

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2017
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Alan K. Thompson, Mayor
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, 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, Public Works Director
David Morris, Police Chief
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Paul Smith, Finance Director
Kevin Simpson, Development Services Director

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the legislative meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

CM Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua.
Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Presentation

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness month in both English and Spanish.

Correspondence Summary

The correspondence summary was included in the meeting materials.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Horrified and saddened by events in Las Vegas
- Riverdale Park Day will be held on Saturday, October 7th
- Concerns regarding flooding; would like to work with Public Safety Committee and others to be sure that we are prepared
- Update regarding recent and upcoming grand openings at Riverdale Park Station: Old Line Bank, Mod Pizza, District Taco, Burtons Grill, Gold's Gym and Xfinity
- Bridge construction going well; reminder to residents to wait until official opening before walking or driving on bridge
- Discussion regarding Discovery District workgroup

- Open House for College Park Academy will be held on October 3rd

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Riverdale Park Day this Saturday- thank you to sponsors for their support
- Park Tanglewood update: productive discussion with new owners; will tour property with owners at the end of October (when owners are in town); meeting with DHCD Director Brown scheduled for next week
- Finance team has been working closely with auditors onsite last week

Finance Report

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the finance report prepared for the Mayor and Council.

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

CM Henry requested that a brief finance report also be included in the Status and Information Report or Town Crier.

Fire Department Report

President Lamphier gave an overview of the Fire Department's report that was included in the meeting materials.

CM Henry asked President Lamphier how services are provided with low staffing levels and President Lamphier discussed the process for calls when staffing is low.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1 and Legislative Committee

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Trolley Trail is not opened
- Discussion regarding request from Hyattsville resident to join Hyattsville's efforts to make vacant buildings along Route 1 beautiful
- Workgroup for Capital Bikeshare: encouraged residents to get involved
- Working on a date for Ward 1 Community Walk
- Public Art Initiative: Hyattsville CDC is looking for sponsors to place exhibit signs next to each site
- Discussion regarding permit parking on Tuckerman Street as new business opens

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2 and Public Works Committee

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Discussion of issues regarding Field of Dreams
- Tree planting is available through DPW; encouraged residents to plant trees

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC meeting will be held on October 3rd at 7 p.m.
- Discussion regarding recent ATHA Governing Board meeting
- Overview of PGCMA's proposed legislative priorities

- Recent opening of new restaurant on Route 1: Las Comadres
- Riverdale Park Day on Saturday, October 7th

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Prayers to hurricane victims and victims of tragedy in Las Vegas- thank you to all first responders
- Congratulations to staff on Riverdale Park Day sponsorships
- Recently started conversation with colleagues regarding meeting length
- Madison Hill HOA meeting will be held on October 14th at 10:30 a.m. RPPD presence is requested
- Working to schedule Ward 4 community walk

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson did not have a report.

CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

CM Alejandro Silva reported that Ward 6 residents are being impacted by street people. CM Silva also reported that he is working to schedule a Ward 6 community walk.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Request: 4805 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)
2. Fence Permit Request: 4803 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)
3. Fence Permit Request: 4801 Chief Chris Kyle Court, 6-foot wooden fence (Ward 3)
4. Minutes from August 28, 2017 Work Session
5. Minutes from September 5, 2017 Legislative Meeting

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Henry seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to approve Salt Utilization Agreement between the Town and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for the distribution of salt to the Town

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Salt Utilization Agreement between the Town and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration for the distribution of salt to the Town. CM Henry seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

Public Works Director Addison gave an overview of the request to renew the Salt Utilization Agreement with SHA.

2. Motion regarding request for special exception for a 6-foot tall brick wall for trash enclosure at Park Tanglewood (Ward 5)

CM Richardson made a motion to approve the request for special exception for a 6-foot tall brick wall for trash enclosure at Park Tanglewood. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

3. Motion regarding request for special exception for an 18-foot tall noise wall made of ashlar stone along parcel TT at Riverdale Park Station (Ward 1)

CM Dixon made a motion to approve the request for a special exception for an 18-foot tall noise wall at Riverdale Park Station. The motion was seconded by CM Richardson. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Unfinished Business

Housing and Neighborhood – Vision and Commitment:

CM Lingua made a motion to table the item. CM Faulx seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

New Business

CM Henry discussed his concerns regarding the length of council meetings. CM Henry suggested that more items of business be handled through the Town Manager. CM Henry also suggested limiting the length of presentations including those made by Council Members, the Mayor and staff. Mayor Thompson discussed Robert's Rules of Order as they related to presentations/discussion and stated that he would meet with CM Henry prior to the next work session to discuss his concerns. CM Lingua suggested that the Council could also hold an additional work session (when there are many items to be addressed) to keep the meetings shorter.

Adjournment

CM Henry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)