

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

In Attendance

Alan K. Thompson, Mayor
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
David Morris, Chief of Police
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:16 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween. Mayor Thompson also reminded everyone to drive safely and look out for trick-or-treaters.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Triannual Reassessment of Real Property: Notices will go out in December-January to real property owners and the Town will receive information regarding the Constant Yield Tax Rate in February. Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) has cautioned that there could be a substantial number of appeals due to the amount of construction in the area. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the impact on the FY2020 budget preparations. Staff will continue to work with SDAT and report back to the Council.
- Update on Wells Run Project: presentation from County staff and their consultant will be scheduled for a future Mayor and Council meeting.
- Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11 at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial
- Upcoming closings of Town Hall and Department of Public Works: November 12 (Veterans Day), November 22 and 23 (Thanksgiving)

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson asked if there was a schedule for the Wells Run project. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he expected for a project schedule to be part of the County staff's presentation to the Mayor and Council. Town Manager Lestitian explained that there was a considerable amount of work to be done before the project could begin and a project schedule was not available when he spoke with the County staff assigned to the project.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported that, at the October 18th PGCMA Meeting, Mission of Love Charities spoke about the services that they provide to the needy and homeless population. CM Dixon stated that she would provide staff with brochures for placement at Town Hall.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx discussed the recent shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, PA, and the impact on his family as well as the community as a whole. CM Faulx stated that hate had no home in Riverdale Park.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson stated that her mother had passed away recently and she did not have a report.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers introduced herself and stated that she had lived in Riverdale Park for 12 years.

Discussion Items

1. Update on defeasance and reallocation of 15-year and 30-year CDA loans

Town Manager Lestitian reviewed the timeline for the defeasance and reallocation of the Town's 15-year and 30-year CDA loans. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the legislative action that was needed and Mayor Thompson provided additional background information for CM Mayers.

CM Dixon asked what the reimbursement would be used for and how much money was intended to be spent. Town Manager Lestitian provided an estimate for a roof project and discussed the other funding sources for the overall projects.

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

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of Ordinance 2018-OR-12. Mayor Thompson stated that the ordinance was introduced on October 1st and was scheduled for legislative action at the November 5th Legislative Meeting.

3. Ordinance 2018-OR-13 amendments to Chapter 23 Charges and Fees

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of changes made to the legislation since the October 1st introduction.

CM Dixon asked for clarification regarding the Automated Enforcement Collection Fee. Chief Morris explained that there were nearly 3,000 unpaid citations and the fee would offset the cost of the use of collection services. CM Dixon stated that she was concerned regarding the use of the term "automated" and suggested that "Unpaid fines collection fee" would allow for a broader use.

4. Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees Appointments

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes gave an overview of the Defined Benefit Plan Board of Trustees, the current vacancies, and staff recommendations for filling the vacancies.

5. Proposed enhancements to Defined Contribution Plan

Finance and Employee Services Director Paul Smith gave an overview of the Town's Defined Contribution Plan and the proposed enhancements.

6. Memorandum of Agreement with Prince George's County regarding automated speed cameras on Rivertech Court

Chief Morris discussed the need for a Memorandum of Agreement with Prince George's County regarding the placement of automated speed cameras on Rivertech Court. CM Dixon asked how long the agreement would be in place and Chief Morris replied that the agreement would be in place until either party requested that it end.

Resident Jeffrey Yorke of 6201 Natoli Place, discussed an incident that he had with a Town police officer. Mayor Thompson apologized on behalf of the Town and requested that Mr. Yorke speak with Chief Morris.

7. Street closing of Natoli Place from Queensbury Road to Lafayette Avenue at Veterans Memorial Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on November 11, 2018 for annual Veterans Day Ceremony (Ward 1)

Mayor Thompson requested that Discussion Item 7 be placed on the November 5th Consent Agenda.

8. 7-Eleven #37240 (SP-150003-01): Request for a Special Permit for the addition of a ground-mounted freestanding sign at 6315 Baltimore Avenue

Mayor Thompson gave an overview of the Special Permit request and reported that 7-Eleven would be bringing revised plans back to the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee on November 7th.

9. 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) Draft Plan

Mayor Thompson stated that he had been meeting with a group of Mayors and a draft of the proposed letter would be e-mailed to all members of the Council later in the week. Mayor Thompson stated that the goal was to send a unified message from the impacted communities.

10. Revisions to Chapter 64 Vehicles and Traffic § 64-13 Parking Permit Areas

Chief Morris gave an overview of the proposed revisions to Chapter 64 Vehicles and Traffic § 64-13 Parking Permit Areas. Chief Morris also outlined the proposed changes to the parking permit process.

Mayor Thompson asked about the permit parking area along the 5000 block of Riverdale Road. Chief Morris discussed the permit process for that area.

Resident Jeffrey Yorke asked about the permit parking area in front of his property on Natoli Place. Chief Morris explained that staff was suggesting that the permit parking area along Natoli Place be removed. Mr. Yorke stated that he did not object to removing the permit parking area on Natoli Place.

Chief Morris stated that he was working with Town Attorney Fred Sussman on the ordinance language and fair summary.

11. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that any comments regarding the minutes be sent to the Town Clerk.

12. Cafritz DSP 13009-14

Mayor Thompson provided background on Cafritz DSP 13009-14. Mayor Thompson reported that the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC) had found no issues with the revision and would vote to recommend adoption at their next meeting. Mayor Thompson stated that the Cafritz team had requested that the Town Manager be authorized to send a letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission reflecting the will of the M-UTC.

13. Voter Registration Form

CM Dixon reported that a draft Voter Registration form would be presented at the next Mayor and Council meeting for review.

Mayor Thompson asked if the Voter Registration form would be included in the Town's Election Manual or if it would be a separate administrative item. Town Clerk Jessica Barnes stated that the Voter Registration form would be a separate from the Town's Election Manual and CM Dixon stated that she agreed.

Resident Sheila Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road asked if the Voter Registration form would require legislative action. Mayor Thompson explained that the Voter Registration form would be reviewed and discussed but it did not require legislative action as it will not be incorporated into Town law.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.