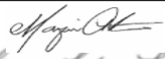
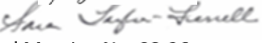


# City of Rockville

City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave  
Rockville, MD 20850

Approved:   
Attest:   
Approved Meeting No. 08-26  
March 23, 2026



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2026

5:30 PM

Meeting No. 06-26

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 5:39 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 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**

**A. Proclamation Declaring March 8-14, 2026, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week**

Councilmember Marissa Valeri moved the Proclamation Declaring March 8-14, 2026, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Dr. Sadhana Jackson-Vivens, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Surgical Neurology Branch.

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

**B. Proclamation Declaring March 10, 2026, as Harriet Tubman Day in Rockville, Maryland**

Councilmember Izola Shaw moved the Proclamation Declaring March 10, 2026, as Harriet Tubman Day in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Anita Powell, Chair, Rockville Historic District Commission, Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, and The Leroy E. Neal African American Research Center.

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

**C. Proclamation Declaring March 29, 2026, as National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Rockville, Maryland**

Councilmember David Myles moved the Proclamation Declaring March 10, 29, 2026, as National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Levelle Ferrell, Chief Warrant Officer, US Army (Vietnam Veteran), and James Crampton, US Army (Vietnam Veteran, American Legion Post 86.

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

**D. Proclamation Declaring March 2026 as Women’s History Month**

Councilmember Barry Jackson moved the Proclamation Declaring March 2026 as Women’s History Month in Rockville, Maryland, and presented to Sheena Foster, Chair of the Montgomery County Commission for Women, and President and CEO of the Montgomery County-based Crittenton Services of Greater Washington.

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

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda item 7.

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

Timestamp 00:50

**THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WENT INTO A BRIEF RECESS AT 5:56 PM. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECONVENED AT 6:33 PM.**

**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 Michelich introduced the new Director of Community Planning and Development Services, Evan Johnson. The City of Rockville received funds from the Minibus Spending Bill for three infrastructure projects: 1) Lead Service Investigations, 2) Sanitary Sewer Lateral Replacements, and 3) Additional wastewater collection system rehabilitation, for a total of \$2.6 Million. There is an opportunity for federal earmarks: 1) Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation funding to replace 1.4 miles of critical wastewater piping for \$443,000, and 2) Stonestreet Corridor Improvements \$3.5 Million.

Mayor Monique Ashton acknowledged Ramadan and asked for peace throughout the world.

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

**7. Community Forum**

NAME	TOPIC
<b>In-Person</b> David Hill, President, Rockville Sister City Corp.	DAGRP declaration to Mayor and Council
<b>In-Person</b> DJ Kumar	Statements

Note: David Hill, President of the Rockville Sister Cities Corporation, read a statement from The DAGRP (Sister City Corp. in Pinneberg, Germany), a declaration of amity and hope for unchanged Sister City relations, through the disruptive international relations between our country governments.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda item 7.

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

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**8. Special Presentations**

**A. Bi-Annual Vision Zero Update**

Principal Transportation Planner Bryan Barnett-Woods provided the Mayor and Council with an overview, presentation, and update on the implementation of the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, and Bikeway Master Plan.

This Vision Zero biannual report provides an update on progress made on Vision Zero action items between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. This report also includes a progress update for implementing the city's Bikeway Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. City staff continues to advance on-going action items, such as evaluating, designing, and constructing sidewalks, assessing and improving intersections, enhancing the City's bicycle network, traffic calming measures, and

participating in public events, community engagement, and roadway and pedestrian access improvements. Additionally, city staff continues to engage with the community, participate in public events, identify new projects, and coordinate with other agencies.

The Vision Zero Action Plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council in July 2020. It includes 30 action items organized into four categories – Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Policy – to eliminate all serious injury and fatal crashes by 2030. Updates for all action items are included in the Vision Zero Action Item Progress Report.

The City's High Injury Network (HIN) includes five roadways in the city, all of which are owned by the state. A HIN segment is a roadway segment that has experienced four or more serious injuries or fatal crashes within five years. This HIN uses crash data from January 21, 2020, to December 31, 2024.

