

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer Mayor
CM Alice Ewen Walker Ward 1
CM Kate Sharpe Ward 2
CM David Lingua Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry Ward 4
CM Timothy Kimbrough Ward 5

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley
Deputy Town Administrator- Penelope Mendoza
Chief of Police- Chief Teresa Chambers
Director Public Works- Leonard Addison

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda-CM Walker
Second- CM Henry
Motion passes 5 - 0

Mayor's Report

Mayor first wanted to welcome back Corporal Larry Hayes from his tour of duty in Iraq. Mayor noted that with his return we now have 18 officers. Chief Chambers is not yet in attendance due to an event at Parkdale High School to memorialize the young man who was slain and to offer community support. The two recent incidents in/near our town to include the murder of this young man and the rape that occurred recently reveal the importance of working with nearby jurisdictions in both code and the police departments. We would like to see additional resources in staffing as well as materials for the police department as well as increased staffing in administrative support in code enforcement. Mayor stated he would like to see a shift in financial funding from Public Works to these areas as well as increase the visual aspects of the town. The Mayor stated that one step in making this happen is to move trash to a contracted operation. There are four points that have been set out. These include: we must save a substantial amount of money (\$150,000.00 minimum); there must not be a reduction in the high quality and service we currently have; it must reduce the town's liability; and it cannot cost any vested employee their position. This is to take effect July 1 given council approval. Mayor stated he is excited to see the launch of the new website which takes place on Thursday.

This concludes the Mayor's Report

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report and stated that citizens have a copy of this report. Revenues to date are \$3,212,147.00 and expenditures to date are \$3,093,390.00.

Motion to Approve Subject to Audit- CM Sharpe
Second- CM Walker
Motion passes 5 - 0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

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Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Prangle stated that he would first of all like to tell you that our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the young man and also would like to offer condolences to Officer Summerville for the loss of his father. He also said he would like to welcome home Officer Hayes from his tour in Iraq. In the code report Mr. Prangle stated that there is a new reporting document as stated in last months meeting.

This concludes the Code Enforcement Report

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator stated that the graffiti effort control system is in place and someone was found to fund this. They are still looking toward a grant for additional funding. Town Administrator also wanted to report that the website is up and running and as always we continue to look for ways to improve it.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Deputy Town Administrator's Report

Penny stated that a meeting will be held on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. with Kennedy Smith. She also stated that she is still trying to reschedule a meeting with Kevin Malachi. Also, she stated that there will be a meeting for a "focus group" for the Purple Line open to the public on April 21.

This concludes the Deputy Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

Chief Chambers stated that the gang issues are being taken care of with Prince George's County Gang Unit. She stated she has assigned two officers to head up the graffiti gang unit for the town of Riverdale Park. There was some discussion as to how to deal with private property being tagged by graffiti. Chief Chambers stated that this issue is being looked into and that there would be a consent form which the owner would receive prior to any painting of private property. She also noted that all graffiti would be photographed and tagged in order for us to start becoming more proactive in stopping this crime.

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

Acting Director John Benjamin gave the public works report. He noted that one garbage truck was out this morning so we were a little slow in getting out today but it is back in the yard. Mr. Benjamin also stated that the light pole was removed from CSX and from Riverdale road. He stated that due to the cost we should do our best to preserve these. The signs for the Hiker/Biker trail are on order.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

The President and other members were unable to attend due to prior engagements but the written report was submitted.

This concludes the Fire Department Report

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Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

CM Walker asked for an update on the low hanging lines on Sheridan street. She also asked about ordering some trees for the area and stated that this may not be a primary concern at this point but would like them to be ordered soon. CM Walker stated that a resident called to thank the town for the updated signs on the hiker/biker trail. CM Walker asked about speed humps being placed in her ward. The Town Administrator interjected and stated that the cost is about \$3000.00 for each but that it was to be met on tomorrow at 10 a.m. CM Walker noted some code issues in her ward including concern with litter and backyard construction debris. CM Walker made two announcements: there is free mulch available for County residents on Sunday April 27, 2008 from 8am-2pm and to call 301.883.5045 for more details; and there are resources available through the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for homeowners who may be having difficulties making payments on their homes or also having problems refinancing or renegotiating their rates with their bank. This program is called MD HOPE (Home Owners Preserving Equity), they provide free advice and their phone number is (877) 462-7555 and their website is mdhope.org.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

