

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1 (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

Call to Order

Council Vice-Chair David J. Lingua called the Legislative Meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Moment of Silence

CM Lingua led a moment of silence in recognition of the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Approval of Agenda

CM Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Presentation

National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

CM Lingua read a proclamation recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, 2018.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Mayor's Report

Council Vice-Chair David J. Lingua reported on behalf of Mayor Alan Thompson:

- Overview of closed meeting held on July 23, 2018, to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!
- Welcome back from summer recess!
- Mayor Thompson is currently in Italy hosting an international meeting that could not be rescheduled
- Saddened to learn that CM Silva had to resign from Council and due to timing of the vacancy, a replacement will be appointed by Mayor Thompson. The Mayor is seeking suggestions from Ward 6 residents regarding the appointment of their Ward representative.

- Mayor Thompson requested that the Council consider a motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to the Prince George's County Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development (PZED) Committee regarding restrictions on digital billboards and to also request that any existing billboard in M-UTC be restricted.
- Mayor Thompson also requested that the Council consider sending a letter to Congressman Steny Hoyer to express their opposition to the proposed toll lanes on I-495, I-270 and Maryland 295.
- Reflected on visit to the Town's Sister City, Ipala, Guatemala during summer recess
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at Riverdale Park Day on October 6th!
- The new Town website is up and running- thank you to staff!

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Staff worked hard on the new Town website and continues to add items. Discussion regarding a request from a resident for meeting materials which are now included on the Town's new website.
- Development Services staff are in the beginning stages of working with University of Maryland students regarding a Community Garden.
- Town is well prepared for upcoming storm- staff have been coordinating and are in contact with the County and State emergency preparedness entities.

Finance Report

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

Town Manager Lesitian reported that finance staff were busy closing out FY2018 and working with the auditors to begin the audit process. Town Manager Lestitian discussed an error that was identified on the finance reports provided to Council and stated that the Council would be receiving updated reports that reflected accurate (decreased) year-to-date totals.

Fire Department Report

President Steve Lamphier reported:

- Department was happy to be part of the bridge opening
- Comptroller Franchot visited the Department over the summer
- Department has renewed request for daytime career staffing.
- Overview of new recruitment efforts
- There were no significant incidents to report from the summer
- The Department will be part of Riverdale Park Day
- The Department will be tied into County Fire Department during upcoming storm
- Planning a recruitment event in the Fall at Riverdale Park Station

Discussion:

CM Henry asked about the retention of members after they have received training and President Lamphier gave an overview.

CM Faulx stated that as a Council and community they are very appreciative of the service of all first responders.

Resident Sheila Smith, 5001 Riverdale Road asked if the new website had a link and Town Manager Lestitian stated that the new website was at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Hopes that everyone had a great summer!
- Disappointed in the resignation of CM Silva- it is a huge loss for the Council and community.
- Looking forward to a fantastic fall with the Council
- New Town website looks great and is very helpful- looking forward to streaming of Council meetings
- September 8th Community Walk was rained out but everyone is encouraged to attend the next one.
- Plans to provide responses to Frequently Asked Questions in upcoming *Town Crier* articles regarding recent changes to Charter

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Encouraged everyone to pay attention to the storm updates
- Hopes that students have an incredible year. Encouraged everyone to look for opportunities to volunteer.
- Upcoming planning exercise for Field of Dreams, hopefully in October.
- Discussion regarding September 11th

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC will meet on September 11 from 7-9 pm at 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- ATHA Governing Board will meet on 9/20 in College Park
- Discussed Ward 3 resident concerns regarding Shoemaker commercial property.
- Update regarding storm water project on Longfellow Street
- Streetscape correction needed at 47th Avenue and Chief Chris Kyle Court
- Please drive carefully and be aware of student pedestrians

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- National Night Out was a huge success; thank you to residents and Riverdale Park Police Department officers who attended
- Currently is in the process of selling his home and moving out of the area. Will not be running for re-election (if home is not sold before next election)
- Overview of recent incident with Bates Trucking and Trash last week
- Thank you to police staff for all they have done for the Town over 14 years, thank you to all staff; will truly miss this Town
- Good job to Town Manager for getting in front of storm preparations
- Roadwork on Kenilworth Avenue- reminder to drivers to be courteous to each other
- Will take a huge part of Riverdale Park with them when they move and will truly miss everyone in Town.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson reported:

