

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

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer Mayor
CM Alice Ewen Walker Ward 1
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- Acting Chief Timmons

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:15p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

Approval of Agenda

CM Walker Motioned to approve the agenda.
CM Henry Second
Motion passes 4 – 0

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Archer announced the passing of Chief Teresa Chambers' father. Captain Timmons will be Acting Police Chief in the interim.
2. Demolition will soon begin at 5413 Riverdale Rd. The permits have been obtained. The contractor is gathering equipment today.
3. There have been concerns about a church operating out of the Post Office building on Baltimore Ave. The Zoning Office has sent out a notice of violation. They have 15 days to respond.
4. Mayor Archer proposed hosting a working dinner to Councilmen to be held at Riversdale Mansion sometime in the fall. Oct 2 0- 23rd are tentative dates. State Legislature would be invited to discuss matters of Riverdale Park (i.e. Storm drainage system).
5. Congratulations to CM Sharpe and husband on the birth of their newborn, Caleb.
6. Last Wed., Mr. Prangley, Mr. Addison and Mayor Archer had a meeting with the surveyor working on the Trolley right-of-way. The basic survey is completed. The surveyor's report will be handed off to the attorney within a week.
7. This past June many of the Councilmen attended Maryland Municipal League. Mayor Archer was able to meet with the Mayors of University Park, College Park and Eric Olson regarding the Cafritz proposal. Mayor Archer was also able to connect with the County and State Agencies about the storm water drainage system.
8. Mayor Archer met with local immigrants from the sister city **Ipala, Guatamala** in June. They presented the Mayor with a plaque and municipal flag. The Mayor will deliver a City of Riverdale Park flag during his visit in August.
9. There is a prescription savings card benefit offered to residents in the state of Maryland. Together Prescription Access is provided to people who don't have prescription coverage or qualify for Medicare. Information packets will be available in Town Hall

Discussion: CM Kimbrough asked the Mayor if there has been a date for the start of the demolition. The Mayor stated that although there have been delays, demolition should start tomorrow.

This concludes the Mayor's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report:

Modified accrual report as of May 31, 2008: \$2,478,849.21 Revenues,

Budget as of June 30, 2008: Revenue = \$4,326,837.35, Expenses = \$3,962,626.76

CM Walker Motioned to approve Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 4 - 0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

1. Mr. Prangley gave deepest condolence to Chief Teresa Chambers and police officer and County hero Richard Findley on behalf of the Town.
2. The PY34 application has been approved. After challenging the previous denial of this application Mr. Prangley and other town officials fought the decision last month in Upper Marlboro. Many County officials stood up for the approval of this grant.
3. The town has applied for funding for the storm water management needs. The deadline is June 30, 2009. Identifying storm water drainage problems are a major priority of the town.
4. Projects in Town – There is an initiative for minor changes to a site plan review to the 2nd speck building being developed now (next to the NOAA Building) for post 911 site revisions. There is a potential tenant from Virginia (FBI).

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

CODE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- The planning for National Night Out is going on. There will be another meeting on Wednesday night.
- Some tagging done at the USGS bldg. This will be taken care of by week's end.

Discussion:

CM Lingua commented about the enforcement of parking rules (code# 64-10). He stated that he was glad to see that these types of issues are being addressed.

CM Henry Motioned to approve the police report.

CM Kimbrough Second

Motion passes 4 - 0

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- In the absence of Director Addison, Mayor Archer reported that the Bates contract has been approved. The town is currently awaiting a response from Mr. Bates about the August 1st start date and the ordering of new toters stamped with the town's seal. Collection will start on August 4th on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Mr. Prangley added the following:

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

- Ogleshorpe, Nicholson and Riverside project is almost completed. Residents are satisfied with the attention to this project.
- Ravenswood at 48th Ave. project is almost complete.
- Striping on Riverdale Rd. close to Kenilworth Ave. will be completed after completion of milling and resurfacing. An intense pedestrian striping will also take place.

