

Additional Budget Comment

Tom Coleman <tcoleman@appbarry.com>

Sun 4/14/2024 8:39 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

Cc:'[REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]>;Tom Coleman <tcoleman@appbarry.com>

Dear M&C:

Most distressing is that this proposed budget is not balanced at all but requires “modest drawdown of reserves”. The terminology in the breakouts is not explicit, but the “modest drawdown” looks to be the \$823,620 transfer out. That’s not modest. During Covid we came perilously close to exhausting our reserves. We are one hazardous materials train wreck or one battery plant fire from a similar position. Additionally, anyone who has seen the tone of the personnel departures since January can predict a high probability of significant legal fees, judgements or settlements-all to come from reserves. It is imprudent to draw down reserves.

Budget prioritization is perhaps the most important function of the Mayor and Council. The budget meeting format is that of a Workshop, which doesn’t allow for public comment during deliberation. We are crippled this year in that many experienced Department Heads are gone and their input on priorities is unavailable. Other voices may help M&C in their deliberations.

RESPONSE REQUEST: Please set one of the budget meeting to hear public comments. You may want to allot a good bit of time for this.

As a concluding comment, in addition to putting core city functions and employees ahead of parties and funding unnecessary pet endeavors we should work on increasing the tax base by actually selling BIDA property instead of City recreation infrastructure like Bill Evans Field or dismantling climbing walls.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eileen Murphy
Ward One

April 15, 2024- Rock Climbing Wall

Anton M. Taylor <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 4:30 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

Request to Save the Rock Climbing Wall in Our Community

Dear Mayor & Council,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential removal of the rock climbing wall that was installed in our community(Ward 3) in 2021. As a resident who has seen firsthand the positive impact this facility has had on our neighborhood, I urge you to take action to preserve it.

The rock climbing wall has served as a gathering place, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among residents. It has encouraged social interaction and outdoor play(which is already limited) and contributed to the overall well-being and appeal of our neighborhood and city.

Removing the rock climbing wall would not only deprive our community of a valuable diverse recreational asset but also undermine the investments made to enhance our public spaces. Instead, I urge you to explore alternative solutions to address any concerns while preserving this beloved amenity.

I believe that we can find a way to ensure the continued existence of the rock climbing wall for the benefit of current and future generations. Thank you for considering this urgent matter, and I look forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,

Anton Taylor
Ward 3

Council meeting Public comments

Nick <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 2:43 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

Afternoon,

I would like my comments below to contribute to the citizens remarks section of tonight's meeting.

Dear esteemed members of the City Council,

I email you to reconsider the preservation of the rock climbing wall at the Tracey Wyatt Recreation Center. As someone who had the privilege of serving as a climbing coach in 2014-2016, I witnessed firsthand the profound impact that rock climbing has on children's lives. I also had the privilege of watching Kai Lightner win the 2014 SCS youth national championship @ stone summit.

Rock climbing is not just a sport; it's a gateway to personal growth and development. As a coach I witnessed firsthand the development of problem-solving skills, teamwork, and perseverance in these young climbers.

However, it's crucial to recognize that rock climbing often has a high barrier for entry. Access to climbing facilities can be limited, and the associated costs can be prohibitive for many. The climbing wall at the Tracey Wyatt Rec Center serves as a vital resource for breaking down these barriers. It provides a safe and affordable space for families to introduce their children to the sport, fostering a love for climbing and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

By preserving the climbing wall at the Tracey Wyatt Rec Center, we are not only investing in the physical well-being of our community but also in its social fabric. This facility brings families together, fosters friendships, and strengthens the bonds within our community.

I implore the City Council to consider the long-term benefits of preserving this invaluable resource. Let us ensure that every child in our community has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of rock climbing, regardless of their background or financial means.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Nick Miller
Walker Ave

WHO IS THE MOLE?'

