

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007  
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Oppenheim	Ward 1
CM Mary Donaldson	Ward 2 Absent
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Lawrence Taylor	Ward 4
CM Gerard Kiernan	Ward 5
CM Kenneth Webb	Ward 6

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley

Chief of Police- E. Thomas Parker

Director Public Works- Vacant / Deputy Director of Public Works –Deborah Murphy was present

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.

Mayor Archer asked for a slight change to the agenda: That prior to the Mayors report, we permit the Mayor of University Park, John Toboric, to share with the Riverdale Park Council and residents some information on areas of interest including East-West / Baltimore Avenue.

CMKiernan made the motion:

CMOppenheim 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion:

**Approved**

Mayor Archer welcomed Mayor of University Park John Tobori. Mayor Archer stated that it was an honor to have Mayor John Tobori here tonight

Mayor John Tobori

University Park

University Park is a very near neighbor we are on the North West corner of East-West and Route 1 interchange. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and I thank the Town of Riverdale Park for coming to our assistance in July. Back in July there was a storm in which the Town of University Park suffered great damage, the Town of Riverdale Park Public Works came and offered assistance, and it was very much appreciated. My main point is to share information with you, the Mayor, Council and residents of Riverdale Park: The Town of University Park and has been getting a lot of cut-through traffic as a consequence legislation will be as follows:

Sheridan Street that goes to Rt 1 putting a No Left Turn

Restricting the entry onto Sheridan and Tuckerman 6:30 – 9:30

44<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be block traffic from 6:30-9:30 and 4:30-6:30, speed humps will be placed there as well. The speed humps are mobile so we can move them.

Internally this will cause some inconvenience to our neighbors but they wanted this legislation for safety. We are getting 8 speed mobile speed humps.

Our changes may have some impact; traffic may increase onto East-West Highway and Route 1. We just wanted you to be aware of what we were doing in a neighborly fashion.

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CM Kiernan: Asked if the Fire Department received a copy of the changes

Mayor Tobori: Stated that he is aware of the emergency equipment and will be coordinating with the Fire Department and the Police Department.

CM Oppenheim asked Mayor Tobori if the mobile speed humps they were installing were the rubber ones we have been reading about. Mayor Tobori stated that yes they are a very hard rubber.

CM Oppenheim asked Mayor Tobori if he had any ideas or concepts to improve East-West / Route 1 Mayor Tobori said that right now EYA is going to widen the eastern portion of the intersection on East-West Highway that's entirely inside the Town of Riverdale Park. Widening the Western portion of East-West as well as widening Rt 1 will take away some parking spaces for our residents and they don't have any other parking options- this will have to be addressed later and carefully.

A second lane left hand North onto West East-West is very important. I don't think our efforts are going to fully solve cutting through until this happens.

EYA presentation is graded; my concern is that it is at the F Level (Failing Level) with the improving expectations by 1.2% however, the new traffic from the UTC Movie Theater the 1.2% will be lost very quickly. There needs to be a comprehensive view. I have been speaking with Mayor Archer and I hope that we can continue to work together.

CM Oppenheim thanked Mayor Tobori and stated that we definitely want to keep in touch

CM Lingua asked Mayor Tobori what are his feelings on the area on the west side of prince Georges Plaza Mayor Tobori said that he is concerned about that it will produce a lot of traffic congestion and pressure on our school system. I don't think we can stop the development but I think condos would work out well. There are a few items I feel we need to address

CM Oppenheim said that he was really enthusiastic about Mayor Tobori visit tonight and working together in the future.

Thank you Mayor Tobori

Mayor Archer announced that before going on he wanted to state that CM Donaldson was not able to be with us tonight as she is suffering from a set-back from her hip surgery. Mayor Archer said our thoughts and prayers are with Councilperson Donaldson and her family. - Mary get well.

**Mayors Report**

We hired a Director of Public Works, L. Ron Goff. Ron is currently the Director of Public Works at Bladensburg. Ron is well respected Director through-out the State; he is the State MML representative for Public Works. We are looking forward to him coming on in late January. I have received several calls from people who received letters from the state Department of Assessment. Assessments have really gone up; it appears that a 20% increase seems average for a single family home. You will not see your municipal tax increase 20% this year, I can not speak for the county taxes but there is no reason to panic. The Towns Audit report came in very favorably for fiscal year last year. In the last two years we went from basically no fund balance to 1.1 million dollar surplus, last years surplus was over 350,000.00 three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, again more reason we should hold the line on taxation in the next year or two. The infrastructure work passed last budget cycle, this is an historic infrastructure project of street and sidewalks, 5 times the size of any previous undertaking this town has ever done. We are anticipating the engineers report by the end of the Month, meaning February we can put out for bid, looking to begin work, weather permitting, March 2. The holiday Market, Festival of Lights and the Children's Party were all a great success center in the future. . MS. Sundi did a fantastic job we will be geared-up next year for a large turn-out again. Danielle Glaros and Mark Stoffer lead the way for the Holiday Market, it was a wonderful event. This event speaks well of our town. Businesses will catch on and the Town center will be a thriving center

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in the future. Looking ahead to the next work session January 29<sup>th</sup>, the Spiropolus family and architect will be bringing in a presentation for Council regarding plans for developing the Dumm's property. Former Councilmember Wendell Davis of Ward 6 has passed away; On behalf of the Town we send our prayers to the Davis family.

