

1 CITY OF COLLEGE PARK  
2 MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
3 WORKSHOP SESSION  
4 JULY 17, 2023

5  
6 MINUTES  
7

8  
9 Present: Mayor Bianca Motley Broom; Councilmen Ambrose Clay, Joe Carn, Ken Allen  
10 and Roderick Gay; City Manager Stanley Hawthorne; City Attorney Winston  
11 Denmark; City Clerk Shavala Ames

12 Absent: None

13 Mayor Motley Broom called the workshop session to order at 5:02 p.m.

14 **ACTION:** Councilman Clay moved to take up executive session to discuss litigation at 5:02  
15 p.m., seconded by Councilman Carn and motion carried.  
16

17 The workshop session reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

18 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Welcome back. It is 6 o'clock p.m. We're ready to begin our  
19 workshop session. We have a quorum present with Council Members Clay, Carn, and Allen.  
20

21 **1. American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Georgia State Office Age-**  
22 **Friendly Designation Ceremony Presentation**  
23

24 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: And so, the first item on the agenda is an AARP State Office age  
25 friendly designation ceremony presentation. Good evening, Ms. Sibetta, how are you?  
26

27 MS. SIBETTA: Good to see you, Mayor. Thank you so much for having us back. This is deja vu  
28 like last year, except for we're missing one person. Good evening, I'm Kay Sibetta with AARP  
29 Georgia. It is a privilege and an honor to be with you again, Mayor Bianca Motley Broom, and  
30 members of the City Council; Councilman Ambrose Clay, Councilman Joe Carn, Councilman  
31 Ken Allen, we had a nice chat earlier. And I do remember Councilman Roderick Gay.  
32

33 It's hard to believe, as I said, it's been a year standing right here making the pledge that you did --  
34 can you hear me? It's hard to believe that a year ago I was standing right here making the pledge  
35 for you to approve the city of College Park, remember, to join us and to be a member of our  
36 AARP age friendly network, and to be a designated age friendly community? We have done that.  
37 I am so excited, and brought with me some our friends and leaders from AARP to celebrate with  
38 you. I have been working with Deborah Calloway, the Mayor and City Council executive  
39 assistant, our designated age friendly liaison on all things age friendly. And, for example, we  
40 talked about this briefly, we are excited to be invited back this year, September 14th, for the third  
41 Senior Summit.  
42

43 And I think Officer Dixon just asked me to do some more stuff, which is the National Night Out,

44 right? So we may be there. And, lastly, as part of my congratulatory remark, I would like to  
45 introduce our leader Deborah Tyler Horton who is our state director. So she will do the honor  
46 presenting you, Mayor and City Council, with our framed certificate of enrollment. And I'd also  
47 like to acknowledge and recognize Hillary Johnson, our outreach and volunteer engagement  
48 manager at AARP. Thank you.

49  
50 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you.

51  
52 MS. HORTON: Thank you, Kay. Good evening. I want to thank you for inviting AARP Georgia  
53 to celebrate with the city of College Park on this significant milestone for becoming our 117th  
54 age friendly community. I think you deserve to give yourselves a hand on that. You are also  
55 782nd member of our nationwide AARP network of age friendly state and communities and the  
56 World Health Organization global network of age friendly cities and communities.

57  
58 I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank you, Mayor Bianca Motley Broom -- I'm  
59 like, Deborah Tyler Horton, get the whole name in there -- and the City Council leadership. Kay  
60 Sibetta who you all know and met is our associate state director for community outreach at  
61 AARP Georgia tells me this new age friendly designation would not have happened without your  
62 time, your leadership, and commitment to partnering with us at AARP Georgia. And just a little  
63 sidebar on this. We met in Washington, D.C. last year and she told me, I am going to become an  
64 age friendly city. And, congratulations, it has been done. I would also like to thank Deborah  
65 Calloway, the Mayor and City Council executive assistant for her hard work and efforts.

66 We appreciate Ms. Calloway's appointment to become our designated age-friendly liaison for the  
67 city of College Park. We look forward to working with you as well, Deborah. Our AARP  
68 network of age-friendly states and communities provides a structured process that guides change  
69 and serves as a catalyst to educate, promote, and recognize improvements that benefits all ages  
70 and life stages.

71  
72 Your city's enrollment into our age-friendly network will provide College Park with a wealth of  
73 AARP resources and technical support by tapping into our national and global research policies,  
74 planning models, and best practices, and that's just to name a few. So, at this time, I would like  
75 for Kay Sibetta and Hillary Johnson, Mayor, if you would join me, along with City Council  
76 members here, we will present you with your plaque. After I read it, I would love for us to take a  
77 group photo if that's okay? I'll read from here and then I'll join you for a photo.

78  
79 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Sounds like a plan.

80  
81 MS. HORTON: This is to certify that the city of College Park, Georgia has committed to  
82 becoming more age-friendly under the criteria established by AARP, and has been accepted as a  
83 member of the AARP network of age-friendly states and communities. This certification is valid  
84 until June 14, 2025. And it is signed by Nancy A. Lamon, chief advocacy and engagement  
85 officer, community, state and national affairs, AARP Washington, D.C.

86  
87 COUNCILMAN CARN: I didn't think it was a presentation on this. It just look like the plaque.  
88 But you all are the Georgia branch of the AARP, I'm assuming?

89

90 MS. HORTON: We cover the state of Georgia.

91  
92 COUNCILMAN CARN: Well, residents that I have, you know, a lot of them they get the AARP  
93 offers when they, what, 50, 51, whatever it is. We've got a very transient population in our  
94 community. We have a lot of multi-family, so I just wanted to get a direct contact where we can  
95 keep you guys getting memberships as we go along. And the last thing I'll say, in terms of the  
96 State, there's one reason why College Park, I think, stands out as a hospitality city, the visit, in  
97 particular, for seniors, and the reason being is you all are probably aware, we have the second  
98 largest convention center in the State with zero entry way. So you already knew.  
99 So, hey, if you can use that to promote us, hey, go right ahead. We appreciate it.