Demetris Taylor <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 1:58 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegetparkga.com>

Greetings Mayor and Council,

I am Demetris Taylor, 16-year resident of College Park in the Embarcadero Club Apartments of Ward 2. And you already know, I am not the Voice of the people I AM THE PEOPLE

I want to go on record and blatantly ask, Who is/Who are the mole or moles? It is very disheartening that trust is the virtue that's on trial when it comes to the business of College Park. Every few days it seems that social media pages are being filled with information that "the public wasn't supposed to know" yet items are being leaked, told, shared and most times salaciously as the info never have context, only hot button items that will cause an adverse reaction.

If it's the elected officials, why is information being "leaked" when all you have to do is TALK, SPEAK, PUT OUT A LETTER, or A VIDEO and be forthcoming with ALL the information the citizenry needs to know assess that you are on the job for the constituency.

City Manager, City Clerk... why aren't there any updates to the Public Comments on the website? This is supposed to be the forum where questions raised during Public Comments can get answered by the elected body and the last time we've had answers was dated February 5, 2024

City Attorney, I've noticed that for a few sessions when it comes to your report, you don't have one to offer. With the climate being what it is in this city, and you are the authority on the law and how Council governs within it, I encourage you to speak to us as well. Your report could help boost the confidence of the Council if you tell the people how they are maintaining the law and being ethical.

What has been SIGNED into action within College Park? We know what has been voted on, but what has been actually signed? Where is the Omnibus Bill that created this entire controversy? Since all 11 points were not read, it was offered that it would be made available for the citizenry to read, we have not yet seen this document that has turned the city upside down.

And let me add this, thank you 2024 Elected body, if one thing we can say is a positive that this administration has done is you have gotten the citizenry more involved in the local political process. Thank Goodness we are NON PARTISAN!!!

Now, onto the City. I want to recommend that the stop light at Main Street and John Wesley be moved to Columbia. Now that John Wesley has been turned into a one-way street, the stop light would be most effective at Columbia as vehicles have a hard time seeing over parked vehicles. Just make sure that it is timed to be in sync with the other lights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

"I am an echo of the eternal cry..."Let there Be!"

Demetris D.Tanoylor

www.dishingtea.com

#MayorMeach

Public Comment for April 15th Mayor and Council Meeting

Elizabeth Lester <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 1:55 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

I am extremely disappointed in the behavior of our city council since the beginning of the year and am very concerned about the continued efforts to completely overhaul the way this city operates without regard for the community's feedback. As I previously communicated with the city council by email last month, which I note received no response from the council or even my councilwoman, our council seems to be operating under the theory of making "change for changes sake". The council needs to instead actually think critically about what changes are needed to begin with, solicit and actually consider feedback from the community on the council's proposed solutions before actually making any decisions, and only then actually implement the changes.

This needs to apply to all decisions that impact our community, particularly those that seem to reverse course from decisions made by prior city councils, such as the flip-flopping on the Flint River project to the illegal rezoning of land for the battery energy storage system facility to the apparently unilateral decision by one councilwoman demanding removal of a popular rock wall that was installed and is maintained at virtually no cost to the city rather than bringing the matter forward for discussion. Why are you making these decisions so haphazardly and without speaking to the people that are actually informed and engaged?

Moreover, I would like to remind the council that they serve at the pleasure of their constituents. In a power-struggle between the council and the community, the community will ultimately prevail - either through soliciting intervention from the courts or state attorney general or through a recall election to remove the offending councilmembers from office for conducting themselves in a manner which relates to and adversely affect the administration of their office and adversely affects the interests of the public.

At the same time, it is not too late for this council to change course. We ask ... in fact demand ... that it does exactly that.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Lester

Ward 1 Homeowner and Resident

Rock Wall

Erin Miller <erinm@marenconstruction.com>

Mon 4/15/2024 1:36 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you today to advocate for the preservation of the rock-climbing wall located at the Tracey Wyatt Recreational Center. This climbing wall serves as a vital resource for the children in our community, offering them a unique and valuable recreational opportunity that promotes physical fitness, mental wellness, and social interaction.

