

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
January 29, 2018
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5 (arrived at 8:12 p.m.)

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
David Morris, Chief of Police
Patrick Timmons, Assistant 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 8:06 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson deferred his report to the February 5th legislative meeting.

Mayor Thompson stated that CM Faulx, CM Henry and CM Silva were unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Update regarding 6304 Taylor Road: Staff will be meeting with DPIE to discuss the Town's concerns
- Hyattsville CDC reception and dedication for Great Blue Herons sculpture will be held on February 7th at 10:30 a.m. at Town Hall
- Website will be going live in March
- Discussion regarding moving Riverdale Park Day to June 2019
- Town Hall and DPW will be closed on February 19th

Discussion:

CM Lingua asked if there was any new information regarding the car fire in Ward 3. Chief Morris replied that there was no new information.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the February 5th legislative meeting.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua deferred his report to the February 5th legislative meeting.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the February 5th legislative meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Rental Licenses and Inspections Programs - Chapter 55 and 56

Town Manager Lestitian stated that proposed revisions to Chapter 55 were included in the meeting materials and staff would be seeking introduction of legislation to amend Chapter 55 at the end of February.

Office of Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the proposed revisions.

CM Lingua asked if the rental license renewals would be based on the fiscal year and if that would have an impact on staff workloads. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the workflow for the renewal process.

CM Lingua asked if the proposed revisions would include oversight for properties like AirBNBs. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the discussions with the Council in the early fall indicated that Council wanted only owner occupied properties with two or more rented rooms included in the rental program. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would do some research to see what other jurisdictions are doing to address the issue. CM Lingua clarified that the properties in question would not have a consistent tenant, more like a bed and breakfast.

Resident Corey Bettenhausen of 4512 Riverdale Road expressed his concerns regarding AirBNBs and whether inspections were required to be posted as well. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a balanced approach was needed and it may be possible to include a list of licensed rentals on the Town website. Mr. Bettenhausen also suggested that staff review Section 55-4 for clarity.

2. Parking Regulation:

Restrictions on parking on west side of Taylor Road from Ravenswood Road to East West Highway;

Public Works Director Addison stated that cars parked along the west side of Taylor Road are causing a bottle neck and backing up traffic on East West Highway especially during rush hour.

CM Lingua asked if a no parking zone was needed on both sides of Taylor Road. Director Addison stated that a no parking zone on the west side of the street would be sufficient and Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff try to be as least restrictive as possible to meet the desired goal.

CM Lingua stated that he had received complaints from residents regarding parking on both sides of the roadway along Taylor Road in Ward 3. Director Addison stated that staff are monitoring the issue.

Restrictions on parking on curve from Madison Street to Harrison Avenue

Director Addison gave an overview of the issues created by cars parking along both side of the roadway along the curve between Madison Street and Harrison Avenue. Director Addison stated that the goal was to keep whole area safe.

CM Dixon stated that she was concerned that 12 parking spaces would be eliminated and she receives a lot of complaints regarding parking in that area. Director Addison stated that sight clearance was needed for larger vehicles such as snow plows and emergency vehicles. CM Dixon asked if Director Addison would visit the site with her and show her where the signs would be placed and he agreed.

Resident Corey Bettenhausen thanked the Council for taking pedestrians into consideration as he often uses the crosswalk that is in the curve. Mr. Bettenhausen suggested that in the future parking should be taken into consideration when approving new development.

3. Parking Permit Program – Chapter 64

Lt. Colonel Timmons stated that staff had reviewed the parking permit process and parking permit areas. Lt. Colonel Timmons stated that out of the 16 existing parking permit areas 9 of them go back to the early 90's and the reason for the parking areas no longer exists. Lt. Colonel Timmons gave an overview of the 9 areas. CM Lingua suggested that staff reach out to residents in the parking areas to see if they still need permit parking.

Lt. Colonel Timmons gave an overview of the other proposed changes such as universal parking signs throughout Town, the use of a hangers instead of decals and a limit on the number of visitor parking permits.

4. Ethics Ordinance Revisions

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the revisions to the Town's ethics ordinance.

5. Vision and Commitment to Business and Economic Development

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff are seeking input from the Council, residents and business community regarding the Town's Vision and Commitment to Business and Economic Development.

6. 2020 Census Update

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes discussed the preparations for the upcoming 2020 Census.

7. Mixed-Used Town Center Local Design Review Committee Membership

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes provided an update regarding MUTC membership. Mayor Thompson requested that staff start soliciting for volunteers.

8. Budget process update and Capital Improvement Projects

Finance Director Paul Smith gave an update on the budget process and noted that worksheets for each cost center would be going out to the Leadership Team soon.

Town Manager Lestitian gave an update on the FY2018 Capital Improvement projects.

9. Minutes from December 18, 2017 Work Session

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

10. Minutes from December 18, 2017 Special Legislative Meeting

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

11. Minutes from January 9, 2018 Legislative Meeting

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

12. Request for letter of support for Town Center Market food truck hub

Mayor Thompson discussed a request that he had received from Jim Spiropoulos regarding a letter of support for his food truck hub. Mayor Thompson requested that the approval of a letter of support for the food truck hub located at Town Center Market be added to next week's agenda.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

CM Dixon asked how the police department handles complaints regarding pets. Chief Morris explained that it depended on the case. He stated that if a bite was involved then the Police Department would take a report but the investigation would be done by Prince George's County Animal Control. Chief Morris stated that almost all cases are referred to animal control because they have the expertise.

Adjournment

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