100  
101 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Any other comments, Councilman Clay? Councilman Allen?

102  
103 COUNCILMAN CLAY: I'm just happy that they're here and that we've achieved that.

104  
105 MS. HORTON: I just want to respond by saying, I know the Mayor knows how to reach us. And  
106 we have a state office that's located on 10th and Peachtree Street. We're on the 11th floor. A lot  
107 of people do not realize we actually have a state office here in Georgia, and we do cover the state  
108 of Georgia. We have 11 staff and over 400 volunteers that work with us. So we look forward to  
109 the continued work. And thank you again for having us here this evening.

110  
111 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you so much. I think Councilman Gay -- do you have a  
112 question?

113  
114 COUNCILMAN GAY: No, I didn't have a question.

115  
116 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you so much for being here. We appreciate it. The second  
117 item on the workshop agenda is a discussion regarding Trees Atlanta and the trees in front of  
118 City Hall. Good evening, Ms. Hall-Garrison, how are you?

119  
120 **2. Discussion on Trees Atlanta – City Hall Planting**

121  
122 MS. HALL-GARRISON: Good evening, Mayor and Council. Hello, so I am coming before you  
123 this evening to request consideration to allow Community Development, Economic  
124 Development to hold a community planning discussion regarding planting trees around the  
125 City Hall area. So in April of 2023, the historic oak trees in front of College Park were removed  
126 due to death and fungus. There was an outpour from the community regarding interest around the  
127 trees. And at that point, I began working under City Manager Hawthorne to assist collaborating  
128 with Trees Atlanta for the replacement.

129  
130 So Trees Atlanta does offer -- is offering a one for one match for dollars and/or trees purchased  
131 through their neighborhood works program. They would also help us to facilitate community  
132 planting session, as well as to plan for a community planting to take place between August and  
133 October. So last Monday, I did meet with Trees Atlanta to show or to view the sites that are  
134 available. Two of the sites would be one at the front on Main Street of City Hall. And then,  
135 another secondary planting opportunity being in the rear near the parking.

136  
137 There's also opportunities within the Public Safety parking lot to replace the dead trees. Trees  
138 Atlanta would remove those dead trees and then replace those trees within the island area. Then  
139 some discussion regarding planting additional trees at Public Safety. There is a fifth location  
140 located next to Recreation between the pool and the historic building that does need to be  
141 discussed with Recreation. I have already spoken with Director Adediran as well as the Building  
142 and Ground supervisors so they can be part of the process. And we would just next need to  
143 discuss with the community what type of trees they would like to see on the property.

144  
145 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: All right. Questions for Ms. Hall-Garrison, starting with  
146 Councilman Clay.

147  
148 COUNCILMAN CLAY: So this is the one for one match, and I think we have the dollar value  
149 here.

150  
151 MS. HALL-GARRISON: We will have a solidified dollar value once the trees are selected,  
152 because it does help to determine the cost. But there are a variety of trees from Georgia natives.  
153 And we also have dogwoods, pawpaws, pecans, and I'm sorry, there was another that was listed  
154 in the discussion with Trees Atlanta.

155  
156 COUNCILMAN CLAY: We've had some great partnerships with Trees Atlanta in the past, so  
157 I'm all for it.

158  
159 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Carn?

160  
161 COUNCILMAN CARN: I think Trees Atlanta is great. No estimated cost for what we're looking  
162 at? How many trees are you talking about, front and back, potentially?

163  
164 MS. HALL-GARRISON: So the number of trees once again will be determined by the selection  
165 made through the residents, so I don't have an exact number. I would like to work with City  
166 Manager Hawthorne as far as regarding the price once the trees are selected by the community.

167  
168 COUNCILMAN CARN: Also, keep in mind, outreach to our community is pretty severely  
169 limited. And it's limited almost exclusively to homeowners. In particularly homeowners in Ward  
170 I and III North. I want to make sure if we're having a community input that it includes the entire  
171 community, not just 25 percent of the community. Does that make sense?

172  
173 MS. HALL-GARRISON: Yes, sir. I will be working with Communications as far as to get the  
174 word out.

175  
176 COUNCILMAN CARN: All right.

177  
178 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen?

179  
180 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: I think Trees Atlanta are great, great people to work with. I know you  
181 and I, along with some high school students -- I don't know how many trees we planted that day,

182 but it was like 50 trees they planted out by the Tracey Wyatt Center on Godby Road. So people  
183 in the apartments could go and sit and walk the trail while their kids are playing in the  
184 playground. Great program. Trees Atlanta does a lot for the city of Atlanta and the southside, so  
185 I'm all for it.

186  
187 MS. HALL-GARRISON: Thank you.

188  
189 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay?

190  
191 COUNCILMAN GAY: Ms. Garrison, I don't have a problem with the proposal, but I do have a  
192 couple of comments. I'm actually not convinced that we should have ever taken one or both of  
193 those trees down. I personally would like to see whatever arborist report was provided that  
194 justified taking those 250 year trees down. Second thing is, with regard to this proposal, I would  
195 recommend that you at least -- I know Trees Atlanta is an amazing partner -- but I still would  
196 recommend that you consult with a landscape architect because some of the locations where you  
197 got them, depending on the tree canopy, there's a lot of other things to consider other than the  
198 fact that they are a good partnership. You've got to look at what that'll look like, you know, 10,  
199 20, 30 years from now. And also, you did a great job getting trees planted in our parks, but some  
200 of those trees have been uprooted. And we need to coordinate with Building and Grounds to go  
201 over there and assess, because several of those trees are uprooted. Those are expensive trees to  
202 just be laying over like that.