Discussion: CM Walker asked if the artwork for the town's seal been approved yet. CM Walker would be glad to take a look at the artwork. Mr. Prangley will check on the status of the artwork.

CM Lingua asked Mr. Prangley about the curb cuts on 6004 Riverside drive which has not been done as of date. Mr. Prangley will look into it.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

Report distributed to all CM and Mayor Archer.

This concludes the Fire Department Report

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

- CM Walker attended a session on housing and foreclosure at the Maryland Municipal League. She obtained information that would help prevent the citizens of Riverdale Park from losing their homes. She will work on putting together a workshop for the citizens of Riverdale Park.
- CM Walker stated that there are two churches that do not have a permit of occupancy. She is currently looking into methods to close these facilities until they become compliant.
- Mosquito spraying has begun. If there are any concerns/requests residents can forward them to CM Walker.
- Pepco installed a street light at the apartment building at Ravenswood and Lafayette.
- CM Walker will be meeting with the fire department with in the next two weeks to reassess the closing of Queensbury. Traffic – There are two scheduled meetings, July 9th and 16th at 6pm affecting Ward 1 - North of East West Hwy and East of Route 1. These meetings will cover traffic concerns.
- Economic Development - One of the buildings planned for M Square will break ground this summer and is scheduled for completion in 2009.
- The town will receive \$40K more in entitlement from the state income tax receipts.
- Keith Ware, Eco Living, will be in discussions with the mayor to look at the Town Center as a hub for green living related activity.
- Open House on June 12 with CM Eric Olson. CM Walker would like to see more open houses like this.
- The August Economic Development meeting will be held after August 11th. CM Walker will post the date.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report

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

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

- CM Lingua will have a public works committee mtg. on July 21 @7:30pm. No meeting in August. The next meeting is on Sept 8th @ 7:30pm. The last meeting dealt with putting out an RFP for the pilot projects for the native gardens along Lafayette, Oliver and Sheridan and DuPont Circle.
- Traffic study meeting will be held on July 8th at 7pm. The goal is to put together a plan for the pick up and drop off for the Elementary School.
- CM Lingua thanked the town and Tim Zastro for landscaping the 5000 block Oglethorpe and the 5000 block of Nickelson.
- Today VMP started placing a sidewalk on the 6000 block Riverside Drive on the West side instead of the original plan of placing the sidewalk on the East side.
- Mark your calendar for the 1st weekend in October for Riverdale Park Day. CM Lingua would also like citizens to start thinking about the Holiday season and the festival of lights. It's a great way to show off the town.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

- CM Henry reported on drug activity at the barbershop in the Riverdale Shopping Center. CM Henry checked out the shopping center and did not see any suspicious behavior.
- CM Henry, business owners and Code Officer Coleen Ferguson saw that the area on Kenilworth Ave where a rape occurred has been cleaned up. Trash cans have been removed. There seems to be some calming in the neighborhood.
- The 6ft fence on Good Luck road was brought up at the last meeting with concern that a bicyclist maybe injured. Mr. Prangley responded that there was some follow up. He will get back to CM Henry after consulting Director Addison.
- CM Henry asked Acting Chief Timmons "Is a covered boat permitted to be parked on a public street?" Acting Chief Timmons will follow up. Mr. Prangley stated that there is a restriction on public property.
- There is a tire business in the main corridor of Kenilworth Ave. that needs to be cleaned up. There are a lot of tires and junk left on the side of the building. The face of the Jamal building on Kenilworth Ave. is an eye sore. The windows have been broken out and replaced with boards.
- On Silk Tree Dr., Antoinette Hopkins has requested speed bumps. This is needed to slow traffic in that area. The Madison Hill Homeowners Association is in the process of getting petitions drawn up.
- The HOA is still asking for a trash can to be placed on Good Luck Rd. where the kids hang out after school.
- CM Henry wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July weekend.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

- The National Night Out will be on August 5th. This will be a positive outreach for the community. CM Kimbrough thanked Acting Chief Timmons for his involvement in this event.
- Code Enforcement has been quite active in Ward 5 by clearing of a lot of junk vehicles and removing criminal gang graffiti.
- CM Kimbrough is personally involved with a lot of research involving vagrancy and loitering issues in Ward 5. The vagrancy and loitering issues are complex.

