

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 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
CM Keelah Allen-Smith Ward 6

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

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.

Change of Agenda

CM Sharpe Motioned to amend the agenda to discuss items 8 – 11 and 6
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 5 – 0 (CM Lingua had not arrived yet).

#8 Action to set real Property Tax Rate FY 08-09

CM Sharpe Motioned to set the fiscal year 08-09 real property tax rate at 53cents per \$100 of assessed value.
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 6 - 0

Discussion:

The council added \$3K to budget. The proposal is to raise taxes by .65 per \$100 or reduce budget by \$31,500. CM Henry asked for example of increase if a home were worth \$300K. CM Sharpe responded that the increase would be approximately \$30 annually. CM Sharpe's strong recommendation is to keep the tax rate the same as last year.

#9 Action to set Special Tax Rate FY 08-09

#10 Action to set Tangible Personal Tax Rate FY 08-09

#11 Action to set Operating Tax Rates FY 08-09

CM Sharpe Motioned to set the Special Tax Rate for fiscal year 08-09 at 11.1 per \$100 evaluation, and the tangible and operating tax rates at \$2 per \$100 of assessed evaluation.
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 6-0

Discussion:

CM Sharpe offered clarity on the tax rates by adding that the 11.1 represents payment on our capital debt. \$2 for tangible and operating tax rates are the same as last year.

**#6 Approval for relocation of existing 6ft. privacy fence at 4504 Sheridan Street
Ward 1.**

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CM Walker Motioned to approve the fence variance request for 4504 Sheridan Street.
CM Sharpe Second
Motion passes 6-0

Discussion:

The building addition fully complies with the County's and Town's building code with a variance of moving a section of the 6 ft privacy fence around the back of the property forward approximately 6 feet. Based on discussions with the resident, neighbors and the location of this section of fence CM Walker recommended approval of the relocation project.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Archer stated that the council passed a proclamation welcoming home the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion Airborne stationed in Riverdale Park. The Mayor will be welcoming them back home from Iraq on Tuesday, June 3rd.

Lease signed for the Old Trolley/bookstore building in town center to put in a Mexican restaurant.

Long time Fire Chief, Vincent Harrison, of CO #7 will retire. Charles "Chuck" Ryan will be Acting Director. The department will have elections in June or July.

This concludes the Mayor's Report

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report:

Modified accrual report as of April 30, 2008: \$2,880,519.18 Revenues,

Budget as of May 31, 2008: Revenue = \$3,422,569.49, Expenses = \$3,405,687.06

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

CM Walker Second

Motion passes 6 - 0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Prangley was pleased to announce the final dedication of the first spec building M Square at University of Maryland. They plan to break ground on their next spec bldg soon.

Economic Development Initiative at Upper Marlboro tomorrow at 11am at the County Administration Bldg. Public Hearing on CDBG 34 on Wednesday. Application deemed the Town of Riverdale Park ineligible, not qualifying for the low to moderate income percentage. Federal criteria are 51% of census; however Town of Riverdale Park reports 57%.

CM Sharpe asked what census tracks were used by CDBG. Mr. Prangley explained that they have used year 2000's census for qualification in the past. The Town of Riverdale Park has qualified for this grant for the past 33 years. Mr. Prangley will question the CDBG criteria and clear up whether the town is truly ineligible at the public hearing. CM Sharpe asked that information be provided as to why Riverdale Park is ineligible for this grant.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

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Code Enforcement Report

- Tomorrow night at 7pm there will be a roundtable discussion at William Wirt Middle School.
- Churches at 6411 and 6419 Baltimore Avenue – You will recall that these locations were discussed at the May 27th Work Session, especially with regard to the impact their activities have on parking on Sheridan and Tuckerman Streets. Code Enforcement Manager Ferguson has learned that there are no Use and Occupancy Permits on file for either location to operate as a church. Ms. Ferguson has filed a complaint with the Prince George’s County Zoning Inspector who will be conducting a cooperative inspection of the properties.
- Burned, vacant house at 5413 Riverdale Road – As of Friday, May 30, 2008, Code Manager Ferguson learned that Prince George’s County Permits Office is still awaiting sign-off from the required County departments. On that date, the permit application for demolition was in the Health Inspections Office awaiting approval. Ms. Ferguson will continue to check on the progress of this permit process.
- Cooperation with Riverdale Park Fire Department – Code Manager Ferguson reported that she has been working closely with Captain Flynn and the members of the Riverdale Park Fire Department in various matters involving fire safety and been able to contact Captain Flynn for assistance as needed. Likewise, he and his team have reached out to Ms. Ferguson with regard to code enforcement matters as appropriate.
- Code Enforcement Log – As promised, the Code Enforcement Log for May 2008 is organized by Ward. A “Status” column has been added this month so that you can more easily track our progress. A copy of the log was provided.