203  
204 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: All right. Thank you, Ms. Hall-Garrison, appreciate it. Next we'll  
205 move on to discuss the consent agenda, Item 3(a) and 3(b), they are both regarding the FAA  
206 building. So unless there is an objection, otherwise, we can talk about both of those at the same  
207 time. Mr. Wilkerson is here to take questions. Item 3(a) is a motion to approve Batchelor and  
208 Kimball as a vendor to replace two Lieder units at the FAA community room at a cost of  
209 \$317,985 and 3(b) is a motion to approve Batchelor and Kimball as a vendor to replace the  
210 HVAC unit in the mailroom at the FAA southern regional office at a cost of \$43,241. So we will  
211 start with questions for Mr. Wilkerson with Councilman Clay.

212  
213 **3. Discussion of the Consent Agenda.**

214  
215 **a. Motion to approve Batchelor and Kimball Inc. as the vendor to replace two**  
216 **Liebert units in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) computer room**  
217 **at a cost of \$317,985.**

218  
219 **b. Motion to approve Batchelor and Kimball Inc., as the vendor to replace the**  
220 **heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit in the mail room**  
221 **located at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Regional**  
222 **Office at a cost of \$43,241.**

223  
224 COUNCILMAN CLAY: Hello again. The items that we have, I think they're in the budget; is  
225 that correct?

226  
227 MR. WILKERSON: Yes, they are in the budget.

228  
229 COUNCILMAN CLAY: It seems pretty obvious they're due to be replaced, so I really don't  
230 have any other questions.  
231  
232 MR. WILKERSON: Okay.  
233  
234 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you. Councilman Carn?  
235  
236 COUNCILMAN CARN: Good to see you, Ron, as always.  
237  
238 MR. WILKERSON: Good seeing you.  
239  
240 COUNCILMAN CARN: Looking good.  
241  
242 MR. WILKERSON: Thank you, buddy.  
243  
244 COUNCILMAN CARN: In regard to HVAC one. How we're looking on that occupancy? What's  
245 it gonna be this year?  
246  
247 MR. WILKERSON: It's getting better. Monday and Friday is not that great, but we're probably  
248 getting in the 80s and 90s range the rest of the week, so that's pretty good.  
249  
250 COUNCILMAN CARN: 90 percent?  
251  
252 MR. WILKERSON: Uh-huh; yeah, we're getting there.  
253  
254 COUNCILMAN CARN: In terms of 90 percent building full?  
255  
256 MR. WILKERSON: During those periods, you know, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, I'd  
257 say so, 80, 90 percent, something like that. It's great to have a building that's full. I mean, it's a  
258 beautiful building. I don't know why they're not using it as much as they should, but that's what it  
259 is. I wish they would kick in Monday and Friday a little bit more, but that's their business.  
260  
261 COUNCILMAN CARN: That's good. Because I mean, this time last year when you came you  
262 said you were under 40 percent.  
263  
264 MR. WILKERSON: Yeah, exactly. Well, they're really trying. They're really getting it. Trying to  
265 work it out where people come to work, you know, which is a good thing.  
266  
267 COUNCILMAN CARN: All right. Good news.  
268  
269 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen?  
270  
271 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: First of all, welcome back to your visit, appreciate seeing you and  
272 your smile. You were mentioning you've been over there for how many years?  
273

274 MR. WILKERSON: 31 years. Can you imagine that? Yeah, 31 years.  
275  
276 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: It's great having you there. The only question I have is the lead time,  
277 and you talked about that a little bit earlier, between you and I.  
278  
279 MR. WILKERSON: What we did about eight years ago, we buy parts for a lot of this equipment  
280 in anticipation that someday that stuff is going to fail. We've got enough, but just about every  
281 major purchase that you buy today, there's a delay. And this is about a year delay.  
282 So we have enough parts, I hope. I'm like this. But it's been going for 30 years and I'm real proud  
283 of that. The equipment; that's just good maintenance, good preventative maintenance that kept it  
284 going. So I think we're going to be okay. We'll be all right. Because what those units do, they  
285 transfer, you know. They run a little while and then the next one transfers. They got to keep  
286 going all the time, so -- but I think we'll be fine.  
287  
288 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: Well, it's good you're getting a little bit of a head start, because like  
289 you say, it takes six weeks, sometimes a year, to get parts.  
290  
291 MR. WILKERSON: Absolutely.  
292  
293 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: I think it's well needed. No other questions,  
294  
295 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay?  
296  
297 COUNCILMAN GAY: Sir, I just have a couple of quick questions. I'm not -- I don't know the  
298 history of this property, but I just want to learn something. You're the property manager for  
299 Collier?  
300  
301 MR. WILKERSON: Yes.  
302  
303 COUNCILMAN GAY: And Collier has been the property manager for this facility before we  
304 purchased it?  
305  
306 MR. WILKERSON: Yes.  
307  
308 COUNCILMAN GAY: And so, when we purchased the building, Collier stayed on?  
309  
310 MR. WILKERSON: Yes. They're from the beginning. I was in the construction trailer; yes.  
311  
312 COUNCILMAN GAY: Do we bid out Collier? Is that something that we control?  
313  
314 MR. WILKERSON: They bid it out.  
315  
316 COUNCILMAN GAY: We bid out Collier?  
317  
318 MR. WILKERSON: Uh-huh; sure.  
319

