

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2019
8:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1 (left at 9:22 p.m.)
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Rosa Guixens, Assistant Chief of Police
Gentry Jones, Finance Program Specialist

Absent

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Discussion:

Item 2 under New Business was removed from the agenda and the Finance Report was moved to after Legislative Action Item 7.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Closed meeting report: Held on October 7th to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Closed at 7:56 p.m. on 10/7 and in attendance were Mayor Thompson and CMs Dixon, Lingua and Henry. The only vote taken was to allow the Mayor to discuss the contents of the meeting with the CMs not present. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.
- Death of former CM Mary Donaldson
- Belgium Festival to be held on October 12th at Riversdale
- Coffee with a CM will be held on October 12th at 11 a.m.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- A formal presentation of the grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will be held on October 10th in Annapolis
- Kickoff of free leaf bag campaign to encourage residents to bag their leaves
- Community Walk scheduled for October 19th at 9 a.m. Door hangers will be distributed to homes along the route.
- Discussion regarding challenges with Park Tanglewood and action taken

Finance Report

Finance Specialist Gentry Jones reported, as of September 30, 2019, subject to audit:

Expenditures: \$322,379

Revenue: \$520,743

CM Dixon made a motion to adopt the Finance Report subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the meeting materials.

Fire Department Report

There was no report from the Fire Department.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC will meet on October 8th from 7-9 p.m. at the Yorkshire Building, Suite 203
- Taste of Sarvis event was held in September and the fundraising campaign is ongoing
- Community Walk held in September was better attended and it was good to see residents along the route
- Recently received reports of parking and traffic concerns along Oglethorpe Street
- Encouraged everyone to attend the Belgian Fest at Riversdale House Museum and Oktoberfest at Riverdale Park Station on October 12th
- Thoughts on former CM Mary Donaldson

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

CM Christopher Henry reported:

- Condolences to the Donaldson family
- Thank you to Town Manager for posting sign on Silk Tree Drive regarding free leaf bag distribution
- Plans to meet Belgian Ambassador at Riversdale on October 12th
- Participated in Conference Call regarding Defined Benefit Plans on October 4th
- Thank you to DPW for trimming the trees in Madison Hill community

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Request: 6-foot wood fence in backyard of 4702 Oliver Street (Ward 1)

2. Minutes: June 17, 2019 Work Session, July 1, 2019 Legislative Meeting and August 26, 2019 Work Session

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

Legislative Action Items:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-08 regarding Go Green Grant Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-R-08 regarding Go Green Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Henry. Vote: 4-0 (favorable)

Discussion:

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the Grant program.

2. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-06 regarding Small Cell Design Guidelines

Town Manager Lestitian recommended that adoption be delayed until the November 4th Legislative Meeting. There were no objections.

3. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-07 correcting the codification of the provisions of Ordinance 2019-OR-03

CM Dixon made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-07 correcting the codification of the provisions of Ordinance 2019-OR-03. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

4. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-08 repealing Chapter 22- Clubs

CM Henry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-OR-08 repealing Chapter 22- Clubs. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable; Mayor Thompson abstained)

5. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-OR-09 regarding Noise Control

CM Dixon introduced Ordinance 2019-OR-09 regarding Noise Control and provided an overview of the ordinance.

6. Motion to authorize the establishment of a partnership to provide surplus computers to Sister City Ipala, Guatemala

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the establishment of a partnership to provide surplus computers to the Town's Sister City Ipala, Guatemala. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

CM Henry asked how information was removed from the Town computers and Town Manager Lestitian explained that all information was removed by Peake, the IT company contracted by the Town. CM Lingua asked if it would be better to remove the hard drives and replace with new hard drives. CM Henry discussed the potential connectivity issues as a result of changing hard drives.

7. Motion to authorize a letter of support for County Council Legislation

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the request for a letter of support for County Council legislation CB-51-2019 and CR-79-2019.

CM Henry made a motion to direct Mayor Thompson and Town Manager Lestitian to send a letter of support regarding County Council legislation CB-51-2019 and CR-79-2019. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)

8. Motion to authorize letter of invitation to teachers from Ipala, Guatemala

Mayor Thompson stated that a formal motion was not needed for Legislative Action Item 8. The consensus of the Council was for the Mayor to send a letter inviting teachers from the Town's Sister City Ipala, Guatemala to visit.

Unfinished Business

1. Charter Amendment 2019-CR-01 regarding Article VI Finance, Section 623 Competitive Bidding

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the adjusted timeline for adoption of Charter Amendment 2019-CR-01.

2. Code Review and Recommendation: Chapter 17- Camping

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of how camping was addressed by neighboring jurisdictions. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff recommended that camping be prohibited on Town-owned property.

New Business

1. Amendments to Defined Benefits Plan, Marika M. Ostendorf, Esq., Baldwin Law Group LLP

Town Manager Lestitian introduced Marika Ostendorf, of Baldwin Law Group. Ms. Ostendorf outlined the proposed changes to the Defined Benefit Plan and the reasons that the changes were needed. The Mayor and Council had the opportunity to ask questions.

CM Lingua requested clarification of the term normal retirement date. Ms. Ostendorf confirmed that the normal retirement date was customary and not mandatory and that employees could continue working after that date.

CM Lingua asked how the final average pay was determined and Town Manager Lestitian replied that it was based on the final 3 years of employment.

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the next steps in the process and stated that PNC would also present to the Mayor and Council at an upcoming meeting.

~~2. Mayor and Council Rules of Procedure~~

3. Policy regarding weapons on Town property

Assistant Chief Guixens provided an overview of the request for a policy regarding weapons on Town property. Assistant Chief Guixens reported that Town Attorney Sussman had advised that an ordinance would be needed in order to enforce the policy.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would work with the Town Attorney to have the necessary legislation drafted.

4. CM Lingua discussed the concept of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize a relationship Riversdale House Museum.

Adjournment

CM Henry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 3-0-1 (favorable, Mayor Thompson abstained)