

Town of Riverdale Park
Worksession Minutes
January 30, 2017
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Vernon S. Archer, Mayor
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Leonard Addison, Director of Public Works
David Morris, Chief of Police
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Archer called the legislative meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Archer announced that the special legislative meeting had been cancelled as the Legislative Action Item was not ready for consideration.

Approval of Agenda

CM Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Thompson.
Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Presentations

Swearing-in of Officer Bennett

Mayor Archer administered the constitutional oath of office to Officer Bennett.

Actuarial Report, Bolton Partners and PNC

Kris Seets and Ann Sturner of Bolton Partners presented the July 1, 2016 Actuarial Valuation Results for the Town of Riverdale Park Defined Benefit Plan.

Lisa Locher of PNC presented an investment overview of the Town's Defined Benefit Plan.

McInturff Architects

Architect Mark McInturff presented new designs for a reorganization of Town Hall.

Discussion:

Mayor Archer gave an overview of funding for the Town Hall project.

CM Lingua stated that he would like to see the space behind the Council Chambers used as a break room for Town Staff and additional storage.

CM Thompson asked if the proposed conference room design was smaller than the current conference room. CM Thompson also asked about the proposed vestibule doors and the proposed patio area. Mr. McInturff gave more details regarding those aspects of the plans.

Mayor Archer asked what the next steps would be and Mr. McInturff explained that he would put a team together to create detailed plans for more of a functional fit.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Vernon Archer discussed recent federal government actions regarding refugees and immigrants. He stated that the Town may need to issue a statement or something similar as current events do not reflect the reality of Riverdale Park residents.

Mayor Archer also discussed an upcoming Community Discussion regarding refugees and immigrants hosted by CM Glaros to be held on February 1 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Center for Educational Partnership (6200 Sheridan Street, Riverdale).

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- First report to Mayor and Council after 8 days on the job
- Overview of new communication items: packet memo for each agenda item and regularly scheduled Status and Information reports to the Council and residents (twice monthly)
- Discussion regarding upcoming budget process and schedule
- Overview of staff efforts to capture existing opportunities for revenue
- Expects to receive constant yield rate from State on February 15
- Minutes will be done for worksessions starting on January 30
- Upcoming closure of Town Hall and DPW on February 20 (Presidents' Day)
- Reminder to Mayor and Council regarding Financial Disclosure Forms
- Proclamation to be presented at February 27 worksession regarding March as Ethics Awareness Month
- Impressed by residents at recent Chief's Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Police Department Report

Chief of Police David Morris welcomed Town Manager John Lestitian and deferred his report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

Public Works Report

Director of Public Works Leonard Addison reported that there may be a weather event on Sunday, February 5th and trash collection would take place as scheduled on February 20th (Presidents' Day).

Discussion:

CM Richardson stated that the work on the Riverdale Road Bridge was progressing well. CM Silva requested signage on Riverdale Road to caution motorists of the bike and pedestrian crossing.

Council Committee & Ward Report

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

CM Alan Thompson, Ward 2

CM Alan Thompson deferred his report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua discussed the recent creation of an Executive Director position for CKAR and reminded the Council that CKAR would be making a presentation at the February 6 legislative meeting.

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

CM Christopher Henry deferred his report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

CM Alejandro Silva deferred his report to the legislative meeting on February 6.

Discussion Items

1. Fence Permit Application: 4803 Nicholson Street, 6-foot wooden backyard fence (Ward 3)

CM Lingua stated that he had spoken with the property owner of 4803 Nicholson Street and was supportive of their fence request. The applicant stated that she would try again to contact her neighbors regarding her fence. CM Lingua requested that this item be added to the Consent Agenda for approval at the February 6 legislative meeting.

2. Request for a temporary business license and waiver from section 42-14(b)(1), 42-14(b)(4), and 42-14(b)(5) of the Town Code for Ed's Garden Center to sell flowers at 6111 Kenilworth Avenue (Ward 4)

CM Henry discussed the request made by Ed's Garden Center. The applicant stated that this would be his sixth year requesting permission to conduct his business around Valentine's Day and Mother's Day and there were no changes from previous years. CM Henry stated that he was supportive of the request and requested that the item be placed on the Consent Agenda for approval at the February 6 legislative meeting.

3. Election items: time and place of election, authorization for paper ballots, establish candidate filing fee and deadline

Mayor Archer gave an overview of election items that required action from the Mayor and Council at the February 6 legislative meeting.

4. Appointment of Election Judges

Mayor Archer stated that each Ward will need a nominee for both an election judge and a member of the Board of Election Appeals. Town Clerk Jessica Barnes stated that there was also a vacancy for Deputy Chief Election Judge that would also need to be filled.

5. City of Hyattsville Safe Streets Coalition Memorandum of Understanding

Chief Morris gave an overview of the Safe Street Coalition and the level of participation needed. CM Dixon requested clarification regarding the goals of the Safe Street Coalition and Chief Morris discussed how the Coalition will operate.

6. Minutes from January 3, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Mayor Archer requested that the Council submit any corrections to the minutes to the Town Clerk.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- CM Dixon discussed parking permits for commercial properties. Chief Morris stated that Lieutenant Colonel Timmons would contact CM Dixon to discuss permit parking in Town.
- CM Thompson stated that the County Zoning Rewrite was progressing and there may be an item to discuss at the legislative meeting on February 6.
- The Council discussed the creation of a Town statement regarding refugees and immigrants. CM Dixon stated that there were several items to consider when drafting the language for the statement. Mayor Archer agreed and stated that he would create a draft statement as a starting point and the Council would collaborate to develop a final statement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Typed from notes by JEB.