320 COUNCILMAN GAY: We do?  
321  
322 MR. WILKERSON: Uh-huh. You have, you absolutely have.  
323  
324 COUNCILMAN GAY: Well, I have another question.  
325  
326 MR. WILKERSON: Go ahead.  
327  
328 COUNCILMAN GAY: Apparently, we bought the building because we thought it's something  
329 the city should have an asset; right?  
330  
331 MR. WILKERSON: Uh-huh.  
332  
333 COUNCILMAN GAY: And I'm not aware of that, probably, because I haven't been reading like  
334 I should.  
335  
336 MR. WILKERSON: Forgive me, I can't hear you very good.  
337  
338 COUNCILMAN GAY: Are we making money on this building? I mean, I've seen this gentleman  
339 here since I've been on council for eight years. And he comes here and he's getting these really  
340 high items. And I'm just saying, it's always just, hey, how you doing, good to see you again. But  
341 it's hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars. My question is, I'm trying to replace a unit at  
342 a property, the people been over there for six months, because we don't have the money. My  
343 question is, can we get a report on this property? Where we are with this property? Is it feasible?  
344 Are we losing money? Do we need to sub it out? Do we need to sell it?  
345  
346 MR. WILKERSON: We give a report every month.  
347  
348 COUNCILMAN GAY: I was talking to the City Manager.  
349  
350 MR. WILKERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were addressing me.  
351  
352 MR. HAWTHORNE: Yes, councilman, we're happy to get you that report. I'm not as familiar  
353 with the frequency of that report being provided to the council. But you know my philosophy is  
354 transparency. We've been having some recent discussions but, I mean, obviously, and owning the  
355 FAA building, the federal government has a role through General Services Administration. So  
356 my understanding is that the current contract is coming up for renewal, I think, later this year?  
357  
358 MR. WILKERSON: Yes.  
359  
360 MR. HAWTHORNE: And there are some major expenditures such as carpet replacement that  
361 General Services Administration is asking some questions about. And I believe that's a  
362 multimillion dollar expenditure. But we do get a revenue source. The federal government, as I  
363 understand it, leases the space, but I'm not prepared today and I'm not sure we've got a  
364 representative from Finance who can give you what that bottom line is. But I know we've got  
365 some concerns on the revenues for expenditures, particularly, moving ahead.



366  
367 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Hold on a second, Councilman Gay still has the floor.  
368  
369 COUNCILMAN GAY: That's pretty much -- and then one final question. When we approve  
370 these repairs, do we bid these repairs out?  
371  
372 MR. WILKERSON: Yes.  
373  
374 COUNCILMAN GAY: I mean, because, in our proposal, it doesn't ever show we looked to see  
375 who can bid on these items.  
376  
377 MR. WILKERSON: What we do is, because of the security restrictions and requirements, we do  
378 it once a year. And we've got -- Batchelor and Kimball has been with us for several years. And  
379 they're very, very good, and they've done the chillers. They've done it all for us. But we do it. But  
380 a lot of time, a lot of the contractors, for your information, they don't want to participate because  
381 of the requirements. It takes a lot to get in there. It truly does, and they just don't want to go  
382 through it.  
383  
384 COUNCILMAN GAY: Not saying when you bring us costs, can you show us where you put it  
385 out for bid.  
386  
387 MR. WILKERSON: What we do -- I'm glad you're bringing it up, because it's a good thing to  
388 talk about. What we do is that we own a company called LCK. It's a big company. They do about  
389 2-1/2 billion dollars' worth a year in business. They allow me, because I'm an employee of them,  
390 that company, they allow me to talk to their people. And what I do is, I send every contract,  
391 everything, to them. They evaluate it, let me know what it is, you know, how it competes. And  
392 that's what we do. Because of the problem of getting people to come in and bid. They just don't  
393 want to bid it.  
394  
395 COUNCILMAN GAY: I understand. My final comment, maybe Willis Moody, our procurement  
396 officer, might want to start being involved in these conversation before they bring them to us to  
397 approve.  
398  
399 MR. WILKERSON: My last point, if I you don't mind, you asked the question, let me just give  
400 you the answer. You asked about why the cost? This is 333,000 square feet. It's a huge  
401 development and they do have a lot of equipment. It's a heavy equipment. This equipment is like,  
402 I think we've done a fabulous job. This stuff that we're talking about today is 30 years old, and  
403 we're replacing it. That really speaks great of the maintenance. But it has a lot of equipment,  
404 because there's a lot of -- there's a lot of things going on in that building. And so, it takes it. And,  
405 in fact, what I do, I spread it out over a five to seven year period. So we're a little bit easier on  
406 the owners, so, anyway.  
407  
408 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Any other questions, Councilman Gay?  
409  
410 COUNCILMAN GAY: No.  
411

412 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Clay, anything?

413

414 COUNCILMAN CLAY: I'm still good at this point.

415

416 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: All right. Councilman Carn?

417

418 COUNCILMAN CARN: I had a couple of other questions since it's so rare to get you up here.  
419 So we had an event over the weekend and some of our regional elected officials were here, state  
420 and county, and I was driving around the city with one of them and we went by the FAA  
421 building. I said, you know, we own that building. I said, that's the southeastern regional  
422 headquarters for the FAA. And they said, well -- they didn't realize that we owned the building.  
423 And so, subsequently, the next question was, they wanted to know if we could arrange a tour of  
424 the building. And it occurred to me, I only been in the building -- I think I had a meeting in there  
425 with Pearlis and somebody at some point. But I've never seen the actual building. Is it possible,  
426 maybe we can arrange a tour for -- we got 1, 2, 3 new state officials. And, like I said, one of  
427 them asked about a tour. And I thought to myself, shoot, some of us have never seen the  
428 building. Can we maybe arrange one day where -- and City Manager, maybe --

429

430 MR. WILKERSON: You just can't have a lot of people.

431

432 COUNCILMAN CARN: Well, it would just be like some -- a few elected officials.

433

434 MR. WILKERSON: If you call, let me know. We have to set it up. There's a lot that goes into  
435 doing it. But, yes, absolutely, the answer is yes, we can do it.

436

437 COUNCILMAN CARN: Well, it's just a thought. City Manager, I don't know, maybe sometime  
438 in August or September, something maybe we get a date and see if anybody wants to come, our  
439 local delegation. I thought it might be good.

