

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Legislative Meeting Minutes**  
**March 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

**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 Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

*Discussion:*

Mayor Thompson stated that staff had requested that Legislative Action Item 5 be removed from the agenda.

**Presentations**

Ethics Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation in English and in Spanish recognizing March as Ethics Awareness month.

Ethics Commission Presentation

John Wells, Chairman of the Riverdale Park Ethics Commission, gave an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Ethics Commission.

Mayor Thompson thanked the members of the Ethics Commission for their service.

Swearing-in of Deputy Chief Election Judge

Mayor Thompson administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Chief Election Judge Joseph Mooney.

FY2020 Budget Fund Balances

Finance and Employee Services Director Paul Smith gave an overview of the Town's funds and their balances and projections.

*Discussion:*

Mayor Thompson gave an overview of the TIF Fund.

**Correspondence Summary**

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Overview of Closed Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m.: discussion regarding barriers to a business considering locating in Town and how the Town can assist (statute #4) and items related to the Town Manager (statute #1). Mayor Thompson reported that CMs Dixon, Faulx, and Richardson were also in attendance.
- Overview of Closed Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:35 p.m.; a finding was made that discussing the matter publicly would adversely impact the Town's ability to negotiate (statute #14) regarding residential trash collection services. Mayor Thompson reported that CMs Dixon, Faulx, and Lingua were also in attendance.
- Update on the property north of Riverdale Park Station (owned by WMATA): M-NCPPC has placed a bid on the property
- Enjoyed watching the Mardi Gars 5K on Saturday morning!
- Overview of request made by 7-Eleven to build a monument sign and the recommendations made by the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (MUTC) and the Town to deny the request. Town Manager Lestitian will attend the Planning Board hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the County Administration building. All residents are welcome to attend.
- Update on Purple Line progress: one lane on Kenilworth Avenue heading southbound from River Road to East West Highway will be closed starting March 18<sup>th</sup>; Route 1 in College Park, north of campus, will also have lane closures.

*Discussion:*

Resident Bob Smith asked if there would be an opportunity for the public to comment on the bids for Residential Trash Collection Services. Mayor Thompson replied that there would be the opportunity for public comments on that topic at a future meeting.

**Town Manager Report**

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- State of the Town will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall
- Field of Dreams Design Concept Community Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall

**Finance Report**

As of February 28, 2019, subject to audit:

Expenses: \$396,696

Revenue: \$112,012

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

*Discussion:*

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the revised Constant Yield Notice that had been received by Town staff earlier in the day. Town Manager Lestitian stated that balancing the FY2020 budget would require a great deal of work and staff were examining ways to use savings from the last fiscal year to close the gap.

CM Henry asked for clarity regarding the impact of the constant yield rate. Town Manger Lestitian stated that the real property tax base was not reflecting as big of an increase as had been anticipated.

Resident Corey Bettenhausen asked if the State provided maps so that staff could see where the properties were located (that are no longer on the Town's tax rolls). Town Manger Lestitian stated that staff would be working with the State to gather more information.

CM Henry asked if staff had made a comparison to other towns in the area. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff had not done so yet as the revised Constant Yield Notice had been received earlier in the day and staff would continue to ask more questions to get clarity.

### **Fire Department Report**

Mayor Thompson read the Fire Department's report that was included in the meeting materials.

### **Council Committee & Ward Reports**

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

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Suggested that residents try to attend M-UTC meetings as they are very informative
- M-UTC strongly opposed the 7-Eleven monument sign; encouraged residents to attend the Planning Board meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the sign
- Would like to see a proclamation for Women's History Month in the future
- Prince George's County Municipal Association met in Riverdale Park and Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council was in attendance. CM Dixon discussed her desire to see murals in Town.

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

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Community Meeting about the design of the Field of Dreams
- Reminded residents to take advantage of the Rain Check Rebate Program offered by Prince George's County Department of the Environment

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

CM David Lingua reported:

- Next meeting of CKAR meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Received inquiries from Ward 3 residents regarding Town permit parking areas- reminded residents that permit parking can be removed if all residents in the affected area request it
- Veteran Cleveland Moffett, Jr. passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moffett was the last surviving member of the committee that was formed to build the Veterans Monument in Town.

