

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2018
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1 (left at 9:15 p.m.)
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3

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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

It was requested that all presentations and reports be moved to after New Business and to move New Business to before Legislative Action Item 1.

Presentations

National Crime Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Thompson read the Crime Prevention Month proclamation in Spanish and English.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Thompson read the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation in English and in Spanish.

Sidewalk Projects: John N. Lestitian, Town Manager

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the Town's historical practice of undertaking sidewalk projects and the action that has been taken to correct sidewalk issues. Town Manager Lestitian discussed sidewalk work that was needed along portions of Riverdale Road and Oliver Street.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that VMP Construction Inc. had indicated that they were willing to accept an addendum to the existing contract (Roadway Improvements for Riverdale and Queensbury Roads, Contract 18-0001) and would honor the same prices provided for the projects undertaken in the spring.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that a Council Work Session would be needed to discuss sidewalks, the Town's responsibilities, and a systematic approach for addressing sidewalk issues.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Overview of Closed Meeting: CM Dixon, CM Faulx, CM Lingua, Mayor Thompson and Town Manager Lestitian were present to discuss the appointment of the Director of Public Projects and Services. The Council had no objections and the hiring process will move forward.
- Saturday is Riverdale Park Day: 12noon to 4:00 p.m. at Riverside Neighborhood Park
- Deputy Chief hiring process is also progressing.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Encouraged everyone to attend Riverdale Park Day on October 6th
- Announced a public information campaign regarding recycling, reminding residents that plastic bags cannot go in the recycling bins.
- Vacancies in the Department of Public Works have been advertised and encouraged everyone to check out the employment opportunities with the Town on the Town's website.

Discussion:

Resident Lora Katz asked if Bates could have a focused campaign regarding recycling. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff were working with the Town's contractor to educate residents.

Finance Report

As of September 30, 2018, subject to audit:

Expenses: \$381,040

Revenue: \$560,583

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-0 (favorable)

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department Report was included in the meeting materials.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Excited about Riverdale Park Day 2018!
- Looking forward working with the Neighborhood Design Center on the Field of Dreams and will be seeking input from residents in all wards.
- Celebrating his 7-year wedding anniversary

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC will meet on October 2nd from 7-9 pm and all are welcome to attend.
- Encouraged everyone to come out to Riverdale Park Day at 5801 Riverside Drive

- Thank you to staff and a reminder to residents that volunteers are always needed for planning and executing Town events

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Application: 5012 Oglethorpe Street, 6-foot privacy fence in backyard (Ward 3)
2. Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement
3. Minutes from August 27, 2018 Public Hearing
4. Minutes from August 27, 2018 Work Session
5. Minutes from September 10, 2018 Legislative Meeting

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Faulx seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2018-OR-12 regarding revisions to Ethics Ordinance

CM Lingua introduced Ordinance 2018-OR-12 regarding revisions to Ethics Ordinance. CM Lingua read the purpose and explanatory statement for the ordinance.

2. Introduction of Ordinance 2018-OR-13 amendments to Chapter 23 Charges and Fees

CM Dixon introduced Ordinance 2018-OR-13 amendments to Chapter 23 Charges and Fees. CM Dixon gave an overview of the ordinance.

3. Motion to approve Resolution 2018-R-15 regarding Competitive Negotiated Sale Process

CM Faulx made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-R-15 regarding the Competitive Negotiated Sale Process. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (Mayor Thompson abstained)

4. Motion to designate 4603 East West Highway as property no longer needed for a public purpose and the property will be made available to interested parties through the Competitive Negotiated Sale Process

CM Dixon made a motion to designate 4603 East West Highway as property no longer needed for a public purpose and the property will be made available to interested parties through the Competitive Negotiated Sale Process. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (Mayor Thompson abstained).

Discussion:

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the history surrounding the purchase of 4603 East West Highway and reminded the Council and public that the Town is not compelled to do anything by going through the Competitive Negotiated Sale Process.

Resident Lora Katz of 4507 Riverdale Road, asked if the property had been considered for cell tower placement or a solar array similar to the one built in Greenbelt. Ms. Katz

asked if it made sense to encourage development on the parcel given the issues cited with ingress and egress. Ms. Katz also stated that there could be opportunities in the future to purchase the parcels on each side either side of the property and a pollinator garden may also be a good use for the property.

CM Lingua suggested that the Sustainability Committee could possibly present alternative uses for property.

CM Faulx asked if a report of Town owned properties was available. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff had developed an inventory list and were currently working to refine it.

CM Lingua clarified that the goal of the Competitive Negotiated Sale Process was not to sell the property as quickly as possible.

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

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners opposing the Special Entertainment Permit Application for El Sitio Restaurant located at 5837 Riverdale Road. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

CM Lingua gave an overview of the Special Entertainment Permit Application for El Sitio Restaurant. CM Lingua stated that he had heard from Neighborhood Associations near the location of the restaurant and they were opposed to the Special Entertainment Permit Application for El Sitio Restaurant.

6. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter expressing the Town's opposition to the Maryland Traffic Relief Plan

CM Faulx made a motion to direct the Town Manager to compose and deliver a letter to elected officials including Congressman Hoyer, Senator van Hollen, Senator Cardin, all members of the state District 22 delegation, and Governor Hogan, with copies to Congressman Brown, the MDOT SHA, and County Council Chair Glaros expressing the Town's opposition to the Maryland Traffic Relief Plan. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson outlined his concerns regarding the Maryland Traffic Relief Plan and the potential impact on the Town. Mayor Thompson gave an overview of discussions with Mayors of neighboring jurisdictions regarding the Traffic Relief Plan.

7. Motion to establish the Centennial Celebration Committee

CM Lingua made a motion to establish the Riverdale Park Centennial Celebration Committee and approve the appointments of CM Faulx and CM Richardson. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

CM Lingua stated that the Centennial Celebration was a huge event and lots of resident volunteers were needed. Resident Lora Katz stated that she was interested in helping.

8. Motion regarding nomination of Town's representative to Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

CM Faulx made a motion to approve Mayor Thompson and CM Dixon sharing the responsibilities of the Town's representative to PGCMA. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

9. Motion regarding nomination of CM Lingua to serve on the ATHA Governing Board

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the nomination of CM Lingua to serve on the ATHA Governing Board. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (CM Lingua abstained)

10. Motion to appoint a Ward 6 representative

Mayor Thompson reported that he had knocked on several doors in Ward 6 seeking people interested in serving as a Ward representative. Mayor Thompson stated that he planned to meet with interested parties this week and he hoped to have an appointment ready for the next Council meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

1. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign an addendum to contract with VMP Construction Inc. for Roadway Improvements for Riverdale and Queensbury Roads, Contract 18-0001

CM Faulx made a motion authorize the Town Manager to sign an addendum to the contract with VMP Construction Inc. for Roadway Improvements for Riverdale and Queensbury Road sidewalks, Contract 18-0001. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 4-0-0

Discussion:

Town Manager Lestitian reported that the contract would not to exceed \$32,150.

2. CM Lingua discussed the increase in traffic on River Road and Rivertech Court. Mayor Thompson stated that the roads had not been transferred to the Town yet and he will add the issue to the list of items that he has to discuss with County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros. Resident Lora Katz stated that a speed limit sign was needed on River Road.
3. CM Faulx reported on behalf of CM Dixon that October was also Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Adjournment

CM Lingua made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 2-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)