

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2013
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Vernon S. Archer, Mayor
CM Jonathan Ebbeler, Ward 1 (arrived at 8:22 p.m.)
CM Alan Thompson, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

Sara Imhulse, Town Administrator
David Morris, Chief of Police
Leonard Addison, Director of Public Works
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Archer called the legislative meeting to order at 8:12 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection.

Approval of Agenda

CM Thompson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Silva.
Vote: 3-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Thompson requested that Legislative Action Item #3 be removed from the agenda.

Presentations

Mayor Archer presented letters of commendation to Berwyn Heights VFD Captain Ben Ross and RPPD officers Lt. Turner, Sgt. Babar, Sgt. Garcia, and Cpl. Sommerville. Mayor Archer also recognized Fire Chief Marc Bashoor and Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Chief Danny McCoy.

Mayor Archer presented proclamations to the teachers who traveled to Ipala, Guatemala as part of the Sister Cities program.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Vernon Archer reported:

- School is back in session and everyone should drive safely and cautiously.
- The Cafritz DSP appeal will be heard by the District Council on September 6.
- Working with staff to keep the funds from the fee in lieu of service for forestation of the Cafritz property within Riverdale Park.
- Visitors from Ipala will be coming next month.
- The bid process for the Youth and Community Wing project will be reopened in the next couple of months.
- Comments regarding ongoing WSSC utility work and SHA roadway improvements.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Treasurer's Report

As of 8/31/13 (subject to audit),

Revenue: \$499,852.00

Expenditures: \$802,148.00

CM Thompson made a motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Ebbeler. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Sara Imhulse reported:

- The next PGCMA meeting will be held on September 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bowie City Hall.
- The health insurance renewal was completed.
- Currently on schedule to meet all audit deadlines.
- CDBG road improvement projects on Spring Lane, Jefferson and Riverdale Roads are moving forward.
- Will be attending the ICMA Conference September 19-25 in Boston.
- Thanked staff for their service to the residents and businesses of Riverdale Park.

Police and Code Report

Police Chief David Morris reported:

- Attended the funeral of Baltimore County Officer Jason Schneider. Please keep the Schneider family in your prayers.
- Communications Center renovations are ready to move forward.
- Anticipate filling the one officer vacancy in the near future.
- CID position filled by Pfc. Blanco
- Code Enforcement Officer Rudy Castro recently accepted a position with the Montgomery County Police Department.
- Prince George's County is hosting a Citizens Police Academy and Lani Lindsey and Bruce Wernek have been selected to attend.
- National Night Out was held on August 6 and was a success despite the weather.
- Will be attending the Maryland Chiefs and Sheriffs training seminar September 8-12 with Lt. Colonel Timmons.
- Will be participating in the Boardwalk Plunge and a run hosted by the City of Annapolis Police Department with Lt. Colonel Timmons and Lt. Turner to benefit the Special Olympics.
- Appointed to the MML Legislative Committee and Co-Chair of MD Chiefs Legislative Committee.
- Update on new cell phone laws to take effect on October 1.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Leonard Addison reported:

- The next Saturday bulk drop-off will be September 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- A tree planting survey is in progress. Please contact PW if you would like to have a tree planted near your home (on Town property).

- The bio-retention area (rain garden) has been constructed and the second phase (planting) will be done in approximately two weeks.
- The bridge lights on River Road are now operational.
- Working with WSSC regarding the completion of the three open contracts and the clean-up work needed.
- Arborist is determining which trees need to be trimmed. Survey will be completed in approximately 2 weeks.
- Have had numerous conversations with Bates recently and the Town's expectations are clear. Changes in personnel and improvements in service have been noted but the progress will continue to be monitored closely by PW.
- Will be on vacation September 6-17.

Fire Department

President Steve Lampier reported:

- Staffing issues continue and a few members have changed departments but several new members have been recruited.
- Participated in National Night Out and provided smoke detectors to those residents that indicated that they needed them.
- Will be participating in the upcoming Riverdale Park Cares Day.
- Will have a table at the University of Maryland for recruiting.
- Plan to participate at Riverdale Park Day.
- Recently applied for a Safer Grant.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Jonathan Ebbeler, Ward 1

CM Jonathan Ebbeler reported:

- The real estate market in Riverdale Park is healthy and robust.
- Lion's Club Scholarship applications are due September 30.
- A Quiet Zone resolution was passed at last week's special legislative meeting to request a quiet zone established at the Queensbury Road crossing.
- The Green Team will meet in September to review the Sustainable Maryland Certified application status.
- A Cap Zone Project will be presented in October to the Council and public by a consortium of UMD graduate students.
- Rinaldi's is planning to open on September 28.
- Bikram Yoga is on target to open in Town Center in September.
- Thank you to RPAC for the summer Jazz Sessions.
- The second Douglas Development parcel (collectively known as the Book Store) build out was approved by MUTC.
- Honey Bun Bakery was the Town Center business competition winner.

