

City of Rockville Report – Rockville Economic Development, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 2025

June 2, 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting:

Exploring Childcare Solutions to Meet Community Needs – Worksession

Earlier in 2025, the Mayor and Council expressed interest in identifying solutions to meet the growing need for accessible and affordable childcare. On June 2, 2025, Community Planning and Development Services, Housing and Community Development, and Recreation and Parks collaborated to present 11 actionable strategies for expanding access to childcare opportunities in the City. The strategies aligned with Rockville’s strategic goals of supporting families, enabling workforce participation, and improving quality of life. The work session served as an opportunity for the Mayor and Council to discuss the City of Rockville’s approach for expanding childcare services and support for working families through coordinated efforts across city departments. The Mayor and Council were generally supportive of the proposed strategies. For additional information, the staff report can be found at the following link:

<https://rockvillemd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7410035&GUID=718F49A6-BE36-40C4-94C3-63CD610F8046&Options=&Search=>

Proposed Amendments to Green Building Regulations – Worksession

Inspection Services Division (Department of Community Planning and Development Services) staff participated in a work session with the Mayor and Council in preparation for adoption of Article XIV, including amendments to the International Green Construction Code and the National Green Building Standard (NGBS). Some of the changes include mandates for on-site solar installations, addition of EV-Charging Infrastructure requirements above those in the Energy Conservation Code and requirements for third-party verification for all new structures. It is expected that the new regulations will result in more energy-efficient buildings, sustainable and resilient housing that is NGBS verified and expanded renewable energy use. Staff received positive feedback and support from the Mayor and Council, as well as questions related to how the City compares with neighboring jurisdictions and the specific process for third-party verifications and assurance that delays won’t occur.

June 9, 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting

Public Hearing and Adoption of a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to Regulate Establishments That Include the Retail Sale of Cannabis for Personal Use

The Mayor and Council held a public hearing on and adopted an amendment to the City’s Zoning Ordinance recognizing “cannabis dispensaries” and “cannabis dispensaries with drive-through dispensing services” as new uses in the City. Both uses are allowed in all of the City’s mixed use zones as well as the light industrial zone, subject to state law and regulations. Dispensaries with drive-through dispensing services must also ensure that the drive-through elements do not obstruct traffic and pedestrian circulation, access, and parking.

Planning Commission Annual Report Special Presentation

A special presentation on the Planning Commission’s 2024 Annual Report was provided to the Mayor and Council. An overview of the Annual Report, which describes actions taken by the Planning Commission from development applications to zoning text amendments, was provided. Several development applications were reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission in 2024 and are described and mapped in the report. The proposed developments associated with these applications were generally located along the city’s commercial and transit corridors. This included significant residential or mixed-use projects on vacant and urban infill sites.

The Planning Commission's work plan for 2025 will consist primarily of considering development review applications, including site plans and record plats, and providing recommendations on zoning text and map amendments, project plans and special exceptions. For additional details, the staff report can be found at the following link: <https://rockvillemd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7421932&GUID=A61264AB-E238-48DB-B5FC-DFACC976FBBE&Options=&Search=>.

June 16, 2025 Mayor and Council Meeting

Special Presentation on Preservation of Affordable Housing in Rockville:

A graduate researcher gave a presentation to the Mayor and Council summarizing his research and findings on the preservation of affordable housing in Rockville. His recommendations included: creating a database of subsidized and naturally occurring affordable housing, working with Montgomery County to create a funding source specifically for rehabilitation of existing properties, and bringing together stakeholders to systemically preserve affordable housing.

Work Session on Chapter 18 - Rental Facilities and Landlord-Tenant Relations - Rewrite: Transparency (Data Collection, Reporting, and Posting Requirements)

Staff provided preliminary recommendations to and received direction from the Mayor and Council regarding transparency initiatives within the city's landlord-tenant code. This primarily included a discussion around data collection and reporting requirements, but also lease and other posting requirements. The Mayor and Council generally agreed with staff's preliminary recommendations. Staff are currently researching and conducting engagement on the landlord-tenant code update, and intend to publish a draft of the new code for the Mayor and Council's consideration in the fall. For additional details, the staff report can be found at the following link: <https://rockvillemd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7430729&GUID=546DFDF1-03BB-4B5F-8B79-4184F234D62D&Options=&Search=>

Upcoming Mayor and Council Meeting:

July 14, 2025

- King Farm Farmstead Project Update and Program Concepts Review - Worksession
- 900 Rockville Pike Public Hearing and Consider Approval of an Amendment to Approved Project Plan Application to Permit the Modification of the Implementation Period