

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5 (left at 9:02 pm)
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6 (left at 8:58 p.m.)

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.

CM Lingua requested a moment of silence for the victims of the Virginia Beach shooting.

Approval of Agenda

CM Henry made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Presentation

Swearing in of Mayor and Council

The Mayor and Council were sworn in by the Prince George's County Clerk of the Circuit Court prior to the start of the meeting.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- WMATA property has been taken off of the market and will be sold to M-NCPPC to be used as open space
- New businesses coming: Gangster Vegan and Hair Cuttery
- M-UTC will be held on June 5th to discuss RPS apartments
- Overview of meeting with Congressman Hoyer

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

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- Congratulations to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the staff team, look forward to working with you!
- Thank to Paul Smith and Leadership Team for their work in my absence
- Resource Fair for Riverdale Elementary School parents hosted by Prince George's County Department of Social Services TNI@School held at Town Hall from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Work Session and Special Legislative Meeting scheduled for June 17th
- Overview of the Longfellow Street Stormwater project; update on work completed and recommendations from the County regarding sole source engineer
- Trolley Trail Day will be held on June 8th
- Council Orientation scheduled for June 13th at 6:15 p.m.
- Countdown to the Centennial Kickoff event will be held on June 15th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Town Center
- Visible Impactful projects moving forward: Wells Fargo sign, renaming of MARC train station, restoration of Town Center clock, traffic box art project (all before June 15th)
- Town received ATHA Rocket Grant for \$5,000 towards Town Center Clock restoration project
- Public Safety Surcharge update: Town has already received the \$75,000 from the County.

Finance Report

Paul Smith reported, as of May 31, 2019, subject to audit:

Expenses: \$5,184,470

Revenue: \$6,783,113

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 6-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

CM Henry asked when will Town will have the next audit and requested that staff follow up with a report.

Fire Department Report

There was no report from the Fire Department.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- June 8th is Trolley Trail Day- encourage everyone to come out!
- Coffee with CM: June 22nd at Town Center Market- everyone is welcome to attend
- Partnered with CM Glaros for Teacher Appreciation breakfast at Riverdale Elementary School

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Will be attending School Board Meeting on June 6th to ensure that that Riverdale Elementary School (RES) remains on the Cycle 1 Renovation schedule
- Request that Town sends a letter to School Board requesting to keep RES on Cycle 1 Renovation schedule

- Kudos to Riverdale Park Police Department- Corporal Bustamante did a great job handling recent accident

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- Thank you to residents of Ward 3- honored and humbled by dedication to come out to vote and intends to represent Riverdale Park as well as possible.
- CKAR CDC updates: Capital Campaign for Sarvis Cafe project

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Thoughts and prayers to families of those impacted by the Virginia Beach shooting
- Shout out to DPW for their hard work on bulk trash day
- Discussion regarding properties located in Riverdale Park that have a Hyattsville mailing address

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson reported:

- Congratulations to new Council team
- Neighbor's mother-in-law passed suddenly- heart goes out to the family

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers reported:

- Teenagers loitering and smoking
- Cars parked in fire lanes
- Traffic on 54th Avenue going to fast; missing stop sign
- Pedestrian walkways need to be repainted

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

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

CM Henry stated that he was concerned that something like the Virginia Beach shooting could happen in Town. Chief Morris stated that RPPD officers were trained for active threat incidents.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Request: 5324 Taylor Road, installation of 6-foot metal fence (Ward 3)
2. Minutes: May 6, 2019 Public Hearing and May 6, 2019 Legislative Meeting

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Dixon seconded the motion.

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

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to authorize Town Manager to send a letter to Prince George's County Board of Zoning Appeals regarding variance request for 4606 Queensbury Road for variances of 5 feet front yard depth and 9.9 percent net lot area (Ward 1)

CM Dixon requested that Legislative Action Item 1 be placed on the June 17th meeting agenda.

2. Motion to approve Street Closure for Town Center parking lot, to include a portion of Rhode Island Avenue, on June 15, 2019 from 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. for Centennial Kickoff Event

CM Dixon made motion to approve the Street Closure for Town Center parking lot, to include a portion of Rhode Island Avenue, on June 15, 2019 from 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. for Centennial Kickoff Event. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

3. Motion to permit drinking of alcoholic beverages and possession of open containers at the Centennial Kickoff Event in the designated event area on June 15, 2019, based on the findings that the event will be held on public property, the occasion is one in which drinking may be customarily permitted, and the use of alcoholic beverages will not be offensive to the public

CM Faulx made a motion to permit the drinking of alcoholic beverages and possession of open containers at the Centennial Kickoff Event in the designated event area on June 15, 2019, based on the findings that the event will be held on public property, the occasion is one in which drinking may be customarily permitted, and the use of alcoholic beverages will not be offensive to the public. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-1-1 (favorable; CM Henry opposed; Mayor Thompson abstained)

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- Residential trash collection agreement with Bates Trucking and Trash Removal, Inc.

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis gave an overview of the new residential trash collection agreement with Bates. Director Lewis reviewed the timeline as it related to the bid process and the selection of a residential trash collection vendor. Director Lewis discussed the Town's new approach to working with Bates.

CM Henry reported that all of Madison Hill had been missed on June 3rd and Director Lewis discussed the ways that missed pickups could be reported by residents.

CM Dixon asked that Bates attend the June 17th Work Session as they needed to understand the severity of the concerns raised by residents.

- CM Lingua made a motion to send a letter to the School Board requesting that Riverdale Elementary School (RES) remain on the Cycle 1 renovation schedule. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

CM Lingua asked that the letter include that the Town strongly urges the School Board to make sure that RES will not be closed due to mechanical issues/failures as many children rely on meals from the school.

CM Henry expressed concerns regarding the safety of students due to the overcrowding of the school.

- Mayor Thompson reported that the Board of Public Works would be meeting on June 5th and suggested that a copy of the Town's letter regarding the Traffic Relief Plan be forwarded to them.

CM Lingua requested that a letter be sent to the Board of Public Works urging them not to move forward with free solicitation contracts for projects until the completion of environmental impact study and traffic study. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

- CM Lingua made a motion to move the start time of Legislative Meetings and Work Sessions to 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Henry.

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson stated that his work schedule made it hard for him to arrive before 7:30 p.m. and he would prefer that the meetings start at 8 p.m. as they had for over 20 years. Mayor Thompson stated that if it was the will of the Council to move the start time of the meetings, he would arrive on time however he would have to take annual leave from his job to do so.

CM Henry stated that he could understand work schedules and did not want to place an additional burden on Mayor Thompson as he already sacrificed a lot of his time.

CM Faulx stated that he was not in support of the motion and it needed to be discussed further.

CM Lingua made a motion to defer to a specific time, no later than the September 9th Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

Adjournment

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)