

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice Ewen	Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM Raymond Rivas	Ward 5

Town Administrator- Sara Imhulse

Police Department – Chief Teresa Chambers

Director of Public Works – Leonard Addison

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:23 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

Approval of Agenda

CM Thompson motioned to approve the agenda.

CM Ewen Second.

Motion passes 3-0

Discussion: CM Thompson would like to strike Legislative Item #4 from the agenda. Mayor Archer moved the 2010 Census Presentation before his report.

2010 Census Presentation

Melissa **Seyu** discussed the directives from her regional office. Riverdale has a significant drop in participation for the 2010 census. Melissa is present to gain advice from city council to help gain buy in from the community before the census ends on April 5th. She brought materials and giveaways that were distributed. CM Rivas will reach out to Melissa to help advise her of community events that may help spread the word about the census. CM Ewen asked if there is information distributed at business like the Giant and Mega Mart which are highly populated on the weekends. Melissa is working with 11 other colleagues, 3 of whom speak fluent Spanish. CM Rivas offered his office as a prime location for recruitment on March 2nd. People will be coming in and out all day to pay rent. Mayor Archer referred Melissa to Colleen Ferguson who has contact information for all of the rental apartment managers.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Archer and the Town attorney will meet on March 9th w/representatives of Maryland University to address some University properties as well as other concerns on the North side of the University of Maryland.
- March 27th is our Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 11am – 1pm at the Riverdale Mansion.
- Budget - Our net accessible base is down 5% from last year. We will have to make financial decisions accordingly.
- Snow Season is over – Mayor Archer has been working with Mr. Addison on equipment needs and salt and salt availability.

This concludes the Mayor's Report

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Treasurer's Report

Sara Imhulse submitted a new DRAFT report from QuickBooks Treasurer's Report previously. Budget as of February 28, 2010: Revenue = \$3,875,689.00, Expenses = \$2,773,470.00.

CM Thompson moved to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit.

CM Ewen Second

Motion passes 3-0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

- Attended the PG County Planning Board Mtg. discussing the EYA project. Sara testified on behalf of the Council. The EYA applicant met with Park and Planning Board Staff. The Planning Board agreed to approve, with conditions, both the subdivision and the DSP.
- Shuttle UM Bill – Tomorrow this bill will be voted on in the Senate. Sara will testify in committee tomorrow.
- Chief Chambers and Sara testified on the authority and how one gets the authority to put speed cameras up on a County road.
- New Route 1 Bus – This bus goes from Mt. Rainer all the way up to IKEA on Route 1.
- There are jobs available with the Census. There are job applications at Town Hall. If you need more information please contact Town Hall. More info at www.2010census.gov.
- Town Crier – One of the employees from Public Works wrote an article for the Crier that thanked all the staff of Town Hall and Public Works for all their hard work during the snow storms.
- The work session in May will fall on a holiday, Memorial Day. Sara is not sure how Mayor and Council have handled this in the past. She just wanted to make them aware of this date.

Discussion: CM Thompson stated that besides the County we have had issues from the State as well pertaining to the speed cameras. Sara replied that the Town has to get the application approved by HSA. Another issue is that school zones have different definitions by state highway and in the speed camera law.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

- Blue house on Queensbury – The work was delayed due to the snow storms.
- The police department has been tagging abandoned cars in town.
- Corp. Alexander recently identified a fire from a vacant apartment. He called it in and began banging on doors to get residents out of the building. He awakened a resident that would have perished if it were not for the quick action of Corp Alexander.

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- Colleen Ferguson looked out of her window to find a toddler walking in the fast lane of East West Highway. She quickly called police dispatch and the child was rescued and returned home safely.

