

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2019
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1 (arrived at 8:09 p.m.)
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5 (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Rosa Guixens, Assistant Chief of Police
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services
Kevin Simpson, Director of Development Services

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of reflection.

Approval of Agenda

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Trolley Trail Day was held on June 8th and was well attended
- Overview of Kickoff to the Centennial event: new name of Train Station and rededication of Town Clock. Thank you to Public Works and staff for making the event great!
- Overview of MML Conference attended with CMs Faulx and Dixon
- Overview of Purple Line construction and closures
- Arts Fest to be held at Riverdale Park Station this weekend
- Special Legislative Meeting scheduled for July 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- July 3rd M-UTC meeting cancelled

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Town offices and DPW will be closed on July 4th
- Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee will meet on July 11th at 6 p.m. and Banana Blossom Bistro

- Community Walk will be held on July 20th at 9 a.m.
- National Night Out to be held on August 6th
- Update on Public Art initiative Traffic Box project: visible and impactful project in the community
- 2019 Staff Calendar Year goals update: on track at mid-year point; more thorough report in October
- 2018 International Property Maintenance Code distributed to Mayor and Council; goal to produce local amendments for introduction in the fall

Finance Report

Gentry Jones reported, as of June 30, 2019, subject to audit:

Expenses: \$516,488

Revenue: \$352,717

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 5-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Fire Department Report

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the Fire Department's report.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Attended MML Summer Conference
- Coffee with CM scheduled for July 20th; time will be confirmed

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Attended MML Summer Conference: overview of workshops
- Discussion regarding improvement of amenities in local parks and the development of adult sports
- Attended school adoption meeting on June 27th- discussion regarding school adoption program

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC regular meeting will be held on July 9th
- Follow-up from June Capital Campaign meeting will be held on July 2nd
- Overview of money raised to date and expenses for Sarvis Café project

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson did not have a report.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers reported:

- Residents of Ward 6 thank RPPD for outreach
- Parking on 54th Avenue continues to be problematic

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

Resident Bruce Wernek discussed his concerns regarding the public art piece located on the Trolley Trail near Riviera Restaurant.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Minutes: May 20, 2019 Special Legislative Meeting; May 20, 2019 Work Session; June 3, 2019 Legislative Meeting

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

Vote: 5-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to support a variance request for 4606 Queensbury Road for variances of 5 feet front yard depth and 9.9 percent net lot area conditioned on a Town building permit requirement regarding drainage system design (Ward 1)

Applicant Bruce Wernek provided an update on his variance request and Mayor Thompson discussed the design of a proposed drainage system. Mayor Thompson also suggested that a gutter system be installed to direct the runoff.

CM Faulx asked what was planned for the water going onto adjacent property and Mr. Wernek described his property as it related to the adjacent property.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding the flow of water onto the neighboring property and suggested that perhaps the Anacostia Watershed Society should review the project.

Mr. Wernek stated that he was resistant to rain barrels because he thought that the Historic Preservation Commission may not approve them.

CM Dixon stated that her position was to move forward with the proposed design in good faith with the understanding that if was not working the applicant would consider other options.

CM Dixon made a motion to support the variance request for 4606 Queensbury Road for variances of 5 feet front yard depth and 9.9 percent net lot area conditioned on a Town building permit requirement for a drainage system design substantially similar to the one shown on the attachment distributed at the meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Richardson. Vote: 3-2-1 (favorable; CM Faulx and CM Lingua opposed; Mayor Thompson abstained)

2. Motion to approve the proposed amendments to DSP-13009-15 (Riverdale Park Station)

Mark Regulinsky of Cafritz Enterprises provided a summary of the proposed amendments.

Resident Zachary Schulman of 47th Street asked that Council consider the increase in density and volume of cars in one location.

Resident James Glee of Van Buren Street requested that the Council recall the complaints and criticism from Riverdale Park Station homeowners at the recent Work Session and the potential impact on stormwater management.

Nancy Randall of Wells and Associates discussed traffic considerations and how the project will generate less traffic than expected in original analysis due to the change in housing type and the removal of retail space. Ms. Randall stated that trip counts are well under the trip counts considered during initial approval.

Resident Zachary Schulman of 47th Street discussed the impact of cut through traffic.

A resident of Riverdale Park Station asked if future shuttle services would include stops for residents. Ms. Ra explained that bus stops are positioned throughout the site but would not be in place until the development has built out.

CM Dixon made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to DSP-13009-15 (Riverdale Park Station). The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained).

3. Motion to establish Rivertech Court speed limit at 20MPH

Town Manager Lestitian stated that Legislative Action Item 3 was a follow-up to the discussion at the recent Work Session.

A resident reported that they often use the area and perhaps a lower speed limit could be in place for only school hours.

A resident of Riverdale Park Station stated that 20 mph was too slow for Rivertech Court.

CM Dixon made a motion to authorize a maximum speed limit of 20 mph on Rivertech Court from Lafayette Avenue to River Road. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx.

CM Lingua made a motion to postpone the motion to the August 26th Special Legislative meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-04 in support of Main Street Maryland Affiliate Program application

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the Main Street Maryland Affiliate Program.

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-04 in support of Main Street Maryland Affiliate Program application. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1(Favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

5. Motion to authorize a letter to County Executive Alsobrooks (et al) requesting County support of two (2) Town priority projects for the Maryland State Highway Administration-sidewalks along East West Highway and a pedestrian bridge on Riverdale Road (across the Anacostia)

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the requested legislative action.

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize a letter to County Executive Alsobrooks (et al) requesting County support of two (2) Town priority projects for the Maryland State Highway Administration- a pedestrian bridge on Riverdale Road (across the Anacostia) and sidewalks along East West Highway. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

1. RFP – Municipal Center Project (CIP 18GG01): RFP for Backup Generators

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an overview of the RFP for Backup Generators for the municipal buildings which is part of the Municipal Center Project.

2. Small Cell Design Guidelines – Proposed Legislation

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson provided an overview of the proposed legislation.

3. Charter Amendment for “Piggybacking” Contracts

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the proposed Charter Amendment and stated that it would be prepared for legislative action following the Council’s summer recess.

4. Committee Assignments

Mayor Thompson presented the proposed committee assignments:

Vice-Chair of the Council

David Lingua

Finance Committee

David Lingua (Chair)

Marsha Dixon

Hala Mayers

Public Safety Committee

Christopher Henry (Chair)

Marsha Dixon

Colleen Richardson
Hala Mayers

Public Works Committee

Aaron Faulx (Chair)
David Lingua
Christopher Henry

Legislative Committee

Marsha Dixon (Chair)
David Lingua
Aaron Faulx
Hala Mayers

Community Affairs

Colleen Richardson (Chair)
Aaron Faulx
Christopher Henry

CM Faulx made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommendations for Vice-Chair of the Council and Committee members. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

Adjournment

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)