

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
June 19, 2017
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:00 p.m.

Presentations:

Bike Share: Vic Weissberg and Karyn McAlister, Department of Public Works & Transportation

Karyn McAlister discussed the proposed bike share in Prince George's County. Ms. McAlister discussed the findings of the bike share study and the phases for implementing a bike share in Prince George's County. Ms. McAlister also discussed the features of Capital Bike Share and funding.

Discussion:

CM Dixon asked if federal grants had been guaranteed. Ms. McAlister explained that even if funding is not received from federal grants, the County will still implement phase 1 and phase 1A next spring.

CM Lingua asked if input would be requested from municipalities when selecting locations for the bike share. Ms. McAlister stated that they would begin seeking input in mid-July.

Resident Corey Bettenhauser asked if there were any plans or ideas on how to make Baltimore Avenue more bike friendly. Mayor Thompson reported that a portion of Baltimore Avenue near Riverdale Park Station will have bike lanes installed.

Resident Devanya Smith asked about the security of the bikes. Ms. McAlister explained that each bike was unique and the parts were not universal which was a deterrent for theft of the bikes.

Resident Lora Katz stated that the bike share was very exciting and asked if the usage data would be publicly available. Ms. McAlister stated that the company would be able to provide data in many formats.

East Riverdale Beacon Heights Preliminary Plan: M-NCPPC Community Planning Division

Susan Hartman gave an overview of the preliminary East Riverdale Beacon Heights Sector Plan. She also discussed the overall process and how the Town can provide comments.

CM Lingua stated that he was concerned regarding the discouragement of private development in the regulated areas in Town.

Mayor Thompson expressed concerns regarding the Plan's reliance on the 1989 Flood Map and policy decisions that were based on old data.

Resident Devanya Smith stated that she was concerned regarding costs.

Resident Lora Katz asked if consideration was given to connecting green spaces as wildlife often move due to construction and connecting green space to give wildlife a chance not to interact with people as much.

Bates Trucking: Bruce Bates

Bruce Bates stated that his company had been providing service to the Town since 2007 and they looked forward to continuing to provide service.

Ylrico Alexander of Bates Trucking stated that they had been busy building infrastructure to improve services to the Town. He stated that new equipment had been purchased and their staff was receiving ongoing training. Mr. Alexander stated that they were pressing forward to become better and stay connected with the communities that they serve.

CM Dixon stated that she had received complaints of garbage not being picked up from residents. Mr. Alexander stated that “misses” happen but there were a variety of circumstances. He stated that regardless of the circumstances, Bates comes out and picks up the “missed” garbage. He stated that the address is then placed on a “hot sheet” for 4 weeks to be sure that they are not missed again. Mr. Alexander stated that they also change routes and retrain staff.

CM Dixon stated that there also seemed to be a range of pick-up times. Mr. Alexander stated that their services start at 6:30 a.m. and continue until they are done. He also stated that they try to be consistent with pick-up times and routes.

Mr. Alexander introduced Venice Watkins who is the Community Supervisor for Riverdale Park. Mr. Alexander stated that Ms. Watkins follows the garbage trucks periodically to check on the quality of service provided.

CM Lingua stated that resident Mr. Hurdle had attended the meeting because of his concerns regarding Bates’s service. CM Lingua stated that when Bates was first hired the service was phenomenal and he wondered if the change in service was due to the challenges associated with the growth of the business. Mr. Alexander discussed sludge and mechanics of loading trash. Mr. Alexander also suggested that educating residents regarding bagging their trash would also help to eliminate some of the issues.

Mr. Bates stated that the workforce had changed over the last decade and that had posed a challenge. Mr. Bates stated that quality control measures had been put in place to eliminate problems and a new fleet of trucks were purchased to help to eliminate spillage. He stated that there were challenges last year when entire County changed to once a week garbage pick-up and crews and routes were switched as a result. Ms. Bates stated that they were dedicated to providing excellent service.

Mayor Thompson asked when he should report “misses” if he receives complaints. Mr. Alexander stated that he could call at any time.

Mayor Thompson also stated that he had received complaints regarding yard waste. Mr. Alexander stated that many complaints are a result of moving from plastic bags to only picking up paper bags and often the volume of complaints correlates to the yard waste increase due to the season.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson deferred his report to the July 3rd legislative meeting.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported that business license and rental license renewals would be mailed at the end of the week and questions should be directed to the Town Clerk or Town Manager.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the July 3rd legislative meeting.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua deferred his report to the July 3rd legislative meeting.

CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

CM Alejandro Silva deferred his report to the July 3rd legislative meeting.

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

Discussion Items

1. Street closure request for 5000 block of Queensbury Road on August 2, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for National Night Out (Ward 2)

CM Lingua suggested that Discussion Item 1 be included on the July 3rd Consent Agenda. CM Dixon agreed.

- ~~2. Fence Permit Request: 4800 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~3. Fence Permit Request: 4802 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~4. Fence Permit Request: 4804 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~5. Fence Permit Request: 4806 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~6. Fence Permit Request: 4805 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~7. Fence Permit Request: 4803 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~
- ~~8. Fence Permit Request: 4801 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)~~

CM Lingua gave an overview of the fence permit requests and a boundary dispute. CM Lingua stated that he had spoken with Richard Kell of Troops First he is aware that the fence permit requests would not be on July 3rd legislative meeting agenda.

9. New Website Vendor Selection

Ms. Barnes discussed the website redesign proposal.

10. Police Officer Recruitment and Retention Program

Chief Morris gave an overview of the Police Officer Recruitment and Retention Program.

Discussion:

Chief Morris reported that there would be no additional costs and the reimbursements would be made as a result of salary savings.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff worked with Town Attorney Fred Sussman to develop the agreement.

11. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Constant Yield Public Hearing

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council contact the Town Clerk if there were any changes or corrections to the May 30, 2017 Constant Yield Public Hearing minutes. He also requested that the minutes be added to the July 3rd Consent Agenda.

12. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council contact the Town Clerk if there were any changes or corrections to the May 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting minutes. He also requested that the minutes be added to the July 3rd Consent Agenda.

13. Minutes from May 30, 2017 Work Session

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council contact the Town Clerk if there were any changes or corrections to the May 30, 2017 Work Session minutes. He also requested that the minutes be added to the July 3rd Consent Agenda.

14. Minutes from June 5, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council contact the Town Clerk if there were any changes or corrections to the June 5, 2017 Legislative Meeting minutes. He also requested that the minutes be added to the July 3rd Consent Agenda.

Unfinished Business

CM Lingua stated that he would like to have the Star Spangled Banner flown in recognition of the Battle of Bladensburg as has been done in previous years.

New Business

Mayor Thompson stated that he would be requesting feedback from the Council regarding a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Typed from notes by JEB.