Town Administrator- Treasurer and Code Report

Mr. Prangley gave Treasurers report, copies available

CM Kiernan made a motion to accept Treasurers Report subject to audit.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Taylor.

**Approved**

Street Improvement process is progressing very well, as the Mayor stated; bid process and work commencement should be early February- March weather permitting. Code Report will be available tomorrow; Colleen is on vacation and will be returning tomorrow. Inspections are continuing. Mayor Archer asked Mr. Prangley for an update reference the Legislative meeting minutes: Mr. Prangley reported that we have hired Maryland Secretarial Services to perform the transcription of the video tapes. The fees are 3 cents per word we are at approximately a 50 page document, we should look at alternatives. We would like to advertise for a stenographer to come onboard, we had one years ago and it was less costly.

CM Kiernan asked about the Financial Report. Mr. Prangley said that that the State is having a computer problem and has extended the deadline to January 31, 2007. The problem is with the uploading and the State is working to resolve the problem. CM Kiernan asked if it is a new requirement that we submit it electronically Mr. Prangley stated that we previously submitted by hard copy and we are required to submit electronically this year.

**Police Department Report**

There were a total of 857 calls for the month of December. Chief E. Thomas Parker gave the statistical breakdown of monthly police calls. Ward 2 has been experiencing minor theft from autos. Officer Garcia, while on Patrol, observed a suspicious subject in the 4900 blk of Tuckerman- suspect ran and Officer Garcia pursued but lost sight of the subject in the Vicinity of Rivertech Court. Description of the Subject: Black Male, 18-25 years old, 5 foot 9 inches, approx. 179 pounds riding a bicycle Anyone with any information please call the Riverdale Park Police Department at 301-934-4343. Residents are encouraged to lock their vehicles at all times and not to leave vehicles running.

**Public Works Departmental Report given by Deborah Murphy**

There was 153.14 tons of trash removed from the Town of Riverdale Park during the month of December. *Deborah Murphy gave the public Works statistical report. Deborah Murphy stated that leaf collection has ended and now leasves will need to be bagged. Public Works will be closed on Monday, January 15 th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Check your holiday pick-up schedule.*

**Fire Department Report**

Steve Lamphier, president of the Riverdale Fire Department gave the statistical report 270 emergency calls during the month of Decemeber. Steve Lamphier stated that for the 2006 year Riverdale Park Fire Department responded to three thousand four hundred and thirty- seven call. Steve Lamphier said that he spent the first year getting internal things straight and now will focus his second year on the external objectives, doing a lot with station maintenance. The Fire Department received their second grant: the first grant went to refurbish and the second grant is going to the installation of an emergency generator and a vehicle exhaust system. We will contact the correct people, we would like to do a presentation to the appropriate committee about the traffic difficulties on Queensbury Road.

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CM Kiernan asked about the Traffic Problem and also assistance available to families that fall victim to fire. Steve Lamphier stated that they will schedule to attend the next public safety meeting to discuss the traffic problems. As far as emergency assistance usually: the incident commander will speak with the family to see if emergency assistance is needed, if assistance is needed the Office of Emergency Preparedness is contacted and then the red cross is notified. CM Kiernan at the Fire Department elections in December if they needed to take care of Chapter 33 waiver of residence, Steve Lamphier acknowledged that the Fire Chief and a New Sergeant would need the waiver and a memo will be forth coming.

Mayor Archer advised Steve Lamphier to put in writing a description of the traffic problems that the Fire Department is encountering. CM Kienan suggested maybe painting the whole roadway: If your out side the block don't block the box.. CM Oppenheim asked if the street light onb 48<sup>th</sup> and Queensbury has been out for a while does that pose any problem. Steve Lamphier said that no one has complained. CM Lingua asked what about a dedicated traffic light blinking yellow or red? Steve Lamphier thought these lights are only allowed on state roads not in residential zoned areas. CM Lingua asked if the Fire Department was going to schedule a meeting with Public Safety Committee, Steve stated yes as soon as he can check his schedule and asked with all due respect, if he could start this process via email as his travel schedule is heavy for the next two months. Arrangements are being made to amicalbly resolve traffic issues.