CM Alan Thompson, Ward 2

CM Alan Thompson reported:

- Worked with intern Carl Olson Marquitz to create a rendering of the Cafritz Bridge.
- Mr. Addison is following up and checking to be sure that Bates is providing quality service. Please contact the Public Works Department if you have any issues or concerns.
- The Dog Park MOU will be discussed at a future meeting.

- A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
- The next TDDP meeting will be September 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- The next CKAR meeting will be held on September 10 at 7:00 p.m. at 6201 Riverdale Road.
- ATHA Governing Board meeting will be held on September 17 at Berwyn Heights Town Hall.
- Thank you to the PD and PW for making National Night Out a success.
- Please drive carefully as school is back in session.
- Reminder that on October 1, talking/texting becomes a primary offense.
- A constituent reported a hole near the 5500 block of Taylor Road (near Ingerham). The resident also reported seeing several vehicles over 5 tons traveling on that roadway.

CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

CM Alejandro Silva reported:

- Thank you to PW and PD for all of their work in Ward 6.
- Concerns regarding an increase in foot traffic crossing Kenilworth Avenue. A crossing guard may be needed. Chief Morris stated that patrol will take an initial look at the issue.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items or consent agenda items.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Block Party Request: 43rd Street Between East-West Highway and Queensbury Road on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Ward 1)
2. Street Closure: 5000 block of Nicholson Street and 5800 block of Riverside Drive from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Riverdale Park Day on October 5, 2013 (Ward 3)
3. ~~Minutes from legislative meeting on July 1, 2013~~
4. Minutes from public hearing on July 1, 2013
5. Minutes from special legislative meeting on August 1, 2013
6. Minutes from special legislative meeting on August 26, 2013
7. Minutes from special legislative meeting on August 28, 2013

CM Ebbeler made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Thompson. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

The minutes from the legislative meeting on July 1, 2013 were removed from the consent agenda and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to send a letter to the Planning Board regarding Comunicar DPLS-387, 5309 Kenilworth Avenue, departure for 6 parking spaces of the 9 required for the proposed tax & travel service (Ward 6)

CM Silva made a motion to send a letter of support to the Planning Board regarding Comunicar DPLS-387, 5309 Kenilworth Avenue, departure for 6 parking spaces of the 9 required for the proposed tax & travel service. The motion was seconded by CM Thompson. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Ebbeler made a friendly amendment to include language in the letter encouraging the applicant put landscaping along the Kenilworth Avenue façade.

2. Motion to send a letter regarding M-Square DSP-05080/01, revision to show: land dedicated for construction of roundabout, previously approved office building changed from 4-story to 3-story and addition of guard house

Legislative Action Item #2 was replaced with Resolution 2013-R-21.

CM Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-21. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Thompson read Resolution 2013-R-21 into that record. CM Thompson made a minor technical amendment to the resolution.

- ~~3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-19 urging M-NCPPC to fill a vacancy in the Community Planning Division~~

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-20 granting the Town Administrator an extension when implementing certain leave policies in the personnel manual

CM Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-R-20 granting the Town Administrator an extension when implementing certain leave policies in the personnel manual. The motion was seconded by CM Silva. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

5. Motion to waive bid requirements and award a contract to Yoscak Associates for communication room renovation project

CM Thompson made a motion to waive bid requirements and award a contract to Yoscak Associates for the communication room renovation project. The motion was seconded by CM Ebbeler. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

6. Motion to waive bid requirements and award a contract to TASER International for the purchase of tasers

CM Lingua made a motion to waive bid requirements and award a contract to TASER International for the purchase of tasers. The motion was seconded by CM Thompson. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

- Discussion of Crescent Cities Health & Rehabilitation Center (ROSP-4189-03): revision of special exception to add 6' fence, 7' high block retaining wall with piping for oxygen on existing loading area (Ward 1)

CM Ebbeler made a motion to send a conditional letter of approval to the Planning Director outlining concerns substantially similar to those listed in an e-mail to Town Administrator Imhulse with the stipulation that the Mayor may request a full Planning Board hearing if it is determined that there are not additional opportunities for the Town to provide input during the permitting process. The motion was seconded by CM Thompson. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

There was significant discussion about details that were not included in the application. CM Ebbeler and CM Thompson expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed use of chain link fencing. CM Ebbeler requested clarification on the overall process and whether the Town will have other opportunities to review and provide input.

Adjournment

CM Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Ebbeler. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Typed from notes by JEB.