

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
August 26, 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

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Rosa Guixens, Assistant Chief of Police
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

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson reported that he had recently returned from a trip to Australia and he hoped that everyone had a great summer.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Town Hall and DPW will be closed on Monday, September 2nd
- Schools (PGCPS) start on Tuesday, September 3rd
- Legislative Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9th
- Next Community Walk: Saturday, September 21st at 9:00 a.m. starting at Town Hall
- Overview of staff projects during summer recess: held two (2) Community Walks, National Night Out community bike ride event, Centennial Planning Committee Meeting, completed Public Art Wraps project, applied for Maryland Main Street Affiliate program, completed CNS of East West Highway property, and had another successful year with Prince George's County Summer Youth Employment Program.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Welcome back- hope everyone had a great summer!

- Town residents of EYA looking forward to new trash pick-up
- Reminder to residents to utilize Trash Concerns app on the Town's website
- Coffee with a Councilwoman will be held on 9/21 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Center Market

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx deferred most of his report to the September 9th Legislative Meeting. CM Faulx reported that a Centennial Planning Committee meeting was held on September 15th and there was great attendance and input. CM Faulx thanked staff for their work with the Centennial Planning Committee.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- Discussion regarding CKAR CDC Capital Campaign and the need for donations from the community to show broader support of the project. Project will bring opportunities to the Riverdale Park area.
- Request to consider volunteering for the upcoming Centennial Celebrations
- Reminder that schools are back in session on September 3rd- please drive carefully and look for pedestrians

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

CM Colleen Richardson deferred her report to the September 9th Legislative Meeting and stated that she was glad to see everyone after the Council's summer recess.

Discussion Items

1. Fence Permit Request: 60" metal fence around patio area at Town Center Market, 4705 Queensbury Road

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the fence permit request. Mayor Thompson stated that the project had be reviewed by the Riverdale Park Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee.

CM Dixon requested that Legislative Action Item 1 be placed on the September 9th Consent Agenda. There were no objections.

2. Street Closure Request: 6200 block of 43rd Street on September 28, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for annual Block Party (Ward 1)

Town Clerk Jessica Barnes reported that the street closure was an annual request and had been approved by the City of Hyattsville. CM Dixon requested that Legislative Action Item 2 be placed on the September 9th Consent Agenda. There were no objections.

3. Update on Implementation of Residential Trash Collection Contract

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an update on the implementation of the residential trash collection contract. Director Lewis provided the Council with a sample of the new notification tags.

CM Dixon discussed her concerns regarding bulk trash collection in the EYA community.

Mayor Thompson asked if metrics would be included in future reports and Director Lewis stated that they would be included moving forward.

CM Lingua asked how bamboo was handled with regard to collection and Director Lewis replied that it was treated as trash.

CM Lingua stated that he had noticed that trees were dropping leaves earlier and asked if leaf collection could start earlier. Director Lewis stated that staff were gearing up for leaf collection and exploring a public information campaign.

4. Walk, Bike, Drive Safety Initiative

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the Town's Walk, Bike, Drive Safety Initiative and outreach methods. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Initiative started in January and had been focused on educating the community.

CM Faulx suggested that staff reach out to Ward 2 residents Ryan and Karyn McAlister.

CM Lingua asked if staff had considered ways to encourage bike riders to acquire and use lighting. Town Manager Lestitian suggested that the unallocated social concerns funds included in the FY2020 budget could be used for an outreach program where police officers distribute lights when they encounter bike riders who are not using lights.

5. Licensing Agreement – Town Center Market

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson provided an overview of the need for a licensing agreement and stated that he was working with the Town Attorney to draft the agreement.

Mayor Thompson stated the he would like to see a copy of the agreement as soon as possible.

6. Amendment to Accessory Structure Grant Program

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the purpose of the amendment to the Accessory Structure Grant Program.

CM Lingua suggested expanding the program to include the installation of French drains.

7. DSP-09028 (COPT Discovery District Development) Update

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson provided an update and follow-up information in reference to DSP-09028: COPT Discovery District Development.

8. Small Cell Design Guidelines – Proposed Legislation

Development Services Director Kevin Simpson gave an overview of the proposed legislation and stated that it mirrored legislation adopted by other municipalities. Director Simpson discussed the proposed timeline for legislative action.

9. Vision and Commitment Statement

Town Manager John Lestitian discussed the Town’s progress towards building a concise vision statement. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a Vision and Commitment to Professional and Well-trained Employees was an important step in the process.

CM Dixon asked if staff had provided feedback on the resolution. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Vision and Commitment statement solidified the Town’s commitment to employees and he would seek staff input prior to the next meeting.

CM Lingua stated that he would forward any comments that he had to staff next week.

10. Charter Amendment for “Piggybacking” Contracts

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of Discussion Item 10.

Mayor Thompson suggested that the word “Federal” be added to the list of governmental entities.

11. Code Review and Recommendation: Chapter 17- Camping

Town Manager John Lestitian discussed Chapter-17 and the staff recommendation to repeal the Chapter. Town Manager Lestitian suggested that the Town could establish rules and regulations for Town-owned park property if the Council wanted to keep Chapter 17.

12. Code Review and Recommendation: Chapter 22- Clubs

Town Manager John Lestitian gave an overview of Chapter 22- Clubs and the staff recommendation to repeal the Chapter.

CM Lingua stated that he did not have an issue with repealing Chapter 22.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would prepare legislation to repeal Chapter 22 for introduction at the September 9th Legislative 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 Lingua reported that Riversdale House Museum would be having a Belgium Fest on October 12th and the ambassador would be attending. CM Lingua stated that he would like to present a key to the Town to the ambassador and perhaps have a proclamation declaring Belgium Day in Riverdale Park. CM Lingua suggested that Riverdale Park officials plan to attend the event.
- CM Lingua also discussed upcoming Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning budget hearing in September. CM Lingua stated that there were several requests to be made related to parks in Town. He stated that the hearing would likely take place on September 23 or 24 and he would work on language for a letter to be sent from the Town.
- CM Lingua requested a proclamation for Ann Wass recognizing her years of service and contributions to Riversdale as she would be retiring on September 13th.
- CM Lingua stated that he attended the most recent Community Walk and would like to explore some ways to have better resident participation. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff were working on door hangers to be hung along the Community Walk route.
- CM Lingua requested an update on the Field of Dreams project. Town Manager Lestitian provided an update. Town Manager Lestitian also reported that the Town had applied for grant funds and would learn in May whether we were successful.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.