

**HAVRE DE GRACE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2020  
LEGISLATIVE SYNOPSIS**

**Annexation Plan for the lands of Pulaski Parcel LLC – (CM Ringsaker)**

Synopsis:

This charter resolution would establish an annexation plan allowing the City of Havre de Grace to expand its municipal boundaries by annexing four parcels of property, and a portion of a right of way and drainage and utility easement located along Pulaski Highway. This annexation is consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan, which specifically states: “Primary considerations for growth are additional commercial parcels along US Route 40. New commercial expansion and redevelopment of existing underutilized parcels is desired to make a cohesive corridor for service, retail, medical and office uses.” This annexation comes at the heels of the 2019 annexation of 1921 Pulaski Highway and the 2017 Madori annexation, both parcels located along the Route 40 corridor. Additionally, the City has both water and sewer capacity to support this development.

**Charter Amendment- Resolution concerning an addition to the City Charter to permit emergency executive powers during a state declared emergency. (CP Glenn)**

Synopsis:

This legislation is being proposed in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the City Charter, the Mayor is considered the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Havre de Grace and has general powers “over the City, its employees and property.” Currently the Charter is silent as to specific Mayoral authority in such times of emergency declarations to suspend or extend deadlines found in the Charter. The proposed Charter amendment resolution would amend the City Charter, adding a new section (D) providing the Mayor limited emergency executive powers when a state of emergency is declared by the federal, state, county, or city government to suspend deadlines and timelines found in the City Charter, Code, or any other legislation or regulation created by the City for only a limited period of time (30 days). Additionally, the resolution gives the Mayor authority to issue executive orders pertaining to the use of City property during an emergency, and to suspend a “City election for up to sixty (60) days after a state of emergency is lifted.” This Charter amendment is comparable to the executive orders issued by the Governor in dealing with the suspension of State deadlines and elections.

## **Charter Amendment “Section 13 Elections; Hours” (CP Glenn)**

### Synopsis:

This legislation is also being proposed in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This Charter amendment resolution would amend the City Charter in accordance with Executive Order 20-03-30-03 issued by the Governor of Maryland, enabling municipalities to postpone Elections without having to comply with the required public hearing and 40 day wait period for Charter amendments. Additionally, the legislation would align City law with the executive orders issued by the Governor of Maryland and guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control requiring social distancing and prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people. The City of Havre de Grace is concerned that holding an election during the COVID-19 pandemic would inadvertently encourage people to violate social distancing orders and would create a gathering of 10 or more people. This Charter Resolution gives the Mayor authority to issue an executive order during the current state of emergency allowing the temporary suspension of the May 5, 2020 election until “a Tuesday within sixty (60) days of the lifting of the Governor’s state of emergency.” Currently, Charter Section 19 requires the City of Havre de Grace to hold a municipal election “on the first Tuesday after the First Monday in May” with no Charter authority to change that date.

## **Resolution seeking approval for alternative voting practices. (CP Glenn)**

### Synopsis:

This legislation is being proposed in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution would alter the method of casting ballots, if the May 5, 2020 can be held, and would follow the executive orders issued by the Governor of Maryland and guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control requiring social distancing and prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people. The resolution establishes two options consistent with the social distancing orders for casting ballots, as well as encourages qualified City voters to vote by absentee ballot.

## **Resolution concerning the extinguishment, termination & abandonment of an interest in property. (CM Ringsaker)**

### Synopsis:

This resolution identifies a cul de sac end of roadway located in a parking lot at the Concord Cove Apartments. Not only was the cul de sac never constructed as depicted on the plat, it was never dedicated to the City and has been maintained and used by the apartment owner as a paved parking

area for more than 50 years. This issue was raised while being researched by a potential purchaser of the Concord Cove Apartment complex. This legislation action by the City Council authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Deed of Extinguishment, Termination and/or Abandonment to allow Concord Cove Apartments to continue to use the property as it has been doing for more than 50 years.