

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
April 29, 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 Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

Paul Smith, Acting Town Manager and Finance and Employee Services Director
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Kevin Simpson, Development Services Director
Ivy Lewis, Public Projects and Services Director

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 8:05 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Mayor Thompson stated that he wanted to add an agenda item regarding a response to WMATA's decision to sell the Albion Road property to a commercial developer.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- Election Day is on May 6th
- Trolley Trail Day will be held on June 8th and partial road closures on Rhode Island Avenue may be needed for the fun run
- Received a request to have memorial trees planted near Beale Circle

Presentations

Recognition of Retirement: Corporal Larry Hayes

Mayor Thompson presented Corporal Larry Hayes with a certificate and gift in recognition of his 20 years of dedicated service to the Town.

Proclamation for Economic Development Week

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation designating May 6 to 11, 2019, as Economic Development Week in Riverdale Park in English and Spanish.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Acting Town Manager Paul Smith reported:

- Town Election will be held on May 6th: Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Town Hall
- Tax Rate Public Hearing will be held on May 6th at 8 p.m.

- Community Walk will be held on May 18th at 9 a.m.
- Spring Community Clean-up will be held on May 18th
- May 18th will also kick-off Public Works Week
- Chief's Community Advisory Committee will meet on May 18th at 10 a.m.
- Works Session is scheduled for May 20th at 8 p.m.
- Town Hall and Department of Public Works will be closed on May 27th
- Riverdale Park Day will be held on June 15th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Memorial Day Wreath Laying on May 27th at 11 a.m. at Veterans Monument

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported that volunteers were working to notify residents of the change in voting requirements in Town. CM Dixon also reported that Trolley Trail Day would be held on June 8th.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx deferred his report to the May 6th Legislative Meeting.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua deferred his report to the May 6th Legislative Meeting.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the May 6th Legislative Meeting.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers deferred her report to the May 6th Legislative Meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Fence Permit Request: 5702 Riverdale Road; 6-foot vinyl fence (Ward 4)

Mayor Thompson reported that CM Henry was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a message stating that he was not opposed to the fence permit request.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding fences being built without Town permits. Town Clerk Barnes reported that the applicant stated that the contractor that he hired was not aware that a Town permit was also required.

Resident Bob Smith of the 5000 block of Riverdale Road stated that many people do not know that they are within Town limits.

Resident Corey Bettenhausen asked how staff became aware that the fence was built without the permit. Town Clerk Barnes reported that it was found during the grant review process. Mr. Bettenhausen stated that Code Enforcement needed to be more proactive.

Resident Sheila Smith of the 5000 block of Riverdale Road stated that the permit issued by the County did not indicate that the property was in Riverdale Park and it would be difficult for someone to know they needed a Town permit if they did not know they were located in Riverdale Park.

2. Variance Request: 4504 Queensbury Road; Variances of 17 feet front yard depth for the dwelling, 19 feet front street line setback 58 feet front street line setback both abutting Beale Circle for an accessory building and of 7.7% net lot coverage (Ward 1)

Applicant Sam Laury gave an overview of his project and the requested variances. CM Dixon stated that she needed more time to consider the request. Mayor Thompson stated that several of the variances were requested in order to validate existing conditions.

CM Dixon stated that she wanted to talk with the neighboring property owners before next week's meeting.

3. FY2020 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget Adjustments

Finance and Employee Services Director Paul Smith gave an overview of the revisions that had been made to the FY2020 Proposed Budget following the Budget Public Hearings. Director Smith stated that the updated budget was available on the Town's website.

4. Ordinance 2019-OR-04 regarding Competitive Negotiated Sale of 4603 East West Highway

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson provided an overview of the Competitive Negotiated Sale of 4603 East West Highway. Director Simpson stated that the only change that had been made was to change the closing date to 60 days instead of 45 days.

CM Lingua clarified that the zoning of the property remained as R-55.

5. Stop signs in Town of Riverdale Park- Riverdale Park Station (TRP-RPS)

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis gave an overview of the request for additional stop signs at Riverdale Park Station. Director Lewis outlined the proposed locations.