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

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Over the last two months wheels have been stolen and a vehicle was stolen in Madison Hill
- Congratulations to Corporal Larry Hayes on his retirement- thank you for your service!
- Lt. Andrew Powell will be sworn-in as the new Deputy Chief of Takoma Park Police Department and he plans to attend his upcoming swearing-in
- Appreciates the officers of Riverdale Park Police Department (RPPD)
- Suggested that RPPD look for recent college graduates as part of their recruitment process
- Thank you to the Town staff for their work.
- Thank you to residents for their support.
- Thank you to Director Ivy Lewis for coming out to Ward 4 to discuss the impact of the Purple Line

Mayor Thompson reported that CM Colleen Richardson was unable to attend the meeting as she was sick and CM Hala Mayers would be unable to attend meetings/events until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

There were no public comments on non-agenda items and consent agenda items.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence permit application: 6-foot wooden fence at 4711 Nicholson Street
2. Minutes: January 28, 2019 Work Session, January 28, 2019 Special Legislative Meeting and December 17, 2018 Work Session

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

### **Legislative Action Items:**

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-02 regarding Chapter 42 Business Licenses

CM Dixon introduced Ordinance 2019-OR-02 Chapter 42 Business Licenses.

Town Manager Lestitian outlined the changes that had been made to the legislation as a result of discussions at previous Council meetings. Town Manager Lestitian stated that there would be more discussion at an upcoming meeting regarding alcohol licensing fees.

2. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-03 authorizing wireless and wireline broadband deployment in the public rights of way

CM Faulx introduced Ordinance 2019-OR-03 authorizing wireless and wireline broadband deployment in the public rights of way

Mayor Thompson gave an overview of the issue and provided examples of the impact on other jurisdictions.

3. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Prince George's County regarding fuel and vehicle maintenance

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Prince George's County regarding fuel and vehicle maintenance. CM Faulx seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

CM Lingua gave an overview of the reason for the agreement with Prince George's County.

CM Henry stated that he recalled that some maintenance was done to the Town's fuel tank and asked if the equipment had been maintained. Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the cost to upgrade components of the tank, the inspection fees paid by the Town annually, and the cost of insurance for the fuel tank.

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the process for determining fuel rates.

4. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Alacrity to provide collection services

CM Dixon made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Alacrity to provide collection services. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

*Discussion:*

The Council discussed the forms (envelopes and letters) provided by Alacrity.

Resident Bob Smith asked why collection services had not gone through a RFP/Bid process. Town Clerk Barnes explained that the contract itself had no value as there were no fees associated with contracting with the vendor. Town Manager Lestitian stated that there was no way to determine how much of the outstanding revenue would be collected or if it could be collected.

5. Motion to add Election Judges and Members of the Board of Election Appeals to previously adopted resolutions

Mayor Thompson stated that he planned to appoint Steven Glaros to the Board of Election Appeals.

Town Clerk Barnes suggested that the Council repeal the previously adopted resolution and replace it with an updated resolution once all of the appointees were identified. Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide the names of their appointees to the Town Clerk.

6. Motion regarding a letter to National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board regarding MARC VRE Connection

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter of support to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board regarding the MARC VRE Connection. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

### **Unfinished Business**

Mayor Thompson stated that a draft of the Town Manager's performance review was distributed to the Council. The Council decided that they would meet in a closed session on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (tentative) to discuss the Town Manager's performance review.

### **New Business**

- DPW 19-002 Residential Trash Collection Services:  
Mayor Thompson stated that he had previously reported on the closed session related to residential trash collection services.
- 7-Eleven monument sign:  
Mayor Thompson reminded residents to attend the upcoming Planning Board meeting.
- FY2020 Budget:  
Resident Bob Smith thanked staff for all of their hard work in preparing the budget. Mr. Smith stated that it had been a very informative and open process.

### **Adjournment**

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)