

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
March 25, 2019
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

CM David Lingua, Ward 3 and Council Vice-Chair
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director
Kevin Simpson, Development Services Director
Ivy Lewis, Public Projects and Services Director
David Morris, Chief of Police

Call to Order

Council Vice-Chair Lingua called the work session to order at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Council Vice-Chair Lingua reported that Mayor Thompson was unable to attend the meeting.

Council Vice-Chair Lingua reported that a Closed Meeting was held on March 11th to discuss a personnel matter (Statute #1) concerning the Town Manager's performance evaluation and deferred the rest of his report to the April 1st Legislative Meeting.

Presentations

Swearing-in of Chief Election Judge

Council Vice-Chair Lingua administered the Oath of Office to Chief Election Judge Geraldine Gee.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. (ATHA) Annual Update: Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director

Executive Director Aaron Marcavitch gave an overview of the upcoming projects, events, and grants awarded by ATHA. Mr. Marcavitch discussed the upcoming Trolley Trail Day on June 8th.

Proposed Changes to TheBus Route 14: Anthony Foster, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

Mr. Anthony Foster discussed the proposed route changes for Bus Route 14 of the County's bus system, TheBus. Mr. Foster stated that Bus Route 14 did not exceed sixty-five percent (65%) on-time performance in Town primarily due to delays related to the railroad crossing on Queensbury Road. Mr. Foster stated that the County's on-time performance goal was eighty percent (80%) and Bus Route 14 did not meet that goal.

CM Richardson asked about weekend bus services and Mr. Foster stated that the County was considering weekend services in the future.

CM Lingua asked if a route that ran through Riverdale Park Station to the CSX Bridge and onto Lafayette Avenue had been considered as it would bypass the railroad crossing. Mr. Foster stated that it had not been considered but it he would look into it.

CM Dixon asked how the public would be notified of the proposed route change. Mr. Foster stated that signs would be posted in English and Spanish at the affected stops.

Resident Shelia Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that the County should consider CM Lingua's recommendation.

Public Comments

Resident Carlos Martinez of 5404 Carters Lane stated that more outreach was needed to for Town meetings.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Earth Day Clean-up will be held on April 13th from 9 a.m. to 12noon behind Rinaldi's
- FY2020 Budget public hearings: Saturday, April 6th and 13th at 9:30 a.m.
- New feature of Town website: Report a Concern

Discussion:

Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road stated that the new website feature worked and has been discussed on Town Talk.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the April 1st Legislative Meeting.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx commended staff for the Field of Dreams community workshop and deferred the rest of his report to the April 1st Legislative Meeting.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the April 1st Legislative Meeting.

Discussion Items

1. Lawn Mowing and Maintenance Services

Public Projects and Services Director Lewis gave an overview of the contract for Lawn Mowing and Maintenance Services.

Resident Lora Katz asked if staff had considered replacing some of the grass lots with lots for planting.

2. FY2020 Operating Budget Update

Town Manager Lestitian outlined several stressors that impacted the preparation the FY2020 Proposed Budget.

CM Lingua requested the actual dollar amounts for the increases in Defined Benefit Plan contributions, Health Care Premiums, and Workers Compensation Insurance.

CM Lingua also asked about appeals of property assessments and Town Manager Lestitian reported that staff was working closely with the State and County.

3. Residential Trash Collection Services

Public Projects and Services Director Lewis gave an overview of the responses received for the Invitation to Bid for Residential Trash Collection Services and staff's recommendation on how to proceed. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a 1-year contract would be offered with an incentive for 3 years, if performance metrics are achieved.

4. Police Coordination and Assistance Agreements

Chief Morris gave an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the City of Hyattsville Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) Coalition and a Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement

5. Competitive Negotiated Sale of 4603 East West Highway

Development Services Director Simpson provided an update on the Competitive Negotiated Sale of 4603 East West Highway.

6. Variance Request for 5912 48th Avenue; variances of 5 feet front yard depth and 5.5 feet side street yard depth, and 33 feet front street line setback, 17.5 feet side street line setback and a waiver of the rear yard location requirement (Ward 3)

CM Lingua gave an overview of the requested variances and recommended approval of the existing conditions to allow the applicants to enclose their front porch. CM Lingua requested that Discussion Item 6 be placed on the May 1st agenda as a legislative action item.

7. Ordinance 2019-OR-02 regarding Chapter 42 Business Licenses

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff was seeking additional input on Ordinance 2019-OR-02 regarding Chapter 42 Business Licenses as the legislation was scheduled for adoption at April 1st Legislative Meeting.

CM Lingua expressed concerns regarding Town and County fees. Town Manager Lestitian noted that there was an overall decrease in fees with elimination of the Town's application fee.

8. Ordinance 2019-OR-03 regarding Wireless Telecommunications Facilities in Public Rights-of-Way

Town Manager Lestitian discussed Ordinance 2019-OR-03 regarding Wireless Telecommunications Facilities in Public Rights-of-Way.

Resident Lora Katz asked if Ordinance 2019-OR-03 was based on legislation adopted by other municipalities. Town Manager Lestitian stated that Town Attorney Fred Sussman had reviewed ordinances from other municipalities when drafting the Town's legislation.

9. Request for Letter of Support for Food Truck Hub in Discovery District

Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the request for a letter of support for a Food Truck Hub in the Discovery District.

10. Election Judges and Members of the Board of Election Appeals

Town Manager Lestitian asked that the Mayor and Council provide the Town Clerk with the names of potential Election Judges and Members of the Board of Election Appeals.

11. Minutes

Council Vice-Chair Lingua stated that the minutes were not available at this time but would be made available soon.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

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