

**Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
September 24, 2018
8:00 p.m.**

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Kevin Simpson, Development Services Director
David Morris, Chief of Police

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson deferred his report to the October 1st Legislative Meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Lestitian reported:

- Department of Public Works and State Highway Administration partnership is showing progress as the area along East West Highway is looking better.
- Staff are working on a plan to replace a dump truck. The vehicle was not included in the CIP budget to be replaced however the necessary repairs would be over \$20,000. Staff will bring a funding proposal to Council.
- First quarterly report on Town grants will be included in an October Status and Information Report.
- The old Town website located at www.riverdaleparkmd.info now directs people to the new www.riverdaleparkmd.gov website
- Riverdale Park Day will be held on October 6th

Discussion:

CM Lingua asked how the CIP will be adjusted for the purchase of the dump truck. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Finance team was looking for alternate funding sources for other CIP projects and not a push back of any projects.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Faulx deferred his report to the October 1st Legislative Meeting.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM Lingua gave an overview of the recent ATHA Governing Board Meeting to include:

- ATHA Managing Board Slate
- Need for a letter of appointment for community representative
- List of potential projects for MHAA funding
- Update on the Heritage Center
- Prince George's County Clean Up Green Up scheduled for October 20th

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Richardson did not have a report.

Mayor Thompson reported that the Council Members from Ward 1 and Ward 4 were unable to attend the meeting and contacted the Council ahead of time.

Discussion Items

1. Fence Permit Application: 5012 Oglethorpe Street, 6-foot privacy fence in backyard (Ward 3)

Applicant Dustin Siciak explained that their fence would connect a pre-existing fence to their house which would enclose the backyard for their dog.

CM Faulx asked if the applicant had spoken with his neighbors about the fence. Mr. Siciak replied that he had and all of his neighbors were supportive of the fence.

CM Lingua requested that Discussion Item 1 be moved to the October 1st Consent Agenda.

2. 7-Eleven #37240 (SP-150003-01): Request for a Special Permit for the addition of a ground-mounted freestanding sign at 6315 Baltimore Avenue

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson reported that the Special Permit request would be reviewed by M-UTC on October 3rd. Mayor Thompson stated that he would be meeting with the applicant's attorney, Mr. Tedesco, on Thursday evening at Town Hall.

CM Lingua stated that he was not supportive of the Special Permit request as the sign would create a traffic safety issue. CM Richardson stated that she agreed with CM Lingua.

3. 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) Draft Plan

Mayor Thompson gave an overview of his comments regarding the 2040 MTP Draft Plan. Mayor Thompson stated that he would work with staff to prepare a list of comments prior to the November 15th submission deadline. CM Lingua discussed his concerns with the Draft Plan.

Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road, discussed his thoughts on the 2040 MTP Draft Plan.

4. Amendments to Chapter 23 Fees

Town Manager Lestitian stated that there were two edits to the distributed materials; the addition of USB thumb drives and the fee for credit cards would not apply to debit cards based on preliminary research.

CM Lingua asked if staff planned to accept money transfers from banks as an option to pay Town invoices. Town Manager Lestitian stated that it would depend on what proposals came in for the RFP for finance software.

Mayor Thompson asked if staff had considered a charge for file sharing.

5. Ordinance 2018-OR-12 regarding revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Mayor Thompson stated that he wanted clarification on 35(d)(2) regarding sections of the Financial Disclosure Forms that have a home address and he would follow up with Town Attorney Fred Sussman.

6. Competitive Negotiated Sale Process

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson provided an overview of the Competitive Negotiated Sale (CNS) Process and noted that staff have also created an application. Development Services Director Simpson stated that staff recommend that 4603 East West Highway undergo the CNS process as it is no longer needed for a public purpose.

CM Faulx asked where the revenue from the property sale would go and Town Manager Lestitian stated that the revenue would be used to retro fit the Public Works building so that equipment could be stored onsite.