440

441 MR. WILKERSON: I'll be glad to escort. I'd be glad to do it. But I just gotta know in order to get  
442 the wheels in motion.

443

444 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen, any follow up?

445

446 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: No further questions.

447

448 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay?

449

450 COUNCILMAN GAY: No other questions.

451

452 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: It is a beautiful building, and I'm glad that you and the entire  
453 team -- it was fascinating when Councilman Allen and I were there a while back. It's a gorgeous  
454 building, and a great asset in our community. So thank you, Mr. Wilkerson, appreciate your time.

455

456 MR. WILKERSON: Thank you.

457

458                   **c. Motion to approve renewal of contract with The Ferguson Group (TFG) for**  
459                   **federal lobbying services at an annualized cost of \$82,000 (\$6833 monthly)**  
460                   **plus expense.**  
461

462 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Item 3(c) is discussion on a motion to approve renewal of the  
463 contract with the Ferguson Group for federal lobbying expenses at an annualized cost of  
464 \$82,000. And Ms. Emo is here to answer any questions. Good evening.  
465

466 MS. EMO: Good evening. It's great to see everything. It's great to be here in person. Thank you,  
467 Mayor, great to see you. Councilman Clay, Carn, Allen, and Gay, it's great to see you all and I  
468 look forward to getting to know the City Manager and some of the new staff and new faces  
469 around the city. Actually, Charmaine Anderson sends her greetings to everybody. Unfortunately,  
470 she wasn't able to be here tonight. Her husband had knee surgery earlier this week. They are now  
471 empty nesters and so she is the one taking care of him. But we actually have a trip scheduled for  
472 next week. We will be here all day next Tuesday meeting with department heads to talk about  
473 city priorities for the upcoming year. We actually going to do that in March. The Senate  
474 appropriations deadline were released and they were literally on the day that we were to arrive.  
475 That was just going to -- that wasn't going to work out for us. So we needed to get your  
476 appropriation request submitted, so we put it off until this summer.  
477

478 But I'm thrilled to continue our work together. Very thrilled that the process of earmarking has  
479 returned. I swear, per capita, I think that your community has secured more money than any of  
480 our other clients and that's a testament to a great congressional delegation, great staff, and great  
481 projects.  
482

483 So we've been really happy to kind of shepherd that process along. So I think everybody received  
484 the federal advocacy update that had all the numbers in it for what we've done in the last couple  
485 of years. And I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have. I will say one thing, you  
486 know, with the Presidential election upcoming, and just the partisanship, or kind of lack thereof  
487 right now in Congress, there are going to be some bills that are going to pass, right.  
488 We're going to get appropriation bills, and you have projects pending, funding for projects  
489 pending. So, congratulations to you on that. We're going to get an FAA reauthorization bill,  
490 hopefully, with Congressman Scott leadership, we're going to get a farm bill reauthorization.  
491

492 But really other sort of smaller legislative items -- I don't know that we're going to get a whole  
493 lot of, you know, other major legislative priorities sort of on the table. There's a whole package  
494 for police reform. And I think there's not -- there were a lot of bills that were introduced during  
495 police week in May. And, you know, unfortunately, there's just not an appetite right now to pass  
496 any sort of police reform legislation. However, earlier this month, the Biden administration  
497 released over 2,000 proposed rules and regs that they're going to be working on between now  
498 and the end of 2024. And we actually went through all, I think it was 2100, proposed rules and  
499 regs and broke it down to about a hundred and fifty that may be of interest to local governments.  
500 We actually just finalized today a special report that is summarizing what some of those rules  
501 and regulations are, whether it's under EPA, Department of Transportation, Department of  
502 Energy. But, you know, even if there is going to be this lull of legislative effort, there's going to  
503 be a significant opportunity to make your voices heard on the regulatory side. Like you're

504 submitting the comments, Councilman Clay, on a proposed regulation within the FAA.

505  
506 You know, I would invite you all to look at that special report that, again, is being sent out today.  
507 But we can also send it directly to you all. Because there is the opportunity to really weigh in on  
508 the regulatory side, in addition to any legislative action that happens that is of interest to you all.  
509 I just wanted to point that out. Happy to answer any questions.

510  
511 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you, Ms. Emo. We'll start with Councilman Clay.

512  
513 COUNCILMAN CLAY: What do you view is the biggest challenges given the upcoming  
514 election and some of the partisanship that's going on as far as it would impact us? In other words,  
515 you've seen our priorities. I know you're working out new priorities, but our priorities pretty  
516 much remain the same from year to year. So where do we encounter headwinds due to the  
517 current climate in the Congressional legislature?

518  
519 MS. EMO: You know, I'll be honest, without kind of looking at or talking with you about what  
520 individual priorities you're even talking about. When you look at the priorities on your federal  
521 agenda, those are community priorities, which are also priorities of members of Congress and  
522 Senator; right? So a lot of issues that do impact local governments are not being impacted by the  
523 partisanship, necessarily, and Congress. The one that I mentioned, you know, any sort of police  
524 reform, that is something that's just not going to come to fruition.

525  
526 But you have an infrastructure bill that's already paid for, for the next five years. You've got the  
527 Inflation Reduction Act that's going to provide tax credits for the first time to local governments,  
528 even though you don't pay taxes, in the form of a direct payment, if you do certain energy related  
529 projects. So, you know FAA reauthorization is obviously very important to this community, and  
530 that's a must pass bill. The farm bill, you know, the most expensive piece of the farm bill is the  
531 nutrition title. And I think we're in for a significant fight relative to funding for SNAP and WIC,  
532 and other food related programs.

533  
534 But, again, the farm bill is also a must pass bill. And to be honest with you, Councilman, I  
535 thought that when they were doing the debt relief negotiations that we were going to get a one  
536 year continuing resolution, which was going to eliminate the opportunity for us to secure your  
537 marks for individual projects; they didn't do that. I was pleasantly surprised. So I don't see any  
538 major hurdles for sort of the big picture items that impact local communities.