Discussion:

Code Enforcement Issues

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- Mr. Addison thanked the residents for patience and cooperation during the heavy snow storms. We now have all streets and parking open.
- There is an upcoming snow storm that will begin Tomorrow night thru Wednesday morning. The road conditions will be wet.
- Public Works and Code Enforcement met to look at existing codes and possibly make adjustments to some. They are also looking into inserting something into the code that will deal with abandoned houses. Public Works and Code Enforcement will also look at ways to address illegal signage.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

This concludes the Fire Department Report

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Ewen, Economic Development Committee

- Thanked Public Works and Town Staff for doing a really great job during the snow storms. She heard a lot of positive remarks from residents.
- Thanked Town Administrator for help in identifying areas where the budget expenses can be cut.
- The school board decided not to take action this year. As a result the school boundaries will not change. CM Ewen encourages residents to write their County Council member about school boundaries about their concerns about the decision to NOT change the Ward 1 boundaries.
- Park Ranger Program – At Riverdale Park will be held next month. Please refer to the Town Crier for further dates.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Ewen's Report

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Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman Committee

- The finance committee met last week. They went through detailed projections from the budget. The downside is that there is a massive cut to state aid. The Town is expecting additional revenues from the red light cameras and speed cameras. The bottom line is that the Town of Riverdale Park will remain in the black (in fairly good shape) at the end of the year. The committee also discussed the projections of the assessed base and started a comprehensive review of employee benefits which will continue at future meetings.
- CM Thompson was glad to see residents shoveling their sidewalks.
- Thank You to Public Works and Town Staff for all of their help during the snow storms.
- Intensive Snow Parking Enforcement Zones – Discussed at the Public Safety Committee Mtg., CM Thompson would like to see designated parking areas for snow removal.
- M-Square Mtg. March 9th – CM Thompson plans to attend to represent The Town of Riverdale Park and Ward 2.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Safety Committee

Not present.

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Works Committee

Not present

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Community Affairs Committee

- CM Rivas read the Ward 5 Town Crier article into record.
- Applications for jobs with the Census Bureau can be found at 5309 Riverdale Road which is CM Rivas' office.
- Arts Council Meeting tomorrow @7:30pm – We will be coming up with ideas for the May festival.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Rivas Report

Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith, Legislative Committee

Not present.

Public Comments

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- Doug Jarmen (Mr. Magic, the ice cream man) – 6211 44th Ave. – Mr. Jarmen has been a resident of Riverdale Park for 28 years. Mr. Jarmen is a licensed ice cream vendor. He has an issue with other ice cream vendors that are not properly licensed. They are hurting his livelihood. He is asking for the help of Chief Chambers and the Riverdale Park police department to enforce fines to vendors that are not properly licensed. For example, Park Tanglewood’s parking lot has 4 to 5 vendors waiting for the children to get out of school. There may be 1 vendor out of 5 that is properly licensed. When the police are called the others leave the premises. Mr. Jarmen suggests that maybe the Town can issue a decal for the vehicles of the properly permitted vendors that can be easily identified by the police and residents. Mayor Archer thanked Mr. Jarmen for expressing his frustration and coming up with a helpful solution like the visible decal. Chief Chambers stated that they have increased their bike patrol unit and have employed another Code Enforcement officer that works until night fall. Corp. Alexander will talk to Mr. Jarmen about ways to handle this before the ice cream season begins.
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Legislative Action

1. Approval of minutes for February 1, 2010 regular legislative meeting.

CM Thompson moved to accept the minutes.

CM Ewen Second

Motion passes 3-0

2. Approval of minutes for February 22, 2010 special legislative meeting.

Not available yet.

3. Resolution 2010-R-09 to authorize the Town Administrator to sign EECBG grant agreement.

CM Ewen moved to adopt Resolution 2010-R-09 as presented.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 3-0

Discussion: The Maryland Energy Administration has given the Town an opportunity to obtain stimulus money (Empower EECBG). The grant is due this week and will be allocated towards replacing the air conditioning unit at the police department. CM Ewen asked if there will be any money left over for other uses. Sara advised that the funds have to be used for buildings and that any money left over will go to replacing some windows.

4. Resolution 2010-R-00 to amend the FY10 Budget.

Stricken from the agenda

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New Business

- Chris Benjamin– March Madness is approaching, pertaining to the railroad club. Chris thanked the Mayor and Council for its support over the last year and would like to resume using the Town of Riverdale Park’s Town Hall Facility for future show.

Unfinished Business

Adjournment

CM Thompson moved to adjourn 9:40pm

CM Rivas Second.

Motion passes 3-0

Typed from tape 03-01-10.