The Vision Zero crash analysis evaluates locations in Rockville where crashes have occurred, which influences the selection of intersections and roadway segments for Vision Zero projects. The City's Sidewalk Prioritization Policy identifies roadways with missing sidewalk segments and the priority with which they should be evaluated and constructed.

City staff attended community group meetings to discuss the Vision Zero program when requested. City staff also provided updates related to the Vision Zero program to the Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission (TMC), the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC), and the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC) during their regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

City staff applied for grants at the regional, state, and federal levels to supplement the existing city budget for Vision Zero activities. The total awarded for ongoing Grant-Funded projects was \$2,383,200. Staff also collaborated with the Maryland Transit Administration to apply for an FY24-FY25 Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail.

City staff continued to implement the recommended facilities from the Bikeway Master Plan and seek grants or other external funding opportunities to help advance bicycle projects, including Fleet Street and Monroe Street Complete Street and Bicycle Fix It Racks projects. The City was awarded \$371,200 from the Maryland Department of Transportation Carbon Reduction Program to procure, install, and maintain four new bikeshare stations in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

Three intersections were reviewed in response to residents submitted concerns, and after evaluation, traffic calming improvements were implemented: Twinbrook Parkway and Meadow Hall Drive, Wootton Parkway and Long Hill Drive, and Wootton Parkway and Glen Mill Road. Two intersections (Ardennes Avenue and Wainwright Avenue, and Lemay Road and Ridgway Avenue) were audited as part of the Twinbrook Safe Routes to School and Transit Access study, and constructed improvements were completed in December 2025. Multiple improvements were initiated at 7 signalized intersections, and sidewalk improvements were made to 5 sidewalk sections. Nearly 2,900 linear feet of new sidewalk were installed, 322 driveway aprons, and 99 curb cuts were rebuilt during this period.

The Department of Public Works staff will continue to implement the listed action items from the Vision Zero Action Plan, Bikeway Master Plan, and Pedestrian Master Plan. Staff will provide the next

update on all three plans in September 2026.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda item 8A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

Timestamp 33:46

**9. Consent Agenda**

- A.** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Espina Paving, Inc., M.T. Laney Co., Inc., and Manuel Luis Construction Co., Inc. for Asphalt Maintenance Responsive to IFB #08-26, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$6,000,000
- B.** Authorize the City Manager to Execute Amendment 1 to the Grant Agreement Between the City and the Maryland Energy Administration for the Streetlight and Outdoor Lighting Efficiency FY2024 Grant Program
- C.** Authorize the City Manager to Execute Two Easements for Public Improvements and Water Meter on Parcel A-1 and Lot 2, MetroPlace at Twinbrook

Councilmember David Myles moved to approve consent agenda items A, B, and C.

<b>MOVER:</b>	<b>RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b> David Myles, 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

**10. Public Hearing - NONE**

**11. Action Items**

- A.** Introduction of an Ordinance Declaring 5,867 sq. ft. of Property Located at 301 Frederick Avenue to be No Longer Necessary for Public Use and Authorizing the Conveyance of Said Property to the 715 Douglass Avenue Property Owner for Nominal Consideration.

Public Works Transportation Engineering Supervisor Andrew Luetkemeier provided an overview of the ordinance declaring 5,867 sq. ft. of property located at 301 Frederick Avenue to be no longer necessary for public use.

On September 14, 1964, the owners of 715 Douglass Avenue, who are relatives of the current owner of the property, conveyed to the Mayor and Council of Rockville in fee simple for a nominal amount, the land described as Lot 1, in block numbered (2) in the subdivision known as "First Addition to Lincoln

Park.” This 7,340 sq. ft. parcel of land, located at the corner of Douglass Avenue and Frederick Avenue and having the address 301 Frederick Avenue, is partially improved, containing a sidewalk along Frederick Avenue and a Montgomery County RideOn bus stop. The current property owner of 715 Douglass Avenue has requested the City’s consideration to convey the unused portion of the property back to her.