539  
540 COUNCILMAN CLAY: That's good news. Thank you.

541  
542 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Carn.

543  
544 COUNCILMAN CARN: Well, it's good to see you.

545  
546 MS. EMO: It's so good to see you too. Thank you.

547  
548 COUNCILMAN CARN: I don't remember if I saw you last year or not.

549

550 MS. EMO: No, sir, I wasn't here.

551  
552 COUNCILMAN CARN: I didn't think so. So this is the first time I've seen you since I've been  
553 back.

554  
555 MS. EMO: That's exactly right.

556  
557 COUNCILMAN CARN: You know, I was with the county for a minute. Is Kareem still up  
558 there?

559  
560 MS. EMO: He is not. He is in Hennepin County. He is running the legislative shop for Hennepin  
561 County in Minnesota. But I have to say, I thought about you. I mean, we talked about -- I think  
562 the last time we were really working together was funding for the MARTA station. And walking  
563 in the station, just this afternoon, I was so excited because it looks amazing. So congratulations  
564 on that.

565  
566 COUNCILMAN CARN: Thanks to y'all's help. We had a ceremony a couple of months ago.  
567 And I had the same letters that I drafted for Congressman Lewis. Because he said well, you draft  
568 it and I'll sign it. I'm assuming Bill is still there with you all, right?

569  
570 MS. EMO: He is not. He retired a number of years ago. He's living outside of Charleston, South  
571 Carolina.

572  
573 COUNCILMAN CARN: And I saw Jackson smiling when you came up here. You know, he's  
574 hustled up a lot of these grants and money for us. I had a couple of quick questions.

575  
576 MS. EMO: Yes, sir.

577  
578 COUNCILMAN CARN: So I know we've dealt with y'all for quite a few years. I pushed for us  
579 to have a federal lobbyist and it was the first time we actually struck out and got one with you  
580 all. And I think we've done pretty good with you all so far. I spoke to Senator Warnock Friday. I  
581 was with him Friday at the State Capitol. And one of the things they still talk about are, if you  
582 bundle projects, group projects, with the neighboring cities -- and I said to myself, I wanted to  
583 ask a question. I said, how many group projects have we decided to bundle together? Are you all  
584 still clients of East Point?

585  
586 MS. EMO: Yes.

587  
588 COUNCILMAN CARN: Okay. And I guess the question goes to, in terms -- and I heard the  
589 same thing from Congresswoman Williams -- and I said how much are we actually doing that,  
590 because a lot of time we're competing for some of the same money, as opposed to sitting down  
591 and powwowing with the neighboring cities, because he says and she says; that's almost a sure  
592 fire way to up your odds in terms of getting funds and money. I don't know out of the stuff that  
593 you've gotten for us, how many were -- I want to see if we can do more group collabs and group  
594 asks, which might up our chances for a bigger piece of money with a regional project.

595

596 MS. EMO: I'm happy to answer --

597  
598 MR. MYERS: So that's what we did. We went to the airport, because of this freeze that we had,  
599 we went to the airport, and we bundled it. So that's how we got this water tank. And it's on both  
600 the Senator's and Congressman's list, because we did a regional between the airport and College  
601 Park in order to help with the infrastructure. So, yes, we are bundling when we get the  
602 opportunity.

603  
604 COUNCILMAN CARN: Well, the more of them we can do, I think the better off we'll be.

605  
606 MS. EMO: And, to be honest, I mean, that helps your -- thanks, Jackson -- that helps your  
607 delegation too. It's more bang for their buck. The house members only get 15 requests each. And  
608 so, when you have communities that are, you know, neighboring communities, that are  
609 competing for the same money, which oftentimes that does happen, it makes it difficult. We  
610 actually did try for the Finding the Flint project. We had folks from -- there was sort of regional  
611 consortium and they were meeting. Tasha met for College Park. And then there was somebody  
612 else from East Point and, essentially, they didn't have time to put together that project in the  
613 quick turnaround of when the appropriations process came out and when the projects were due.  
614 But, you know, one of the things that I will talk about, and I'm actually -- full disclosure, I will  
615 be here next Tuesday. I'm in East Point Monday. We have talked a lot about finding regional  
616 projects that we can work on together. We just have to figure out the right one.

617  
618 COUNCILMAN CARN: The thought had occurred to me, I said to myself. I know you all were  
619 coming back for the 25th and I didn't know how that was going to be arranged. But, at some  
620 point, I thought it might be a good idea to have just a brain storming group meeting with East  
621 Point/College Park. You don't have anybody else around here nearby, do you?

622  
623 MS. EMO: I do not; no.

624  
625 COUNCILMAN CARN: Even Hapeville, even though they're not with you all, the ask, if you  
626 can, a three city ask for something along those lines. Because I like -- we give you a list. We go  
627 after what we can go after, we try to get the low hanging fruit. I've never, since we've had you,  
628 sit down with your group and have a brainstorming session about what else we can get, and what  
629 else is available that maybe we haven't thought of that you have thought of with some other  
630 outfits in another state somewhere that we can look at getting. We don't know what the scope of  
631 what we can ask for. I mean, we got our blinders on in a sense. I mean, we know what we're  
632 looking for around here, but there may be other things that we can easily get that we just haven't  
633 put on our list because it hasn't occurred to us, but it may occur to you.

634  
635 And with our new City Manager, he may see some things that we can get that he's gotten in some  
636 of his other cities. Last thing I'll say, we've got several new department heads. And the reason  
637 that's important because that's a new wealth of knowledge base. Whereas some of these folks  
638 have gotten projects from DeKalb County or from California where they come from and they  
639 say, well, hey, we can get this and they know all about it. I just thought it'd be a good idea to just  
640 sit down and get an assessment, because we give you the list every year. We go get what we get,  
641 but we can never sit down and have a planning session until we're actually up there in D.C., so

642 it's something to think about.