**Ward1 Rob Oppenheim Community Affairs**

Items CM Oppeheim is working on Town Clock, Rail-Road Crossing, Fences, Hiker-Biker, Website Proposal, Email-List, Re-Opening of Bealle Circle, Street Lamps, Curb-Cuts, S&J Sidewalk, Council Pay, Log-term Problems with creative solution discussion on Town -Talk. Town Administrator Patrick Prangley stated that the town received reply from park and Planning that requested we hold off the opening of Bealle Circle as they see this as problematic. Deborah Murphy stated that they assessed the proposed curb cut 4600 blk of Tuckerman and don't feel its safer or fesible- the driveway would be safer. Town Administrator Patrick Prangley stated that we are currently looking into the cost of the curb-cut. CM Kiernan thought this was the same home that several years ago Council allowed a wider curb cut for their driveway for the bus of their handicap child. They will have to come infront of Council for approval anyway.

**No Ward 2 Report Mary Donaldson Finance Committee**

Mayor Archer stated that Mary Donaldson is not able to attend the meeting this evening. Mayor Archer said that his number is available and his cell number is published in the Toiwn Crier. Mayor Archer stated that he will assist until Ms. Donaldson is well.

**Ward 3 David Lingua Public Works**

Welcome and Congratulate Mr. L. Ron Goff, the new Director of Public Works Department. CM Lingua stated that he believes that things happen for a reason and Mr. Goff's resume is quite impressive. CM Lingua thanked Deborah Murphy for all she's done. CM Lingua stated that he really noticed Public Works employees dedication, staying late on Fridays to set-up- coming in on Sundays to tear-down. The children's party waw the biggest turn-out, the holiday market was a success Thanks again to Deborah Murphy and Public Works Employees. We have received some requests for additions in Ward 3 CM Lingua stressed the importance of proper plans for approval of Mayor and Council. Spoke with a few residents in reference to run-off on Taylor Road, if you do have water mitigation there are plans at the county with the sub-station coming in we should be able to get some attention. The holiday festival was a success. CM Lingua stated that he would like to see all residents volunteer in some way with the Rec-board

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Ward 4 Lawrence Taylor Economic Development

Ward 4 has been experiencing petty theft from vehicles since reporting these CM Taylor has also noticed an increase in patrol. The Firework display for the Guadalupe celebration held at Saint Bernards was very nice. Riverdale's future is bright. Town Center hosting the Farmers Market and the Holiday Market shows a light for the Town Center. Danielle's leaving came as quite a shock, she will be missed. Danielle was an asset to the Town. CM Taylor stated that he looks forward to starting the hiring process. Town Administrator Patrick Prangle stated that surprisingly the town has received a very good response to the ad.

Ward 5 CM Kienan Public Safety

A week prior to Christmas a family left food on the stove which caught fire, the alarm sounded and residents responded to the alarm and left the building. Public Safety will be meeting with Fire Department over traffic concerns. I will be discussing the Rental housing Ordinances

Ward 6 Kenneth Webb Legislative

Happy New Year

Heart-felt condolences to the Davis Family, he will be missed.

Correspondence Summary

CM Lingua asked for a reading of Correspondence #1 Letter from Saint Bernards to Chief of Police and Officers thanking them for assistance during the lady of Guadalupe celebration.

Public Comments

David Lion

Washington DC

A big supporter of the Hiker-Biker trail. The Police Department and Emergency responders would have better access to that area. Mr. Lion stated that he hikes this trail and sees a number of people hiking, biking and walking pets along the trail. I hope you get the title search done, I will help in any way I can. I have the DVD Mr. Oppenheim was speaking about. I will be happy to show it. All poles along the trail are pepco poles. I thank you for your time and interest I will make myself available to help you.

Al Dombroski

5023 Riverdale Road

I think the Hiker - Biker should be put on hold, the Town can't seem to maintain projects that they have had for many years, they shouldn't start new projects until you take care of the forgotten projects. Second question, the mayor spoke highly of the new Public Works Director, why was he second round pick?

Mayor Archer said that there was a vetting committee which is common practice. Mr. Goff was on the vetting committee when he found out about all we offer and the atmosphere here, he told us if it doesn't pan out with this group- I would like you to consider me. 2<sup>nd</sup> response If every single project was complete before we started a new project, we'd never get anything done.

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Legislative Items

#1 2007-OR-01 Cable Franchise Verizon Maryland, Inc.