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

- The Legislative committee has two bills to introduce this evening, 2008-OR-03 and 2008-OR-04.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Kimbrough's Report

Public Comments

Jim Coleman (2911 Somerset Rd.), resident of Ward 2, asked about the improvement of North Taylor Road to the end of Tuckerman and its status. Mr. Prangley stated that property management would have to have a storm water management system in place.

Legislative Action

Mayor Archer would like to have item #2 brought forth first because there are residents present.

#2 Variance request for 5005 Somerset Rd. regarding front lot coverage and shed

Marta Guerra, a resident of 5005 Somerset Rd, was asked to make a presentation to the Town of Riverdale Park by the Board of Zoning. Mayor Archer stated that because CM Sharpe is not present to represent the residents of her ward this matter be held open for a period of time. CM Walker stated that the council should hear out the resident now while present.

The residents stated that there have been at least two thefts of vehicles in their neighborhood. There was no driveway available at their home. Photos and measurements were presented by the residents. The driveway has already been established without applying for a permit. Mayor Archer will follow up with CM Sharpe.

Jim Coleman, Ward 2 resident, stated his displeasure of the council to say 'OK' to residents who perform improvements without obtaining the proper permits required by law first.

#1 Approval of Minutes for June 2, 2008

CM Walker Motioned to approve the minutes for June 2nd.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: Mayor Archer pointed out the U&O discussion in the Public Works Report for CM Walker.

#3 Introduction of 2008-OR-03 concerning parking on unpaved and unprepared surfaces on residential property.

Discussion: CM Kimbrough read the resolution for the record. Mayor Archer stated that this resolution will be published in the Gazette or Washington Times.

#4 Introduction of 2008-OR-04 concerning violations and penalties for the unlawful disposal of dead animals.

Discussion: CM Kimbrough read the resolution for the record. Mayor Archer stated that this resolution will be published in the Gazette or Washington Times.

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

New Business

CM Lingua motioned to approve a handicap parking space at 4713 Nicolson Street.
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 4-0

Discussion: CM Henry voiced a concern about turning public streets into parking lots. CM Lingua stated that this would be for a resident who has undergone a double hip replacement and who lives at the place of designation. If this resident was to move or lose his/her handicap privilege the space will no longer exist. CM Walker asked if the code department performs a periodic review of handicap parking spaces like this. Mr. Prangley responded that the code department does review these matters and that the city has seen fewer of this type of parking privileges.

CM Lingua motioned to approve a No Parking at 4715 and 4717 Nicholson Street on Aug 9th from noon to 11:59pm for a Block Party.
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 4-0

CM Kimbrough motioned that a no parking sign be placed on 54th Place.
CM Lingua Second
CM Henry amended this motion to no standing/no parking sign be placed on 54th Place.
Motion passes 4-0

Discussion: Due to suspicious activity and loitering there should be no parking on this side street/alleyway.

Additional comments

CM Kimbrough addressed Jim Coleman's concerns during the discussion of legislative action #2. Mayor Archer pointed out the difference between allowing and permitting residents to perform actions requiring prior approval. The town does not allow residents to perform improvements without obtaining the proper permits.

Allan Thompson of 4711 Sheridan Street recalled a legislative action where if a building was built without a permit the permit would just cost more. Professional contractors should know better than to build without a permit. Contractors should have their business license 'yanked' from them.

Delegate Justin Ross is having a picnic on Thursday.

Adjournment

CM Lingua Moved for adjournment at 10:18 pm
CM Walker second
Approved 4 - 0

Typed from live meeting and video tape 07-07-08