643

644 MS. EMO: I think that's great. And, you know, you talk about coming up to D.C., we've had  
645 separate meeting times outside of like National League of Cities or whatever, where you all have  
646 come up and talked about your priorities, and those are always welcomed. So just know that  
647 we're always happy to put together, you know, a day of meetings for you all. It is hard during  
648 NLC, because it's like a revolving door within those offices. I mean, I think, as you know,  
649 Mayor, the Senate office just kind of do a meet and greet and everybody kind of comes in. They  
650 didn't do any individual meetings, so it's just hard.

651

652 COUNCILMAN CARN: I wouldn't want to do anything during NLC or during any other times.  
653 What I'm asking for is a -- and you all come down here and have a sit down where we can talk  
654 about what is out there, just in general, the stuff we don't know about.

655

656 MS. EMO: Sure.

657

658 COUNCILMAN CARN: Does that make sense?

659

660 MS. EMO: Absolutely. I mean, I was writing notes. There's a U.S. Forest service tree canopy  
661 program that I'm going to talk to Tasha about. I mean, that's why it's great to have just this open  
662 dialogue.

663

664 COUNCILMAN CARN: I saw something on funding for mountain bike trails. There's very few  
665 mountain bike trails. And there's big clubs for that. And it occurred to me, we've got a lot of  
666 property. Like, even in parts of Six West that is not buildable. The topo doesn't work, but there's  
667 some other things we could maybe do with it like a mountain bike trail. And we could have one  
668 of the best ones. And there's a bunch of money for that.

669

670 But these are types of things that we never really -- I mean, I never think of College Park as a  
671 mountain bike trail city, but you never know.

672

673 MS. EMO: That's right.

674

675 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen?

676

677 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: Not really. I think you all have asked some things, a couple of  
678 questions, you're asking for the same amount you've asked for for the last several years, you  
679 know. I don't think it's changed any all in four or five years, so I appreciate that and keeping that  
680 cost down. Is there anything that we can do to assist you? You know, we're always giving you  
681 ideas, but how can we help you push some of these things? If there's a way, please let us know,  
682 you know, to go the back door, to get in, talk to somebody, please keep us in mind.

683

684 MS. EMO: I absolutely will. Thank you. And, you know, and I think the continued  
685 encouragement from you all, your department heads, to look at these federal opportunities and,  
686 you know, we also highlight some state and foundation opportunities when we find them. But,  
687 you know, everybody's really busy, and we recognize that. And so, we want to take as much of

688 the load off, but it is something that we have to work in partnership, folks.

689  
690 I mean, that's why I think I'm on Jackson's speed dial, right, because, you know, we've worked  
691 very hard on the connector bridge. And, congratulations, because it's looking amazing. You  
692 know, it's just important to develop these great lines of communication. So I really look forward  
693 to meeting the new folks. And so, thank you, though, for that. I will definitely let you all know  
694 when there's something we need a little extra push from your side, whether it's with your staff or  
695 with your Congressional delegation and your contacts there. So thank you.

696  
697 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: Thank you.

698  
699 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay?

700  
701 COUNCILMAN GAY: Well, good to see you again. I've got a few comments. First off, Jackson  
702 don't vote tonight. We get to vote; okay. You say he got him on speed dial. And I said that to set  
703 up this comment. You know, when I first met with you all, we had an opportunity to talk about  
704 what we thought we wanted to see from our federal partners. And I think we had a conversation  
705 about, from me at least, a community center, that would serve approximately 4 to 5,000  
706 marginalized people in our community. And I'm here to say tonight, on the recorded, that has not  
707 been funded yet. That's fine.

708  
709 But I also want to say that, you just made a comment that infrastructure bill has been paid for.  
710 And you said that in the context that there's so many other federal dollars that kind of can cover  
711 municipal infrastructure projects. When I was looking at Nikema Williams appropriations for  
712 local governments, and I noticed she gave consideration -- I don't know if these were funded --  
713 Morehouse School of Medicine, Youth Bill Initiatives. There were just so many other initiatives  
714 other than infrastructure. Since I've been on this council, the only appropriation of dollars I see is  
715 for brick and mortar.

716  
717 You know, I'm trained and my value is that it takes more than brick and mortar to build a  
718 community. So what I would like to see going forward, because, for the record, we paid  
719 \$647,000 to this firm, since I've been up here. That's a lot of money. And having said that, you  
720 know, when we sit down and talk to you, it's still in my office, on my wall, is that huge picture of  
721 a community center that still hasn't happened, at least in my lifetime. So as you talk to us, please  
722 understand that we each are represented by different communities. And we each are passionate  
723 about what we want to see. So I want you to take that away when you leave tonight about your  
724 meeting here today.

725  
726 MS. EMO: Yes, sir; understood.

727  
728 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Clay, anything?

729  
730 COUNCILMAN CLAY: No, I'm good.

731  
732 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Carn?

733



734 COUNCILMAN CARN: No.

735

736 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen?

737

738 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: No.

739

740 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Anything else, Councilman Gay?

741

742 COUNCILMAN GAY: No.

743

744 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: All right. Thank you, Ms. Emo, appreciate your time. The last  
745 item to discuss on the consent agenda is purchase of a 2022 325-G Compact loader from Dobbs  
746 equipment under state contract to replace unit number 235 in the amount of \$54,400. Good  
747 evening, Dr. Adediran.

748

749 **d. Motion to approve the purchase of a 2022 325G Compact Track Loader**  
750 **from Dobbs Equipment under State Contract to replace Unit#235, in the**  
751 **amount of \$54,400.**

752

753 MR. ADEDIRAN: How y'all doing, Council?

754

755 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Doing well. Thank you. Questions, Councilman Clay?