CM Sharpe stated that there would be a finance committee meeting on April 24th at 7pm. She also noted that street work on Taylor Road would begin soon.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Sharpe's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

CM Lingua stated that the traffic safety meeting would be on May 2nd at 11 a.m. and the next Public Works meeting will be held next Monday at 7:15 p.m. CM Lingua also noted that roadwork would be coming up soon on Oglethorpe and Nicholson street. He also stated that there will be a Public Works meeting on March 27th to hear grievances of town employees.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry stated that there will be a Public Safety meeting on May 2nd at 11 a.m. He also wanted to thank Mr. Prangley and the Department of Public Works for their efforts in putting up the no u-turn signs in his ward. CM Henry also noted that he received a letter from Robert Young in the Madison Hill Community to express a problem of poor lighting in the area. Three recommendations are as follows: 1. more lighting after dark 2. Install web cams to deter loitering in the area 3. Install brighter illumination around the park area.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

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Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

CM Kimbrough stated that there would be a legislative committee meeting April 17th at 7 p.m. He also wanted to thank the town for all their efforts in working together to deter and prevent crime in the town.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Kimbrough's Report

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

CM Allen-Smith was not in attendance due to health reasons however she submitted a written report that was read by the Mayor. CM Allen-Smith would like to encourage everyone to come out and support the carnival which ends April 13th with the proceeds going to the Lions Club. Wants to see if the town can donate any money to the family of the slain student for funeral costs and that CM Walker will be making a motion under new business later tonight. She pointed out that Pastor Ben from the CLC has been helping the family and he would like to thank him for all his work. CM Allen Smith also thanked the residents of ward 6, and the Mayor and co-council for all their support and well wishes as she has been diagnosed with a high risk pregnancy and is restricted to bed rest.

This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report

Legislative Action

- # 1 Approval of minutes for the March 3rd Regular Legislative Meeting
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CM Lingua made motion to accept meeting minutes.
CM Walker second
Motion passes 5 - 0
- #2 Approval of Ordinance Resolution 2008 OR-1 concerning organizational and supervisory responsibility for code enforcement activities

CM Walker made motion to accept ordinance
CM Sharpe second
Motion passes 5 - 0
- # 3 Request for widening of curb cut and driveway at 5403 54th avenue

Went straight to discussion and as no documents or plans were provided to Mayor and Council, no action was taken. Maybe bring it back up next month.
- # 4 Approval for a permit for fence 6 ft. privacy fence at 4804 Sheridan Street

CM Sharpe made motion to accept permit
CM Lingua second
Motion passes 5 - 0

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- # 5 Action to approve PY33 Street Improvement Project VMP Construction Bid \$34, 265.00
- CM Sharpe made motion to create the committee
 CM Lingua second
 Motion passes 5 - 0
- # 6 Approval for authorization for helicopter to fly over Cafritz parcel to treat gypsy moth infestation
- CM Lingua made motion to approve helicopter fly over
 CM Walker second
 Motion passes 5 - 0
- #7 Approval for permit for Washington Gas to install regulator/monitoring system between East Beale and West Beale
- CM Walker moved to approve permit
 CM Sharpe second
 Discussion
 CM Walker moved to postpone until Mayor and Council get more information
 CM Lingua second

New Business

Motion to approve donation from the Town for \$100.00 to the family of the slain Parkdale High school student

 CM Walker moved (on behalf of CM Keelah Allen-Smith) to approve
 CM Lingua second (for sake of discussion)
 Discussion
 CM Walker moved to amend that the town give its condolences to the family and to collect from private parties, interests, or organizations
 CM Sharpe second
 Amended motion passes 5 - 0

Motion to approve a variance for a 4 ft. fence 6002 Rhode Island Ave

 CM Walker moved for approval
 CM Lingua seconded (for discussion)
 Discussion
 Motion passes 4 – 1 conditional approval pending that all proper paper work is submitted and all requirements are satisfied; CM Lingua opposed motion

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Motion for a proposed budget amendment to move code enforcement's budget, benefits, and salaries from general government to the police department when in 20 days code enforcement will fall under police

CM Sharpe moved
CM Walker seconded
Motion passes 5 - 0

Adjournment

CM Walker moved for adjournment
CM Henry second
Approved 5 - 0

Typed from video tape 04-07-08