We contacted our attorney to help draft a document to surface cable franchise agreement. Town Administrator Patrick Prangley gave background. The Town attorney recommended to introduce in Ordinance form not to be cognified. **CM Kiernan introduced the Ordinance**, CM Kiernan read the Ordinance. Copies available for review at the Town Hall. CM Kiernan provided Verizon with Apartment information

#2 Commercial Zoning Bill for Kensington

Kensington requesting support for a Bi-county Bill Ordinance within their limits. CM Kiernan gave background and stated that he supports the motion to send a letter of support. CM Kiernan made motion: CM Lingua 2<sup>nd</sup> **motion Approved**

#3 Variance 4901 Madison Street

CM Lingua stated that he has not been provided with enough information or adequate plans to support this request. The homeowner has not even come to Town Hall to explain his plans. We just had questions and need more information. CM Lingua stated I make a motion to deny CM Kiernan 2<sup>nd</sup> **motion to deny Denied**

#4 Support EYA East-Village

Mayor Archer stated that this was very early support request for the East Village side of EYA the planning board will set the division lines for the Eastern side. The lot lines that are drawn will determine the size of the Town Houses. Hyattsville has several concerns. – Mayor and Council discussed plans and parking dimensions. Mayor Archer stated to Council that they do not need to take a position tonight. CM Oppenheim stressed the importance of numbering pages. CM Kiernan suggested to send a letter to Planning board requesting more time for review. Mayor Archer stated that his biggest concern is with the highway mitigation. CM Oppenheim stated that we have a good relationship with Hyattsville and we should support them. Mayor Archer said he can't see how we can lose asking for bigger town homes. CM Kiernan stated that we should take a neutral position, we need more time. CM Kiernan made motion that we send a letter requesting more time CM Oppenheim 2<sup>nd</sup> **motion Approved** – Mr. Prangley to take care of letter.

#5 Resolution to increase Police Officers to 19 hiring applicant with sought after qualifications

Mayor Archer discussed how he would like to grow the Police Department 1 Officer a year until there is 4 Officers per shift. Mayor discussed skills of the Officer. Mayor stated that he will make an amendment to the budget as well as a Resolution to hire this person who has sought after qualifications. Chief Parker expanded per CM David Lingua's request. CM Kiernan explained that the number 19 includes Chief, Lieutenants, and Officers. CM Kiernan made motion CM Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> **motion Approved**

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Al Dombrowski  
5023 Riverdale Road

If the Mayor is going to Ammend the budget for Police Officer why doesn't the town include the building inspector?

Chief E. Thomas Parker thanked Mayor and Council for their support.

CM Kiernan stated refer to item #4 is included in the MUTC Madison Street.

**Unfinished Business**

- A) Feed back from the Traffic Engineer – Email will be put in Council's box as it just came in today
- B) CM Kiernan has been working on Chapter 55 Single Family Rental Housing; also Chapter 67 Inspections on privately owned home. When investigating the appeals process CM Kiernan noticed an inconsistency with the appeals process and the number of members on the board. CM Kiernan will correct this error prior to introduction of new chapter.

**New Business**

- I.) FYI Election coming up in May Judges will be appointed at the Februry meeting. We will appoint; Chief Election Judge, Deputy Election Judge and the Appeals Judge
- II.) CM Taylor stated that a long term objective is the impact that crime has on Economic Development, maybe if we annexed a few areas we could close the gaps of the slower response areas. CM Kienan said this has been talked about prior- it is all residential no business properties. Research wouyld have to be correct and updated. Town Administrator Patrick Prangley gave detailed background on annexation process.
- III.) 2007-OR-01 CM Oppenheim read a proposed Ordinance and will publish it in the crier
- IV.) CM Oppenheim brought up the curb-cut on Harrison Street – Dumpster is in non-compliance, in order to bring dumpster into compliance, owner needs another curb-cut. Discussion. CM Oppenheim made motion CM Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion CM Webb made motion to table CM Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> **motion Tabled**
- V.) CM Lingua stated that Mr. Shoemaker of 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue dropped off a parking proposal. CM David Lingua stated that he would have liked the proposal to be more engineer savey. CM Lingua stated that he will speak with his consiuent. CM Kiernan made reference to the parking signs that were arbitrarily placed by Mr. Shoemaker without permission of the Mayor and Council.
- VI.) Mr. Coleman gave a brief report on the holiday market stating that on Saturday 500 people were in attendance and on Sunday 250 people were in attendance. Vendors were very happy. CM Kiernan asked if we received a financial report? MJr. Coleman stated calculations and gathering of figures started about a week ago and were turned in to Town Staff.

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VII.) CM Oppenheim stated that he brought lasers for the Mayor and Council  
CM Lingua thanked CM Oppenheim for the Lazer

**Adjournment**

CM Webb made motion to adjourn

CM Lingua 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

**Approved**

Transcribed, Summarized and Typed from video tape of 12-02-07 Legislative Meeting.  
VWS