- Has been caring for mother and aunt after illnesses
- Hopeful that the Town will make it through the upcoming storm

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Street Closure Request for 6200 block of 43rd Street on September 15, 2018 from 12noon to 7:00 p.m. for annual Block Party (Ward 1)
2. Minutes from the Special Legislative Meeting on June 25, 2018
3. Minutes from the Legislative Meeting on July 2, 2018
4. Minutes from the Special Legislative Meeting on July 23, 2018

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

Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to waive bid requirements and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with G&C Consultants, Inc. not to exceed \$30,250 for design work related to the Longfellow Storm Water Management Project

CM Faulx made a motion to waive bid requirements and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with G&C Consultants, Inc. not to exceed \$30,250 for design work related to the Longfellow Storm Water Management Project. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the project as well as the requested legislative action.

Resident Bob Smith, 5001 Riverdale Road, stated that the action was part of a well-thought out process- a job well done.

CM Lingua thanked staff for moving the project forward.

2. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Axon regarding the TASER Assurance Plan Renewal

CM Henry made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Axon regarding the TASER Assurance Plan Renewal. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Lingua gave a brief overview of the request and Town Manager Lestitian provided additional clarification.

3. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Prince George's County for Bridge Maintenance

CM Faulx made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Prince George's County for Bridge Maintenance. CM Richardson seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Lingua stated that he was thankful for the additional effort by staff to formalize the relationship with the County regarding maintenance of the Bridge.

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-14 regarding Town's participation in LGIT Healthcare Cooperative

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-14 regarding Town's participation in LGIT Healthcare Cooperative. The motion was seconded by CM Richardson. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the requested legislative action.

5. Motion to approve the revised scope of the Municipal Center Project

CM Dixon made a motion to approve the revised scope of the Municipal Center Project. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Faulx stated that he wanted a more comfortable place to work for staff and an appealing place to hold public meetings.

CM Dixon asked if parts of the original project design would be included in the revised scope. Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the history of the project. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the scope of the project would guide the design.

CM Henry asked if the project would happen in phases. Town Manager Lestitian stated that there were things that needed to happen immediately, such as the roof repairs, and others that could wait. CM Henry stated that it was a much better approach to phase the project.

CM Henry requested a timeline for the project. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he planned to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the coming weeks and come back to Council in October for authorization.

6. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-OR-11 regarding amendments to Chapter 64 section 64-20 School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized

CM Henry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-OR-11 regarding amendments to Chapter 64 section 64-20 School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0

Discussion:

CM Henry asked for clarification regarding the changes to Chapter 64. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the rest of Chapter 64 would be revised before the end of the calendar year but the current changes only dealt with the school zones for automated speed enforcement.

CM Dixon stated that she was relying on the person who drafted the legislation regarding zones. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the legislation was drafted by Town Attorney Fred Sussman in consultation with by Chief Morris.

CM Richardson noted that there was a lot of traffic moving through Town.

7. Motion to declare a Council Vacancy in Ward 6

CM Richardson made a motion to declare a Council Vacancy in Ward 6. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Lingua gave an overview of the vacancy process. CM Richardson stated that she may know someone who would want to serve as the Ward 6 representative.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

1. Letter to PZED regarding CB-076-2018, digital billboards

CM Henry made a motion to authorize the Town Manager send a letter to the PZED Committee regarding CB-076-2018 opposing the potential impact of billboards within M-UTC zone. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

CM Faulx stated that he agreed with the position of the Mayor and digital billboards were not something that the Council should support in Riverdale Park.

Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that a digital billboard near 410 would be a safety issue, create light pollution, and increase energy consumption.

2. Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that during a recent power failure, people did not call Pepco. He stated that people needed to be reminded to call Pepco if there is a power outage especially with the storm approaching.

Adjournment

CM Henry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0 (favorable)