

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
November 27, 2017
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3

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 8:06 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson deferred his report to the December 4th legislative meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Staff plans to have FY19 proposed budget to Mayor and Council on April 2nd
- Overview of upcoming holiday activities

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the December 4th Legislative Meeting.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx deferred his report to the December 4th Legislative Meeting.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua deferred his report to the December 4th Legislative Meeting

Discussion Items

1. Variance Request: 1-foot side street yard depth for the dwelling, 7.9% net lot coverage and 1-foot rear lot line setback for an accessory building for 5610 Taylor Road (Ward 3)

CM Lingua gave an overview of recent discussions with the applicant, Mr. Trejo. CM Lingua explained that two of the variances requested, 1-foot side street yard depth for the dwelling and 1-foot rear lot line setback for an accessory building, were inherited when the property was purchased and he recommended support of those variance requests.

CM Lingua stated that the applicant had indicated that he would make changes to his plans in order to greatly decrease the need for the net lot coverage variance. CM Lingua also stated that the applicant was willing to install rain barrels if needed.

Mr. Trejo stated that he would be in contact with his contractor to determine options to make the project work.

2. Variance Request: 8 feet side yard width and 7% net lot coverage for 4802 Sheridan Street (Ward 2)

CM Faulx gave an overview of the requested variances and outlined several concerns regarding the state of the applicant's property. CM Faulx stated that he wanted to meet with the applicant to discuss their variance request and overall project.

The applicant stated that they had recently saved enough money to start the project and they planned to make repairs to their property and remove debris as part of the overall project. The applicant also stated that a contractor was hired to do the work and he was willing to meet with CM Faulx to discuss the project.

CM Lingua stated that many of the items in the applicant's yard required special disposal and he strongly encouraged the applicant to contact the Department of the Environment to ensure proper disposal of those items.

3. Parking along 4500 block of Madison Street (Ward 1)

CM Dixon discussed parking issues that were identified during a recent Ward 1 Community Walk. Chief Morris stated that he had assessed the area and that installation of signage was needed order to take appropriate enforcement action.

Resident Jeff Burns of the 5800 block of Harrison Avenue discussed concerns regarding the overflow of cars onto Harrison Avenue. Mr. Burns stated that he wanted to be sure that the Town takes holistic approach to parking in the area as any additional parking restrictions may cause a ripple effect. CM Dixon discussed the unintended consequences of permit parking.

Resident Richard Bennett of the 5800 block of Harrison Avenue stated that a streetlight was needed at the corner of Madison Street and Harrison Avenue (on track side). Mr. Bennett also suggested that there were other options available to create more parking for the townhouses.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would update the Mayor and Council on this topic through the Town Manager's report.

4. Parking signage at Town Center for Farmers Market (Ward 1)

Staff discussed the current practice for blocking the parking lot of Town Center each week for the Farmers Market. Staff suggested that parking be restricted on Thursdays from 5 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and for signs to be installed. Mayor Thompson requested that this item be placed on the December 4th consent agenda.

5. Street Closure Request: Rhode Island Avenue between Queensbury Road and Riverdale Road on December 16, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for Holiday Market (Ward 1)

CM Dixon gave an overview of the request to close Rhode Island Avenue between Queensbury Road and Riverdale Road for the annual Holiday Market and Festival of Lights.

CM Lingua discussed concerns regarding how the road would be blocked and if vendors would be placed in the blocked roadway. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Police Department and Public Works would work together to provide more specific information regarding how the road would be closed.

CM Lingua requested that this item be placed on the regular agenda on December 4th.

6. Boy Scout Troop 252: Request to re-charter

Mayor Thompson stated that he was seeking a motion to authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to charter local Boy Scout Troop 252. CM Lingua stated that he would be happy to sponsor this item.

7. Abatement of potential sidewalk hazards

Director Addison discussed the Town's sidewalk system and the work needed to abate potential hazards. Director Addison gave an overview of the services available from Precision Concrete Cutting.

The Council discussed the Town's policy of installing sidewalks as part of major road work in areas that do not have sidewalks. CM Lingua stated that a resident had asked about sidewalks along East-West Highway. Mayor Thompson stated that the State Highway Administration would handle the sidewalks along East-West Highway as it was a State roadway.

Mayor Thompson stated that the contract would be discussed at a Special Legislative Meeting on December 18th.

8. Reimplementation of Automated Red-Light Camera Enforcement with Opto-traffic

Chief Morris gave an overview of the request to re-implement the Automated Red-Light Camera Enforcement program. Chief Morris stated that the program would improve traffic safety and allow RPPD to be effective and efficient with resources. Chief Morris stated that the Town currently works with Opto-traffic on speed camera enforcement and parking enforcement.

Chief Morris stated that the cameras would be in place after January 1 and that the placement of the cameras would be posted on the Town's website in the interest of transparency. Chief Morris stated that the placement of the cameras would be based on traffic crash data.

9. Municipal Curbside Recycling Agreement with Prince George's County

Town Manager Lestitian updated the Mayor and Council regarding the Municipal Curbside Recycling Agreement and outlined the options available to the Town. CM Faulx stated that discontinuing curbside recycling was not an option in his opinion. CM Lingua discussed the feasibility of requesting a quote from Bates to consolidate with the current trash contract. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the additional cost of returning the County recycling bins if the Town chose to discontinue service with the County.

10. Vision for Environmental Sustainability

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff was seeking input from the Mayor and Council regarding initial thoughts on the Town's vision for Environmental Sustainability. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he was also working with the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (Green Team) and their input would be included in a draft vision statement from staff.

11. Draft 2018 Council Meeting Schedule

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the inclusion of twelve (12) Community Walks on the Council Meeting Schedule and how staff planned to handle Community Walks in the coming year.

12. Minutes from October 30, 2017 Work Session

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide feedback to staff regarding the October 30, 2017 Work Session minutes.

13. Minutes from October 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide feedback to staff regarding the October 30, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting minutes.

14. Minutes from November 6, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide feedback to staff regarding the November 6, 2017 Legislative Meeting minutes.

Unfinished Business

CM Lingua asked if the homeless encampments along the Anacostia were still present as he was concerned that the weather was changing. Chief Morris stated that the encampments had been present in the warmer months (near Edmonston) and he would check to see if they were still in place. Chief Morris stated that Park and Planning was aware of the issue as they have primary jurisdiction of the parks and surrounding areas.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.