

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
December 17, 2018
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Alan K. Thompson, Mayor
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the work session to order at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- Happy holidays to everyone!
- Recently attended the Holiday Market and it was an excellent event
- Report of Closed Meeting: met tonight at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue (evaluation for the Town Manager and a likely future contract) and an effort to retain a business in Town.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Town Hall and Department of Public Works will be closed on December 25th and January 1st
- Happy holidays to the Mayor and Council, staff, and community
- Riverdale Park Gives staff initiative: Police Department is leading the annual Toy Drive and Food Basket delivery; five truckloads of toys will be delivered to children in Town

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Happy holidays!
- Loved seeing Riverdale Park Police Department at Riverdale Elementary School today- glad to be part of this town!
- Shout out to Jim Coleman for the Holiday Market- looking forward to attending the event in the coming years.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported

- Thank you to staff for organizing the holiday events and decorations
- Acknowledged the hard work of James Coleman to make the Holiday Market a success- tent was a brilliant idea!
- Recognition of the retirement of Department of Public Works employee Janice Euell
- Overview of projects for 2019
- Happy holidays!

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers wished everyone happy holidays and stated that she looked forward to working with everyone in the new year.

Discussion Items

1. Updates to Town Manager's Contract

Mayor Thompson stated that the Town Manager's contract would be placed on the January 7th Legislative Meeting agenda.

2. Quesada Road: Impact of Purple Line Construction

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis gave an overview of the impact that the Purple Line alignment would have on roads in Town. Director Lewis noted that there would be an impact on convenient travel in the Quesada Road, Quintana Road, 54th Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue area. Director Lewis stated that additional updates would be provided through the Status and Information report.

3. Town's Vision and Commitment to Transportation

Mayor Thompson stated that some improvements had been made to the Vision and Commitment to Transportation and he planned to ask his neighbor Melissa Anderson, for additional input. Mayor Thompson requested that the Council forward any input that they have to staff.

4. Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

Town Manager Lestitian stated that a Community Meeting had been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 19th at 10:30 a.m. at Town Hall as a first step in the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety initiative. He stated that staff were developing an action plan to address the issues more comprehensively and planned to bring some recommendations to the Mayor and Council.

5. Proposed concept for 4603 East West Highway – Competitive Negotiated Sale Process

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the recently adopted Competitive Negotiated Sale process. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff had received an application in November and the staff review committee had met twice and requested more information from the applicant.

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the application and stated that he was seeking direction from the Mayor and Council regarding moving forward. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the proposed project would come back to the Council for a public discussion.

CM Lingua stated that he had concerns regarding ingress and egress from the property. He stated that a lot more details would be needed to move forward.

CM Faulx stated that he was interested in seeing a proposed design.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that if the Mayor and Council was open to moving forward, staff would work through some of the issues that had been identified.

Resident Lora Katz stated that she wanted to speak before the Council made a decision to move forward. Ms. Katz stated that she had hoped for a more innovative idea for the property that would support the community. Ms. Katz asked how a single-family home would support the community. She also stated that she was concerned about encouraging development along East West Highway, a heavily traveled roadway.

Mayor Thompson suggested that staff move forward slowly and consult with the Ward representative.

CM Faulx stated that he would like to see a summary of all Town-owned properties.

6. Transfer from General Fund Reserve to Defined Contribution Plan

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the process of restating the Defined Contribution Plan with ICMA-RC. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a transfer was needed (not to exceed \$140,000) from the General Fund Reserve. He stated that the transfer would not drop the Reserve below \$2M.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that this item would be on the January 7th Legislative Meeting agenda.

7. FY2020 Budget Process and Budget Calendar

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the FY2020 Budget Process and Calendar. He stated that the first presentation was scheduled for January 7th (budget assumptions).

8. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council make staff aware of any changes or corrections needed to the minutes.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- CM Lingua discussed the possibility of the Town applying to become part of the Arts District. CM Lingua also asked if the Town could renovate the Riverdale Park Boys and Girls Club and use it for an art-related purpose.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would add those items to the 2019 staff goals.

- Mayor Thompson discussed the sale of the WMATA property located north of Riverdale Park Station. CM Faulx reported that a community group in College Park had reached out to him regarding a contribution of funds for the purchase of the property.
- Mayor Thompson stated that a draft process for evaluating the Town Manager was distributed to the Council for review and input. Mayor Thompson stated that the process established roles for the Mayor and Council Members and was still open for discussion and input. Mayor Thompson stated that he planned to distribute evaluation forms to the Council at the January 7th Legislative Meeting and no formal adoption was needed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.