CM Dixon discussed her concerns regarding stop sign placement and the need for expertise on the matter. CM Dixon stated that she wanted to review the request again and perhaps have a traffic engineer involved.

Resident Sheila Smith of the 5000 block of Riverdale Road asked who would pay for the new stop signs and Mayor Thompson stated that it would be the developer.

6. Public Art: Traffic Box Wraps

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the project to include how many traffic boxes would be wrapped (3 to 4) and how the artwork would be selected (by jury).

Mayor Thompson stated that he looked forward to seeing the finished project.

7. Prince George's County Bus Route 14

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of recent developments from Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) regarding Bus Route 14. Director Simpson stated that nine bus stops would be bypassed as part of a pilot program to improve the on-time performance of Route 14. Director Simpson reported that the pilot program began on April 29th and DPW&T would determine whether the new route would become permanent.

CM Lingua asked if DPW&T had conducted an assessment to determine where along the route the delays began. Director Simpson stated that DPW&T reported that the Route 14 buses were on-time until they reached the stops in Riverdale Park near the railroad tracks and after that point the delays impacted the on-time performance for the rest of the route.

CM Mayers stated that she frequently used the Route 14 bus and had experienced wait times of nearly 20 minutes for a train to pass. She stated that the wait time depended on the timing of the trains and the buses as well as the length of the trains.

CM Lingua asked if DPW&T had considered any other options. CM Lingua stated that he was concerned that Riverdale Park would be losing nine bus stops.

CM Lingua asked if DPW&T had considered bypassing the train tracks through Riverdale Park Station. Director Simpson stated that DPW&T had reported that they were unable to use the buses in Riverdale Park Station due to their size and they were willing to provide call a bus service (smaller vehicle).

CM Dixon stated that she was concerned about how the Town would know, independently, if the new route was working for residents.

CM Lingua requested that DPW&T come back to the Council in October and provide the ridership numbers.

Resident Bob Smith of the 5000 block of Riverdale Road reported that he saw a person waiting at one of the bus stops that had been removed from the route and questioned whether the change had been adequately communicated to riders.

8. Town Center Clock

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the plans to restore the Town Center Clock. Director Simpson discussed the project's timeline and budget impact. Director Simpson stated that the project would be completed by June 15th, in time for the Countdown to the Centennial event in Town Center.

9. Town Center Market Food Truck Hub

Mayor Thompson requested that Discussion Item 9 be added to the May 6th Consent Agenda. There were no objections.

10. DSP- 17007 College Park Metro Apartments

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson stated that the Town had received notice that a Detailed Site Plan was filed for College Park Metro Apartments, located at 7200 River Road in College Park. Director Simpson reported that the plan included 452 multifamily residential dwelling units. Director Simpson stated that staff would monitor the project closely due to its proximity to the Town.

Resident Bob Smith of the 5000 block of Riverdale Road asked if the project would be located near the surface parking for the College Park metro station.

11. WMATA's decision regarding Albion property

Mayor Thompson discussed the status of the Albion Road property. Mayor Thompson stated that he would draft a letter, for the Council's review, to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) opposing the sale of the Albion Road property to a commercial developer. He requested that the authorization to send a letter to WMATA be included on the May 6th Consent Agenda. There were no objections.

12. Members of the Board of Election Appeals

Mayor Thompson reminded the Council to provide names of appointees to the Board of Election Appeals to the Town Clerk for legislative action at the May 6th meeting.

13. Minutes

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

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

CM Faulx requested input from the Council and public regarding a logo to commemorate the Town's centennial.

CM Mayers discussed parking on 54th Avenue and concerns regarding children playing in the street. CM Mayers also reported that the rumble strips at the intersection of Jefferson Street and 54th Avenue were not working and may be worn down.

Mayor Thompson reported that he had been contacted by University Park Mayor Len Carey regarding changes to the shuttle service at Riverdale Park Station and whether the changes were consistent with the rezoning agreement. Mayor Thompson stated that a meeting had been scheduled to discuss the matter.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.