Rock climbing is not only a thrilling sport but also an excellent way for children to develop essential skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and perseverance. It fosters confidence, encourages goal setting, and promotes a healthy lifestyle. By preserving this climbing wall, we are investing in the growth and development of our community's youth.

Furthermore, it's important to note that there are no other climbing walls near our community center. For many families, the climbing wall at our center is the only accessible option for their children to engage in this activity. Removing or neglecting this resource would deprive our community's children of a safe and enriching recreational outlet.

I urge the City Council to consider the long-term benefits of preserving the climbing wall at the Tracy Wyatt Rec Center. Not only does it enhance the overall appeal of the center, but it also contributes to the physical and mental well-being of our youth, ultimately enriching the fabric of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will make the decision that best serves the interests of our community and its future generations.

Thank you,

Erin Miller

Preconstruction Manager

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Proposed Budget

Tom Coleman <tcoleman@appbarry.com>

Sun 4/14/2024 8:40 PM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegetparkga.com>

Cc:Tom Coleman <tcoleman@appbarry.com>; Eileen [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Mayor and Council:

Thank you for delaying the start of budget hearings to disseminate information to yourselves and the public.

I see that despite an approximately three and a quarter percent projected increase in top line ad valorem revenue our departments have been directed to reduce expenses by six percent. Does this cut into core services? As we are missing numerous experienced department heads, I am concerned the wrong items may have been cut.

RESPONSE REQUEST: Detail by department what functions and services have been curtailed to yield the six percent reduction. Dollar amounts please..

There are no employee raises included, nor are the almost certain increases in Healthcare or retirement benefits included. Healthcare costs would have been known the end of last year had two Councilmen not boycotted the meetings where this was to be settled. Key employees have been terminated or left on their own. How can we maintain what employees remain or attract new hires when candidates see that despite the high rate of inflation, our City does not give cost of living increases?

The Interim City Manager in his cover letter states that the above cuts were (quote) to "accommodate other priorities set forth by City Council". In last week's truncated budget meeting Councilmember McKenzie went on at great length about the need for transparency. Here's our chance for not just words, but action on transparency.

RESPONSE REQUEST: Please have the Interim City Manager post on the website all those 'other priorities', what they cost and which councilmember requested them.

Let me help him get started:

Ward One. \$50,000 to Ignite Resource Center for salaries. This is in addition to the \$10,000/month contract given to the Ignite Executive Director. Ignite is the charity founded by and closely associated with Councilmember McKenzie.

Ward Two. \$50,000 to KidsFest. KidsFest is the party championed by Councilmember Carn. It is widely believed that, like our Recreational programs, the majority of the attendees are from outside College Park.

Ward Three: Can't find it yet.

Ward Four: \$50,000 for the Ward Four Festival, another party. This is sponsored by Councilmember Gay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Coleman
Ward One

Comment for meeting 4/15/24

Araminta Montague <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 10:18 AM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

My name is Violet Montague and I am 10 years old. I live at 1978 Mercer Ave in College Park. Last night I was woken up by gunshots that were very close to my house. I am used to hearing gunshots, but it doesn't mean I like it. I am tired of hearing them. I want to move, but we can't. I don't think it's fair that we have to live where we hear guns all the time. College Park isn't safe, and no one is doing anything about it. I don't even go to the park anymore because we hear them so much. We drive to other places where I feel safe.

Please get more police and people to keep us safe. I feel scared and I don't think that is right.

Thank you,

Violet

Update on Camp Creek pedestrian bridge etc

Kenneth <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/15/2024 9:00 AM

To:Public Comment <pcomment@collegeparkga.com>

Hello council,

I am not able to attend in person but will be attending virtually.

What is the status of the pedestrian bridge on Camp Creek and the street that connects Camp Creek to Fairway?

Kenneth McGhee