

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**December 18, 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  
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4 (left at 9:45)  
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5 (left at 9:45)  
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  
Kevin Simpson, Director of Development Services

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:03 p.m.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Thompson expressed his appreciation to Town Staff for making the holiday events great and to the residents for making the holiday season bright.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Upcoming holiday closings
- Update regarding transition of the Town's Facebook page
- Draft audit report was received on December 18, 2017, which was 6 months sooner than the previous year
- Discussion regarding automated system for staff approval of purchases

**Council Committee & Ward Reports**

**CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx wished everyone holidays full of peace and goodwill.

**CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua reported:

- Next CKAR CDC meeting would be held on January 9, 2018.
- Thanked staff for a fantastic Holiday Market and Festival of Lights. He stated that the event started as a neighborhood initiative and had grown over time.
- Happy holidays!

### **CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4**

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Has seen some improvements since the last meeting
- Flag at Town Hall should be raised as it no longer needed to be at half-staff
- Wish everyone safe and happy holidays!

### **CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5**

CM Colleen Richardson wished everyone happy holidays.

### **CM Alejandro Silva, Ward 6**

CM Alejandro Silva wished everyone a very good Christmas.

### **Discussion Items**

1. Request for Letter of Support for Food Truck Hub in Discovery District for calendar year 2018

CM Silva stated that he was fine with the request as long as the food trucks stayed in the designated area. The item will be added to the Consent Agenda for the legislative meeting on January 8, 2018.

2. Vision for Environmental Sustainability

Town Manager Lestitian stated that a draft vision statement for sustainability had been provided to the Council for their review and input. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff had been working with the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee to develop the vision statement and one major change was from Environmental Sustainability to overall Sustainability.

CM Lingua requested clarification regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> whereas statement. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would follow up with the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee and report back to the Council.

3. Economic Development Programming

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the staff recommended programs and initiatives for Economic Development.

CM Lingua stated that code violation history should be included in the application review process.

CM Henry asked if any of the programs would be available for non-profits. Town Manager Lestitian stated that funds remain for the Council's discretion from an Economic Development perspective and a different process may be needed for non-profits. Town Manager Lestitian explained that there are more funding opportunities for non-profits rather than for profit businesses and the intent of the proposed programs are to be a vehicle to help small businesses.

CM Faulx asked if the Economic Development Fund would be replenished on an annual basis and Town Manager Lestitian stated that the goal was to do so in the FY19 budget.

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the Celebrating Business Initiative.

Resident Corey Bettenhauser asked if there were any examples or evidence that these types of grants work. Town Manager Lestitian explained that the proposed programs are not dissimilar to programs found in many medium- to small-sized municipalities.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the steps that would need to be taken to move forward with the programs such as the adoption of resolutions establishing the grant programs and an ordinance to amend the Town Code.

4. Minutes from November 27, 2017 Work Session

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide any feedback that they may have to staff regarding the draft minutes.

5. Minutes from December 4, 2017 Legislative Meeting

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide any feedback that they may have to staff regarding the draft minutes.

### **Unfinished Business**

CM Henry noted that a correction needed to be made to the spelling of a speaker's name in the December 4, 2017 Legislative Meeting minutes. The Town Clerk noted the correction.

CM Lingua discussed a recent e-mail from a resident regarding ongoing rodent issues stemming from Calvert Park Apartments. Development Services Director Kevin Simpson discussed the actions that had been taken to address the issue. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the need to remove the food supply for the rodents which is complicated by the walnut trees in the area which provide a constant food supply. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Town would be distributing information to residents.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.