756

757 COUNCILMAN CLAY: I got my question answered, so I'm good.

758

759 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Carn?

760

761 COUNCILMAN CARN: Just one question, do you need it?

762

763 MR. ADEDIRAN: Yes, sir.

764

765 COUNCILMAN CARN: All right. That answers my question.

766

767 MR. ADEDIRAN: We don't want to get in trouble with the Department of Environmental  
768 Quality. The unit we have now needs to be replaced, otherwise, the city will get in trouble, so it  
769 needs to be replaced.

770

771 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen?

772

773 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: The unit we have now is a wheel unit. This is going to be a tract unit.  
774 Is the tract that much better or more efficient? Can you give me a little information on that?

775

776 MR. ADEDIRAN: Okay. You are actually -- look at a tank on four wheels as compared to a  
777 tract. It can go anywhere and do what it needs to do. Whereas the wheels, it won't do a 4-wheel  
778 drive, but it'll get stuck. So this is a whole lot better than what we have right now, sir.

779

780 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: I see the ones with wheels going up and down the street from time to  
781 time and, you know, the tract, I didn't know if that would be just as efficient going up and --

782  
783 MR. ADEDIRAN: And this one too, we can drive it down the street or put it on a trailer, depend  
784 on how far we're going, sir.

785  
786 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: That's all I had.

787  
788 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay?

789  
790 COUNCILMAN GAY: So, Doc, this a bulldozer?

791  
792 MR. ADEDIRAN: It's a what?

793  
794 COUNCILMAN GAY: A bulldozer?

795  
796 MR. ADEDIRAN: No. It's a tract, like what you call, it's smaller equipment.

797  
798 COUNCILMAN GAY: Oh, a bobcat.

799  
800 MR. ADEDIRAN: Bobcat; yes, sir.

801  
802 COUNCILMAN GAY: We don't have a bobcat?

803  
804 MR. ADEDIRAN: The one we have now is one foot in the grave and one on a banana peel.

805  
806 COUNCILMAN GAY: I did want to take this opportunity to say what we do need. Do you know  
807 when we are in house - doing digging and we're going in the ground?

808  
809 MR. ADEDIRAN: Yes, sir.

810  
811 COUNCILMAN GAY: I haven't seen the OSHA required metal walls that keep our staff safe.  
812 And I know if OSHA were to come, we would get some serious fines, because I've seen us down  
813 in the ground where we should have those -- I don't know what you call them.

814  
815 MR. ADEDIRAN: They are earth retainers. We have them during any work inhouse that requires  
816 that. The work that is done that requires that done by outside contractors and, yes --

817  
818 COUNCILMAN GAY: I don't see them use it.

819  
820 MR. ADEDIRAN: We have a drainage walk getting ready to -- it is part of the agenda tonight.  
821 And if they dig that deep, yeah, it's a requirement. It's an OSHA requirement they have to have  
822 that to protect the individual that's in the hole, sir; yes, sir.

823  
824 COUNCILMAN GAY: I was asking maybe you should come back with purchasing a couple of  
825 them for your staff.

826  
827 MR. ADEDIRAN: Let me check my inventory with the Water and Sewer. I'm pretty sure we  
828 have some there. But next council meeting, I'll have the answer for you, sir.  
829  
830 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Mr. Hawthorne, did you have something to add?  
831  
832 MR. HAWTHORNE: Mayor, as I was reading the agenda item as Dr. Adediran was talking, I  
833 noted we have just a slight error, and I didn't want anybody to be confused. On the motion itself,  
834 we do have the cost of \$54,400; however, under recommendation, we had a hundred dollar  
835 difference, 54,500. But I do believe the motion reads correctly, 54,400, and we'll just need to  
836 correct the record on recommendation to match that.  
837  
838 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Thank you, Mr. Hawthorne. There's a hundred dollar difference.  
839 The motion itself is 54,400, but under recommendation, it notes 54,500. And that second five is a  
840 typographical error. All right. Any other questions, Councilman Clay?  
841  
842 COUNCILMAN CLAY: Nope, I'm good.  
843  
844 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Carn?  
845  
846 COUNCILMAN CARN: I had one other. What kind of warranty is on this thing? I didn't see -- I  
847 saw the state contract itself, but the vehicle itself --  
848  
849 MR. ADEDIRAN: Typically, it's five years; yes, sir.  
850  
851 COUNCILMAN CARN: I always wondered about that if there's -- what the cost of an extended  
852 one is, if it's a nominal thing, or if it's worth getting a 10 year. I don't know what it would cost,  
853 but --  
854  
855 MR. ADEDIRAN: I can talk to Dobbs Equipment and I have an answer for you.  
856  
857 COUNCILMAN CARN: That other piece of equipment, the leaf sucker. I'm assuming we were  
858 still waiting on that to come in?  
859  
860 MR. ADEDIRAN: What we have now will be traded in for -- they have this 2022 equipment in  
861 house.  
862  
863 COUNCILMAN CARN: I understand the old bobcat is being traded in for this one. It's in the  
864 cost, I get that. I'll ask you about -- at some point, I just wanted to know if that piece of  
865 equipment had come in yet because it was on a wait for that one.  
866  
867 MR. ADEDIRAN: Okay.  
868  
869 COUNCILMAN CARN: But if you can find out about if there's a warranty option, what it would  
870 cost to --  
871

872 MR. ADEDIRAN: Sure.  
873  
874 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Allen, anything else?  
875  
876 COUNCILMAN ALLEN: Nothing else.  
877  
878 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: Councilman Gay, anything further?  
879  
880 COUNCILMAN GAY: No more questions.  
881  
882 MAYOR MOTLEY BROOM: All right. Thank you, Dr. Adediran, appreciate your time. All  
883 right. We will resume at 7:30 with the regular session.  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shavala Ames, City Clerk**