

Town of Riverdale Park
Special Legislative Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019

In Attendance

Alan K. Thompson, Mayor
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Special Legislative meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Special Legislative meeting agenda for May 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Legislative Action Item

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-05 regarding the FY2020 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-05 regarding the FY2020 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua
Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Discussion:

Acting Town Manager Smith gave an overview of the changes made to the budget as directed by the Council. Town Manager Lestitian gave an overview of the budget calendar and stated that the Town was required to submit the approved tax rate to County no later than May 31, 2019.

New Business

There was no new business.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Adjournment

CM Lingua made a motion to adjourn the Special Legislative Meeting at 8:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
May 20, 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 Hala Mayers, Ward 6

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

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 8:16 p.m.

Agenda Approval

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson deferred his report to the June 3rd Legislative Meeting.

Public Comments

Resident Corey Bettenhausen stated that the Chief's Community Advisory Committee had discussed creating a Neighborhood Watch and the Town's social media accounts as they relate to the Police Department's access at their most recent meeting. Mr. Bettenhausen stated that the next CCAC meeting would be held on July 29th at 6:00 p.m.

CM Lingua stated that the Town had used Nixel in the past for the purpose of getting police-related information out to the public. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the Town's use of social media to include the Police Department and Public Works Department's access to the accounts in the case of emergencies.

Town Manager's Report

Acting Town Manager Paul Smith reported:

- Thank you to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for their work with the annual Community Clean-up
- Thank you to those who participated in the recent Community Walk
- The next Ethics Commission meeting will be held on May 23rd at 6 p.m.
- Town Hall and DPW will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day
- A wreath will be placed at the Veterans Monument on May 27th at 10 a.m.

- The next Council Meeting will be held on June 3rd and the Mayor and Council will be sworn in at that meeting
- Trolley Trail Day will be held on June 8th
- Countdown to the Centennial Kickoff Event will be held on June 15th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Town Center
- There will be no trash collection on May 27th – the next trash collection will be on May 30th

Town Manager Lestitian thanked the Council for allowing him the time he needed and stated that he was happy to be back from his leave.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Trolley Trail Day would be held on June 8th
- Coffee with the CM will be returning- date and location will be announced on June 3rd

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Denizens public opening scheduled for May 25th
- Overview of recent PGCPS meeting: two local schools in Cycle 1 renovation, William Wirt Middle School and Riverdale Elementary School. Would like for the Town to support Cycle 1 renovations with a letter.
- Discussion regarding initiative to adopt schools
- Would like to explore name change for Riverdale Elementary School to Riverdale Park Elementary School

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- Denizens would be opening on May 25th
- Recently attended the start of CKAR CDC's Capital Campaign on May 18th
- Next CKAR meeting will be held on June 4th at 6801 Kenilworth Avenue

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers discussed traffic concerns relating to the stop sign at 54th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Discussion Items

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

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis gave an overview of the new contract and new approach to working with Bates Trucking and Trash Removal, Inc. (Bates).

Discussion:

CM Lingua asked if there would be communication to residents, in English and Spanish, regarding changes to trash collection. Town Manager Lestitian stated that there would be a public information campaign to educate and inform residents.

CM Dixon asked how missed pickups would be addressed in the new contract and Director Lewis gave an overview. CM Dixon discussed complaints received from TRP-RPS residents. Director Lewis discussed ways to address the issues to include restricted parking on trash collection days (during specified hours).

Director Lewis discussed the new online reporting system on the Town's website and notification tags to tell residents why their trash was not collected.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding spillage. Director Lewis gave an overview regarding how spillage would be addressed in the new contract.

Resident Bruce Wernek discussed his concerns regarding the amount of DPW staff time used to address issues with Bates.

Mayor Thompson discussed the six month review period and liquidated damages for missed pickups and spillage included in the new contract. Mayor Thompson asked if the requirement for missed pickups to be resolved in 24 hours applied to all types of pickups and Director Lewis replied that it did apply to all pickups (trash, bulk trash and yard waste).

Mayor Thompson and CM Lingua discussed the placement of cans and whether the lids should be open or closed after pickup.

The Council requested that Bates attend the June 17th meeting to discuss concerns regarding service delivery.

2. Fence Permit Request: 5324 Taylor Road, installation of 6-foot metal fence (Ward 3)

CM Lingua gave an overview of the applicant's request.

Discussion:

Resident Sheila Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road asked if the fencing material was chain link and Town Clerk Barnes replied that applicant had changed the fencing material to metal in order to comply with the Town Code.

The Council decided to place Discussion Item 2 on the June 3rd Consent Agenda.

3. Variance Request: 4606 Queensbury Road; Variances of 5 feet front yard depth and 9.9 percent net lot area (Ward 1)

CM Dixon gave an overview of the project and applicant Bruce Wernek discussed the requested variances and plans for the project.

Discussion:

Mr. Wernek discussed possibly installing a cobblestone or brick driveway depending on the cost. CM Lingua suggested that Mr. Werneck check with another resident who installed a similar driveway.

CM Dixon stated that the Council strongly encouraged permeable pavers, rain gardens, or rain barrels when there was a request to exceed net lot coverage requirements. CM Faulx discussed the County's Rain Barrel Rebate Program.

Mr. Wernek stated that he was unable to attend the June 3rd meeting and clarified that he was not proposing any extension of the driveway.

4. Street Closure: Town Center parking lot on June 15, 2019 from 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. for Centennial Kickoff Event

Town Clerk Barnes gave an overview of the request to close the Town Center parking lot for the Centennial Kickoff event scheduled for June 15th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

5. Rescheduling of Council Orientation

Mayor Thompson stated that June 10, 11, or 13 were the preferred dates for the Council Orientation and requested that staff check with the CMs that were not in attendance regarding their availability.

6. Public Safety Surcharge

Director Simpson gave an overview of the County's public safety surcharge and the funds that the Town expects to receive.

7. Community Garden

Director Simpson gave an overview of the Community Garden project.

8. 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 Lingua discussed the Armory building on Baltimore Avenue and possible uses for the building. Mayor Thompson gave an overview of recent discussions with Congressman Hoyer's staff. CM Lingua stated that he would like to have a letter sent to the County Executive, County Council and School Board outlining the Town's need for the Armory building for municipal services. CM Faulx and CM Lingua stated that they would draft language to be included in a letter for the Council's consideration.

Resident Bob Smith of 5001 Riverdale Road suggested that the Council tour the building to assess its condition. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would work to organize a tour of the building.

- CM Lingua asked if staff could provide a Council meeting schedule through June 2021.

- CM Faulx stated that he would like to see a letter of support sent to the School Board regarding William Wirt Middle School and Riverdale Elementary School remaining on the Cycle 1 renovation schedule.
- CM Dixon requested more information regarding the status of the WMATA property and Acting Town Manager Smith provided an update.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 p.m.