

**Town of Riverdale Park  
Legislative Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2019  
8:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

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

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua requested that Consent Agenda Item 2 be moved to the Legislative Action Items.

**Presentations**

Black History Month Proclamation

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation designating February as Black History Month in English and Spanish.

Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center Presentation: Monica Montgomery, Executive Director

Monica Montgomery, Executive Director of Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center (PGAAMCC), gave an overview of the programs and initiatives offered by PGAAMCC.

FY2019 Estimated Actuals

Finance Program Specialist Gentry Jones gave an overview of the FY2019 Estimated Actuals as part of the FY2020 budget preparations.

*Discussion:*

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff took a conservative approach when preparing the estimated actuals.

CM Henry stated that he noticed that parking citations were down.

CM Dixon thanked staff for the presentation.

### Field of Dreams Design Concepts

Town Manager Lestitian suggested that a Saturday Community Meeting with the Neighborhood Design Center be scheduled to discuss the design concepts.

CM Lingua stated that he was supportive of a Saturday Community Meeting. CM Faulx suggested scheduling the meeting in March to maximize community outreach.

There was consensus amongst the Council to schedule the Community Meeting for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

### **Correspondence Summary**

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Overview of Closed Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.: to discuss a personnel matter (Statute #1) concerning the Town Manager's contract and evaluation
- Review of January 10<sup>th</sup> Discovery District Working Group Meeting: 4600 River Road groundbreaking scheduled for May
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting regarding Traffic and Pedestrian Safety was well attended and there was good discussion
- Recently attended the Maryland Mayors' Association Conference in Annapolis with 45 other Mayors. Discussion regarding concerns about the installation of small cell towers and upcoming deadline to adopt legislation to address the issue
- Attended Banana Blossom Bistro's soft opening

### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Town Hall and Department of Public Works (DPW) will be closed on February 18<sup>th</sup> (President's Day)
- Ongoing improvements/enhancements to the Town's website: landing page for pedestrian and traffic safety initiative and ability to register for alerts/updates
- Town's Celebrating Business Initiative: Banana Blossom Bistro

### **Finance Report**

As of January 31, 2019, subject to audit:

Expenses: \$561,147

Revenue: \$686,437

CM Dixon made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

### **Fire Department Report**

The Fire Department's report was not included in the meeting materials.

## **Council Committee & Ward Reports**

### **CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1**

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Overview of Trolley Trail Day event planning: potential event date, June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Recently attended meeting held by Representative Anthony Brown: discussion regarding government shutdown and resources available for those impacted

#### *Discussion:*

Resident Sheila Smith suggested that information for those impacted by the government shutdown be included on the Town's website. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a compilation of available resources was posted in the News and Events section of the Town's website.

### **CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Excited about Field of Dreams and upcoming Community Meeting
- Underpass at Lafayette Avenue: update on mural project
- Riverdale Park Centennial: a year of events will start on June 15<sup>th</sup>

### **CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6801 Kenilworth Avenue starting at 7 p.m.
- Discussion regarding parking permit questions from residents of Ward 3

### **CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4**

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Overview of recent meeting with Director Lewis regarding the Purple Line's impact on Quesada Road
- Discussion regarding concerns about business practices of Tires R Us and request that the Town send a letter to the business
- Ward map on website needs to be updated

## **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

## **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Request for Special Exception for a 6-foot cedar backyard fence at 4502 Tuckerman Street (Ward 1)
2. Amendment to the 2019 Mayor and Council calendar to include May 13<sup>th</sup> as the date for the new administration's orientation
3. Minutes: January 7, 2019 Legislative Meeting, June 25, 2018 Work Session, and April 30, 2018 Work Session

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Faulx seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

## **Legislative Action Items:**

1. Council Member Excused Absences from Regular Council Meetings

CM Lingua made a motion to excuse CM Mayers' absences from the December 3, 2018, January 7, 2019, and February 4, 2019 regular Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 3-0-2 (favorable, CM Henry and Mayor Thompson abstained)

2. Motion regarding the Town Manager's Contract

CM Dixon made a motion to approve the Town Manager's Contract. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-0 (favorable)

3. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-01 regarding the 2019 Election

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-01 regarding the 2019 Election. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-02 regarding appointment and compensation of Election Judges for the May 6, 2019 Town election

CM Dixon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-02 regarding the appointment and compensation of Election Judges for the May 6, 2019 Town election, with the understanding that additional names will be added at a later date. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-03 regarding appointments to Board of Election Appeals for the May 6, 2019 Town election

CM Dixon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-03 regarding appointments to Board of Election Appeals for the May 6, 2019 Town election, with the understanding that additional names would be added at a later date. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 3-0-2 (favorable, CM Lingua and Mayor Thompson abstained)

6. Road closures for Mardi Gras Run to be held on March 2, 2019

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the requested road closures for the Mardi Gras Run to be held on March 2, 2019 subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The race organizers provide documentation that the American Center for Physics has consented to opening their facility roads to the race during the date and times proposed and that the path through the facility is specified;
- 2) The race organizers strongly consider setting the section of the race along River Road such that the runners will be on the sidewalk only; and
- 3) The race organizers will guide runners to use the pedestrian path alongside Haig Drive rather than the roadway.

The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

CM Lingua amended the language of the motion to include "strongly consider". CM Henry seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

*Discussion:*

CM Dixon discussed her concerns regarding the conditions placed on the race organizers in relation to her experience in participating in other races/runs.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business**

1. Revisions to Chapter 42- Licenses

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff was seeking additional input from the Council and public with regard to revisions to Chapter 42- Licenses. Town Manger Lestitian also stated that there would be additional opportunities for discussion and staff would provide information regarding how other jurisdictions handle businesses that serve alcohol at a future meeting.

2. Small cell towers

Mayor Thompson gave an overview of the issue regarding small cell towers in local rights-of-way and how municipalities can address the issue. Mayor Thompson reported that the National League of Cities was working on draft legislation and he would be working to have legislation prepared for the Town.

3. CM Henry discussed his concerns regarding Tires R Us. CM Henry stated that he would like to have a letter sent to Attorney General Frosh to request an investigation into the pricing practices of the business.

CM Henry made a motion to send a letter to the Attorney General. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. CM Henry withdrew the motion.

*Discussion:*

CM Dixon discussed her concerns regarding the request. CM Dixon asked if the Town Attorney could provide clarity regarding the laws that were applicable to the business and if staff could make a general inquiry to the division of the Attorney General's office that handles complaints against businesses. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would provide additional information to the Council as requested.

**Adjournment**

CM Henry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)