, and OSHA inspections
- Nonprofit grant cancellations lead to program suspensions and layoffs
- Research data from some agencies suspended, including economic indicators like the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and BLS employment data
- Introduction of Maryland's 3% sales tax on data and IT services

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CRISIS LEADERSHIP: FEDERAL RESTRUCTURING RESPONSE

**Small Business Excellence: MARYLAND WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER (MWBC)** - served 446 unique clients, and supported 548 jobs and \$118,750 of capital infusion overall, including 59 entrepreneurs, and 64 jobs in Rockville.

MWBC hosted 55 aspiring business owners (45 from Montgomery County) at Reboot, a launchpad workshop for displaced federal workers and contractors.

**MWBC Reboot** - Workshop for displaced federal workers and contractors

**Founders Rising** - Cohort-based capacity building program for displaced federal workers & contractors

**Mobilize Montgomery** - Partnership created for regional displaced federal workers and contractors

**WorkSource Montgomery** - Mobilize Montgomery partnership resulted in the nation's first Federal Workforce Career Center

**Biotech Corridor Momentum** - Rockville is the epicenter of the nation's #3 biotech cluster. The Biotech Corridor brand is putting us on the global map, bringing companies, talent and investment.

**BUSINESS ATTRACTION, EXPANSION, and RETENTION** - REDI maintained business development momentum, conducting 70 business visits, attracting 32 new businesses, and supporting business expansions and retention in the first two quarters of FY26 despite the effect of federal restructuring on Rockville's workforce and economy.

**Mid-Year FY26 Incentive Grantees** – There were seven businesses awarded grants totaling \$139K

**Forward Looking: 2026 Strategic Priorities** - REDI is building Rockville's stability through expanded workforce transition programs, new revenue streams, and deeper biotech ecosystem investments.

The Mayor and Council requested that REDI provide information on the current trends in economic development and manufacturing space in Rockville, as well as the number of jobs that have been secured for displaced federal workers by the recently established Federal Workforce Career Center.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

February 9, 2026, Agenda item 12A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting February 9, 2026 \(No. 04-26\)](#)

Timestamp 17:50

**13. 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 7:53 p.m.

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