A Street Closing and Abandonment application was initially submitted by the property owner. However, after further review, staff determined that the request should instead be processed as a land conveyance rather than an abandonment. The portion of the property at issue is not currently designed right of way, and the City originally acquired the property in fee simple; therefore, it is more appropriate to convey the property back in the same manner. As a result, the application fee for the abandonment request has been returned to the property owner.

Following the introduction of the ordinance, staff will provide formal notice of the conveyance with at least 20-day notice. After the required notice period, staff will come back to Mayor and Council for adoption of the ordinance.

Councilmember David Myles introduced an ordinance declaring 5,867 sq. ft. of property located at 301 Frederick Avenue to be no longer necessary for public use and authorizing the conveyance of said property to the 715 Douglass Avenue property owner for nominal consideration.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda item 11A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

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### **12. Worksession**

#### **A. JEDI Strategic Plan Process and Approach**

Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Jeanne Booth provided the Mayor and Council with an overview of the JEDI strategic plan, process, and approach. Director Booth introduced the consultant, Dr. Patricia Morgan, CEO of The Executive Learning Lab (TELL), who provided a presentation.

The Mayor and Council acknowledged that inequities—particularly racial inequities—can become embedded within government policies, practices, and systems, creating disproportionate barriers for many residents. These impacts often fall most heavily on communities that have historically been disengaged or excluded from municipal decision-making processes. In response, the Mayor and Council affirmed that equity must be pursued proactively and intentionally in all City decision-making to improve outcomes for every community.

In July 2025, a solicitation to engage one or more qualified firms to conduct a comprehensive assessment and analysis of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; emerging and existing needs; and

develop a comprehensive strategic plan to guide policy and procedures, as well as metrics for accountability of progress towards goals was issued. Following the solicitation process, the Executive Learning Lab (TELL) was retained, and a contract was executed. A kickoff meeting was held in January 2026.

The Executive Learning Lab JEDI strategic planning methodology is grounded in comprehensive assessment, collaborative engagement, data-driven decision-making, and structured facilitation. This approach ensures that the City identifies clear, actionable, and measurable JEDI strategic priorities. The strategic plan process and approach will include the following:

- Comprehensive Assessment - Policy Review, Data Analysis, Stakeholder Interviews, Best Practices Research
- Collaborative Engagement - Focus Groups, Community Forums, Employee Surveys, Advisory Committees
- Data Driven Analysis - Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Analysis, Benchmarking, Reporting Framework
- Structured Process Management - Planning Workshops, Goal Setting, Action Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

This strategic planning effort is designed to deliver a comprehensive assessment of the City's current state and to establish clear guidance for future decision-making. The project uses a 360-degree assessment approach, incorporating both workforce experiences and community experiences with City services and responsiveness.

The Mayor and Council directed that feedback and data be gathered internally and externally, using multiple methods and an interactive, inclusive approach, and being open to all things. This includes intentional outreach to reflect the diversity of Rockville's communities, languages, and cultural backgrounds.

## **FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda item 12A.

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

Timestamp 1:05:24

### **13. Mock Agenda**

There were no changes to the Mock Agenda

### **14. Old / New Business**

The Mayor and Council requested a more robust update on the timeline for the Twinbrook Pedestrian Bridge project under Vision Zero.

The Mayor and Council requested the status of the RedGate Design and its eligibility as a project. Staff responded that there are two phases (Phase 1 and Phase 2), and each has a grant request of \$1.5

Million. The King Farm Farmstead and RedGate Projects are excellent projects for grant proposals; however, the designs need to be further along and completed before applying for the grants.

City Staff are focused on bridge updates, including the Hurley Bridge, and will provide the Mayor and Council with updates on those in the near future.

Councilmember Barry Jackson moved to approve the two proposals in support of federal earmark projects for the Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation and Stonestreet Corridor Improvement before March 6, 2026.

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

The Mayor and Council agreed to share the letter from the Human Rights Commission regarding mental health aspects and support for students at Wooten with MCPS, and discussed creating a dialogue space among the Education Commission, the Human Rights Commission, and the Youth Commission.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

March 2, 2026, Agenda Item 14

[Mayor and Council Meeting March 2, 2026 No. 06-26](#)

Timestamp 1:05:24

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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