

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
October 30, 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 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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:11 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson deferred his report to the November 6th legislative meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian:

- Town Hall will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veterans Day
- Veterans Day ceremony will be held on November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial
- Website project moving along well
- Town will have a Facebook page within next two weeks
- Body cameras: will come back to Mayor and Council in January with proposal and budget modification request
- Update on audit: will be completed by end of November if not sooner
- November 2nd Chat with the Chief at 4:00 p.m. and Ward 1 Community Walk at 5:15 p.m.
- Hiker-Biker trail will open by October 31st

Discussion:

CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding a stretch of Hiker-Biker trail that is behind the Riverdale Park Station townhomes. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would talk with Mark Regulinsky and Chief Morris about the concerns regarding safety along that stretch of the trail.

Resident Malina Flores suggested that the stretch of the Hiker-Biker trail be included in the Ward 1 Community Walk. Ms. Flores also inquired about the vacant position and staffing levels.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred the majority of her report to the November 6th legislative meeting. CM Dixon reminded residents that the Ward 1 community walk would be held on Thursday, November 2nd and all residents are welcome to participate. CM Dixon also thanked Lora Katz for her tremendous efforts in re-certifying Riverdale Park as a Sustainable Maryland community.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx deferred his report to the November 6th legislative meeting and thanked Lora Katz for her hard work.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua also thanked Lora Katz and wished residents a happy Halloween.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5:

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the November 6th legislative meeting.

CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6

CM Alejandro Silva deferred his report to the November 6th legislative meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Variance Requests for 5303 50th Avenue: Variances of 2,172 square feet net lot area, 15 feet front building line width, 10 feet front yard depth, 10 feet rear yard depth/width, 31.8% net lot coverage and waiver of parking area location requirement (Ward 3)

CM Lingua stated that he had been in contact with the property owner. CM Lingua gave an overview of the request. CM Lingua stated that granting the variances for 27-442(b), 27-442(d), 27-442(e) are acceptable as the structure was pre-existing. CM Lingua stated that he did not support granting variances for 27-442(c) and 27120.01(c) because the asphalt pavement in front of the property will encourage parking and concerns regarding flooding and potential impacts of run-off on other properties.

Property owner Xiwen Shi explained that the property was previously a multi-family rental and the front yard was just dirt. Ms. Shi stated that they paved over the dirt as recommended by a consultant to address moisture in the basement of the home. Ms. Shi stated that she wanted to work towards a solution because she did not want the house to be vacant for too long.

CM Lingua stated that the property owners had done a great job improving the property and he would meet with them to discuss potential changes to their site plan.

2. Fence Permit Request: replace existing fence with a 6-foot wooden stockade fence at 6309 46th Avenue (Ward 1)

Applicant Marita Flores discussed the plans for her fence. CM Dixon stated that she did not have any issues with the fence permit request as it was the replacement of an existing fence. CM Dixon stated that she would contact the neighbors but the request could be placed on the November 6th Consent Agenda.

3. Street Closure Request: Queensbury Road at Natoli Place and Lafayette Avenue at Natoli Place on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for Veterans Day

CM Faulx requested that the street closure request be added to the November 6th Consent Agenda.

4. Reimplementation of Automated Red-Light Camera Enforcement

Chief Morris discussed the history regarding automated red-light camera enforcement in the Town. Chief Morris stated that he would recommend moving forward with reimplementation of automated red-light camera enforcement in order to address motor vehicle safety concerns. Chief Morris stated that he would also recommend staying with Opto-traffic. Chief Morris stated that there would be no cost to the Town and the preliminary locations of the cameras would be selected based on vehicle crash data.

CM Lingua discussed issues that the Town encountered when implementing the program with Opto-traffic in the past. Chief Morris stated that he had worked hard to be clear about expectations and have not had any issues in recent history.

CM Silva discussed his concerns regarding speeding on Kenilworth Avenue. CM Silva stated that Military Road in Arlington had great signage reminding drivers to slow down. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would contact SHA regarding enhanced signals on Kenilworth Avenue.

5. Prince George's County Computer Aided Dispatch Memorandum of Understanding

Chief Morris gave an overview of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Memorandum of Understanding.

Resident Lora Katz asked if the computers in the cars would need to be upgraded. Chief Morris stated that the RAM would need to be upgraded but the cost would be minimal.

6. Community Development Agreement for the Purple Line

The Community Development Agreement for the Purple Line will be included on the regular agenda on November 6th.

7. Vision for Housing and Neighborhoods

Town Manager Lestitian discussed recent feedback regarding the vision statement for housing and neighborhoods. CM Lingua suggested that the word "valued" be included in the section regarding historic preservation.

8. Minutes from September 25, 2017 Work Session

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council review the September 25th minutes and provide staff with any feedback that they may have.

9. Minutes from October 2, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council review the October 2nd minutes and provide staff with any feedback that they may have.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

CM Dixon discussed her concerns regarding the train horn. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Town has a federally designated Quiet Zone and he is working to find a responsive contact with CSX to determine the best way to file a complaint. CM Faulx suggested that a complaint could be filed with the Federal Railway Administration. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would provide more information to the Council.

CM Dixon stated that she would like for the Council to consider voting rights for all Riverdale Park residents for local elections.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Typed from notes by JEB.