Police Department Report

- In addition to Riverdale Park and Montgomery County, the only two Maryland jurisdictions to be involved in CrimeReports.com when we signed on in March of this year, there are now 16 additional Maryland jurisdictions participating in this crime mapping tool. In our immediate region, Bladensburg began utilizing the tool within the last week, and Edmonston and Mount Rainer came on soon thereafter. Please note that when you check the site for crime in the Town of Riverdale Park, icons for crimes in adjoining jurisdictions will also be visible. Map provided. Seeing mapped crimes in other jurisdictions is an essential component in our ability to track crime trends; it is important to remember, though, that not all crimes visible on the map have occurred within our town.
- Beginning Wednesday, June 11, 2008, and continuing every Wednesday thereafter, the Riverdale Park Police Department will conduct “Crime Abatement Briefings” to discuss crime trends, patterns, intelligence, suspect information, status of investigations, specifics regarding crimes that have occurred, and the like.
- Attached is an email that has been sent to all Riverdale Park Police Department employees detailing the purpose of these briefings and who will be participating in these weekly briefings.

CM Walker commented that she likes that the police department have regularly scheduled meetings that include code violations. She is also concerned that the churches don’t have permits to operate. She asked if we need to do some kind of U&O audit of a whole number of properties since there may be others that are operating without the proper permits.

CM Kimbrough asked about the prosecutions of code violators. He encouraged the police chief to strengthen the relationship with the prosecution office.

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CM Henry Motioned to approve Police Report.
CM Lingua Second
Motion passes 6 - 0

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- On May 27th there was a hearing in town hall regarding permit parking on the 5400 block of Tuckerman and Sheridan. The neighbors don't feel like public works are doing enough by setting up parking permits. Violators will just park further down the street from the churches mentioned in the police report.

Penny commented that she attended the May 27th meeting sponsored by PGCMA, hosted by Park and Planning and County Government. Church parking is a big problem throughout the County. CM Henry asked if the Town of Riverdale Park would be liable for a tragedy since they are knowledgeable that the churches are running without a permit, and also what is the process in place to address businesses operating without permits. Mr. Prangley stated that the process is to work with the County as they are the ones who issue the U&O permits so they are the ones that are responsible for making sure that they are being used properly. The County has the authority to stop a business from operating or of citing them when in violation. The town has a great working relationship with the County and we will refer to them on this matter as we do with any other County matter. We will bring in the proper authorities and ask them for a map or list of the permitted businesses in the Town and request that they look in to these businesses and churches for any violations. As far as liability for any tragedies, Mr. Prangley explained that even though the County has the authority liabilities can be "stretched".

CM Walker stated that she is concerned that there are a number of businesses in town that may not be permitted to operate.

- The State is offering the Town of Riverdale Park a reimbursement of approx \$3K - \$5K to perform the removal of litter on a portion of East West Highway.

CM Henry asked if this is a reimbursement of \$3K - \$5K on a monthly or annual basis. Mr. Addison responded that it appears to be monthly.

CM Lingua asked that this be presented in committee. He has concerns about safety and liability.

CM Sharpe is excited that the city may have the ability to take care of the trash instead of waiting for an unresponsive State government.

Mr. Addison added that currently there are contractors in town cutting down damaged trees and landscapers that are working on the common areas of the city.

- The City will resurface a portion of Riverdale Road and re-stripe it from Kenilworth to Lafayette. This project will cost approx \$135K. Mr. Addison will also work with Pepco to check on broken street lights in town.

CM Walker will provide info on pruning to Dept of Public Works.

CM Henry asked Mr. Addison to look at a 6ft fence on Good Luck Rd (by a daycare center). It proposes a blind spot and danger for bicyclists.

This concludes the Public Works Report

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Change of Agenda

CM Lingua Moved to hear new agenda items after the Fire Department Report.
No Second/No Objection

Fire Department Report

Acting Chief Ryan stated that there were 266 runs for the month of May (fire and EMS calls). There was a small fire on Kenilworth Ave at a commercial business recently.

CM Lingua has a concern that there may be a fire code violation when two different families are occupying a single family home. He asked if the police dept. can follow up with the fire dept. to work out these concerns. Acting Chief Ryan replied that if the fire department were called to a single family home for an inspection a violation would be assessed.

CM Henry asked “What happens when a resident picks up the phone to call “911”? What is the response time? Acting Chief Ryan: After the location is determined the call is dispatched to the local town or next available closest jurisdiction. It’s all determined by pre-mileage. The response time is under 6 minutes.

This concludes the Fire Department Report

New Agenda Items

1. Railroad Club Event to be Held at the Town of Riverdale Park Facility on 6/14-6/21.

Chris Benjamin, President of the Model Railroad Club

Cory T Kessler, Vice President of the Model Railroad Club

The Railroad Club is planning a show for the Riverdale Park and DC Area to benefit the Children’s Hospital. Mr. Benjamin produced a map and permissions from Children’s Hospital to raise funds on their behalf. The plans are to have this show on June 14th thru 21st 9am – 5pm. They will set up on Thursday and Friday June 12th - 13th. They are asking permission to use the town hall.