Mayor Thompson stated that the application should include a statement indicating that the information provided on the application form may be used to create a Development Agreement.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff were seeking a motion to approve the Competitive Negotiated Sale (CNS) Process and a motion stating that 4603 East West Highway was no longer needed for a public purpose at the October Legislative Meeting.

7. Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the draft of the Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement was placed on the agenda for further discussion and input. Mayor Thompson stated that he had a couple of comments that he would send to staff.

Council requested that the Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement be put on the October 1st Consent Agenda.

8. Riverdale Park Day – Planning for the Centennial

CM Lingua stated that the Centennial Celebration Committee needed to be a Town-driven initiative and many volunteers would be needed. CM Lingua also suggested that the Committee consider adding a historic house tour to the centennial celebrations.

Mayor Thompson stated that he planned to move forward with nominations at the October 1st Legislative Meeting. CM Faulx stated that he would be happy to be involved. The Council discussed returning Riverdale Park Day to June to correspond with the Town's date of incorporation.

Resident Sheila Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that there may be an event planner in the community who can spearhead the event and sponsors would be needed.

9. Authorization for the Town Manager to send a letter to the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners regarding a Special Entertainment Permit Application for El Sitio Restaurant located at 5837 Riverdale Road

Town Manager Lestitian discussed staff's meeting with the owner and manager of El Sitio Restaurant. Town Manager Lestitian reported that the owner and manager of El Sitio indicated that they may withdraw their application.

CM Lingua stated that he was concerned with the times that were listed on the Special Entertainment Permit application. CM Lingua stated that they were not consistent with the character of the neighborhood or community

CM Faulx stated that the number of police calls for service was exorbitant.

Chief Morris reported that the County police department had not received a security plan for El Sitio yet.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Town could still send a letter to the Board of License Commissioner if the application is withdrawn.

10. Proposed charter, code, and policy edits to align with the organizational structure and address inconsistencies

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the proposed charter, code, and policy edits had come before the Council earlier in the year. Town Manager Lestitian stated that additional edits had also been made. Town Manager Lestitian stated that Town Attorney Fred Sussman was working on the Charter, Code, and Personnel Manual edits as well as a timeline for introduction and adoption. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff was looking for Council input so that it could be incorporated into Mr. Sussman's drafts.

CM Faulx asked if the proposed edits aligned with what was typically done in other Council-Manager forms of government. Town Manager Lestitian stated that in larger jurisdictions the Town Manager had exclusive hire and removal authority however, Riverdale Park was too small of an organization to have the potential for a full change in staff. Town Manager Lestitian explained that the Town Manager would have authority to hire all direct reports but would need council approval to remove them.

Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that he was concerned with the overall charter change process and he was not aware of anything that described the process by which the Town's charter could be changed. Mayor Thompson stated that State law provided the process for charter changes. Town Manager Lestitian offered to provide Mr. Smith with the section of State law that applied to the charter amendment process as a reference.

11. Town's position on Maryland Traffic Relief Plan

Mayor Thompson discussed his concerns, as well as the concerns expressed by mayors in neighboring jurisdictions, with the Traffic Relief Plan. CM Lingua also discussed his concerns.

12. Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA): Town representation

Mayor Thompson stated that CM Lingua had represented the Town at PGCMA meetings and functions and would like to transfer the responsibility. Mayor Thompson stated that he would make a recommendation at the October 1st Legislative meeting.

13. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council inform staff of any corrections needed to the minutes.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business

- CM Faulx discussed his concerns regarding the intersection of Queensbury Road and Rhode Island Avenue. CM Lingua asked if the area could be designated as a pedestrian priority zone. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would need to work with a traffic engineer to determine the best course of action for that intersection.
- CM Lingua stated that Anacostia Trails Heritage Areas (ATHA) had requested letters of appointment from partner communities regarding representation on the Governing Board. CM Lingua stated that he would be happy to continue as the Town's representative.
- CM Lingua requested that a discussion regarding potential projects that could use MHAA funding be included on the October Work Session agenda.
- Mayor Thompson reported that he hoped to appoint a representative for Ward 6 in October.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.