CM Walker Motioned to accept the Model Railroad Club’s plan to have a benefit for Children’s Hospital at Town Hall on June 14th thru June 21st.

CM Lingua Second

Approved 6-0

2. Bates Trucking Contract

CM Lingua Motioned to accept the Bates Trucking Contract subject to final contract approval by the council.

CM Walker Second

Approved 5-0 (CM Allen-Smith left early).

Discussion:

On May 12 the Town of Riverdale Park put out an announcement to collect bids for trash removal for the town. This process was closed on May 21st. The contract includes bulk service, recycling and trash receptacles for \$274,320 annually. Mr. Bates can furnish other services for an additional price. Mr. Bates also proposed to hire 5 current Town employees under certain provisions, one being that they pass a drug screening test.

CM Henry, CM Sharpe, and CM Walker asked about the details of the health and retirement benefits, whether they are comparable to what they are currently offered under their current employment with the Town.

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The Bates contract is set for approval for a July 1st start date.
A special session meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 8pm.

Change of Agenda

CM Lingua Motioned to move to Legislative Action portion of agenda
CM Sharpe Second
Approved 5-0

Legislative Action

- # 1 **Approval of minutes for the April 7th regular Legislative Meeting**
Page 5 #5 – CM Sharpe did NOT state a motion to create a committee
CM Lingua made motion to accept meeting minutes.
CM Henry second
Motion passes 5 – 0
- #2 **Approval of minutes for May 5, 2008 regular legislative meeting.**
CM Sharpe pointed out that there are some statistics that need to be corrected pertaining to tax rates.
CM Sharpe made a motion to accept meeting minutes with correction
CM Walker second
Motion passes 5 – 0
- #3 **Approval of minutes for May 27, 2008 special legislative meeting.**
CM Lingua Motioned to accept.
CM Walker Second
Motion passes 5 – 0
- #4 **Approval of Speed Hump for 4700, 4800 and 4900 blocks of Ravenswood Road.**
CM Sharpe Motioned to accept.
CM Lingua Second
Motion passes 5 – 0
- #5 **Approval for curb cut for resident, Ms. Roscoe located at 5403 54th Ave. Ward 6.**
CM Sharpe Motioned to accept.
CM Lingua Second
Motion passes 5 – 0
- #12 **Proposal for proclamation to create a sister city relationship with Ipala, Guatemala**
CM Lingua motioned to approve.
CM Walker second
Motion passes 5-0
CM Lingua read the proclamation.

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Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

CM Walker stated that on June 12 there will be an event in town center to recruit new business sponsored by Congressman Olson. June 25 at 7pm, Jazz on the Portico event at Riversdale Mansion. Departure for parking and loading at 6103 Baltimore Ave.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

CM Sharpe thanked Penny Mendoza for attending the Code meeting last week. She asked Mr. Addison for a list of trees that will be removed. The Mayor and Town Hall will fill in while CM Sharpe is on maternity leave.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Sharpe's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

CM Lingua will have a public works committee mtg. on June 16. Traffic study meeting will be postponed. A meeting was held May 21st with residents in Ward 3 and plans are being drafted by town's engineer. CM Lingua will pass along a list of trees that need attention to public works. CM Lingua has a number of signs that need replacement as well as some signs that are a violation of code along 5800 Block of Riverdale Road.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry is following up with his initiative for public safety with businesses on May 23rd. CM Henry has noticed improvement with the overcrowding at the liquor stores on Kenilworth Avenue with the help of PG County police department. 5607 Silktree Dr is an unoccupied home under foreclosure. CM Henry has asked that there be some police presence in that area.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

CM Kimbrough received a confirmed commitment from Mayor Archer for a sidewalk at 54th place and will possibly include a 10mph speed bump. The April legislative committee meeting was successful. It was reported that there are less criminal gang graffiti and activity in town. Glad to hear that violent crimes are down.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Kimbrough's Report

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

CM Allen-Smith had left the legislative meeting by the time that ward/committee reports were made.

This concludes Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith's Report

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New Business

Mr. Prangley introduced Tara Lewis, who will be taking minutes for the legislative meeting. CM Lingua asked if there was a letter drafted regarding the Southern Gates on the mansion's property. CM Lingua was reminded that it was decided that instead of a letter Mayor Archer will follow up personally. CM Lingua wanted to follow up on road improvement on the 5800 block of Riverside Drive.

CM Lingua asked the Mayor if there is anything the town could do to help a resident who has damage due to the storm water system. The Mayor will follow-up.

Adjournment

CM Lingua moved for adjournment at 11:33 pm
CM Henry second
Approved 5 - 0

Typed from live meeting and video tape 05-02-08