

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

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry	Ward 4
CM Raymond Rivas	Ward 5
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6

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 8:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

Mayor announced that CM Ewen is ill and will not be in attendance for tonight’s meeting.

Approval of Agenda

CM Henry motioned to approve the agenda.
CM Thompson Second.
Motion passes 5-0

Mayor’s Report

- Please be aware that property owners will NOT automatically be extended by the Homestead Tax Credit. It will have to be applied for. Applications were included with your property assessment paperwork.
- University of Maryland (M Square Project) – Northrop Grummond has the site on their ‘short list’ for their corporate headquarters. This would be beneficial for the Town of Riverdale Park.
- Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization effort is having an Open House this Thursday from 6pm – 8pm at Pollo Fiesta. Emphasis will be on the revitalization effort’s action plan and how residents can get involved.
- Volunteers continue to cover furlough days for County employees of the fire department. The new pumper is in service and is working very well. WSSC maintains that they periodically test the fire hydrants in town. They remain unresponsive when asked when the last testing has taken place.

Discussion: CM Henry asked “What guidelines should residents use to fill out the Homestead Tax Credit form. Mayor Archer replied that the Homestead Tax Credit is based on the assessment of your home. State law states that a maximum of 10% of an increase can be placed on a property. Residents should fill out the forms accurately according to their assessment letter and be claimed using the primary residence.

This concludes the Mayor’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

Sara Imhulse submitted a new DRAFT report from Quickbooks Treasurer’s Report previously.
Budget as of January 31, 2010: Revenue = \$3,588,410.00, Expenses = \$2,456,015.00.

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CM Thompson moved to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit.
CM Lingua Second
Motion passes 5-0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

- The Town of Riverdale Park has officially transferred to the new www.riverdaleparkmd.gov website. All e-mails address will include the initial of the first name followed by the last name @riverdaleparkmd.gov.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

- Introduced Officer Jermaine Green to Council and community. Please welcome him when you see him out on patrol.
- We just received \$91K from the Governor's Office which will be used to purchase portable radios.
- 2009 Crime – Part 1 Offences were down 28% compared to 2008/ down 37% compared to 2007, Property Crime went down 26% in 2008/ 36% in 2007, Violent Crime went down 36% in 2008/ 41% in 2007.

Discussion: CM Henry expressed his compliments to the hard work of Chief Chambers and the Riverdale Park Police Department. CM Henry asked if the Town was performing sobriety check points during the holiday and football season. Chief Chambers thanked CM Henry for bringing up a good point. Although the department may not be able to set up a checkpoint they will be more aware of possible drunk driving.

Code Enforcement Issues

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- Mr. Addison submitted the Public Works report at the Town Session.
- There will be trash collection on President's Day (Feb 15th).
- Snow – Mr. Addison report statistic of how much snow the area was hit by. 80 hours of labor was used, 18 tons of salt was purchase. Residents are starting to understand which side of the street to park cars for street cleaning. This made the operation work more efficiently by saving man hours and reducing salt usage.
- Thanked CM Henry for purchasing food for the workers who were removing snow from the streets. Thanked Sara for purchasing snacks as well.
- There will be a big snow storm coming this weekend, just in time for the Super Bowl. Mr. Addison cautioned the residents to be careful and be prepared.

Discussion: CM Lingua asked what is expected of Town residents when there is a snow emergency. Mayor Archer referred to COG for details. Mr. Addison also stated that the previous snow alert went out through NIXEL. Mayor Archer and CM Thompson thanked Mr. Addison and his team for handling the big December snow storm so well.

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This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

Mayor Archer gave report during Mayor's Report.

This concludes the Fire Department Report

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Ewen, Economic Development Committee

This concludes Ward 1, CM Ewen Report

Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman Committee

- Thanked the police department for the huge reduction in crime and welcomed Officer Green.
- There were two breaking and enterings in the month of January in Ward 2 Residents should keep their eyes open and call the police if they see anything unusual going on.
- Joined CM Lingua for a Martin Luther King Day reception in Annapolis, MD by the 22nd District.
- The Mixed Use Town Center Committee met in early January to see a presentation by EYA about changes in development of Ward 1. There will another meeting on Wednesday night at 7:30pm. CM Thompson encourages residents to attend.
- M-Square Project – CM Thompson will draft some of the points we want to work with.
- A long time resident, Bob Corsey died in December. CM Thompson attended his memorial service.
- Finance Committee – Finances are projecting 'cautiously ok'. We will miss our budgeted addition to reserve funding because of the cuts in State funding. We will meet in late February to discuss whether we need to amend the budget in March.
- The new payroll processor is now on-line. This will free up a lot of staff time. Mayor and Council, town staff will be able to monitor the spending and make sure everything is in the budget.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Safety Committee

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- This Thursday @ Pollo Fiesta (6pm – 8pm) is Open House for the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Steering Committee. Thanks to Pat Parker and other committee members we have bylaws and articles of incorporation. We will receive our 501 c (3) status soon. Businesses and residents from East Pine, Templeton Knolls, Riverdale Pike, Riverdale Hills, Riverdale Park and Crestwood as well as County CM Erik Olson, Professor Noland and students under him. CM Lingua encourages residents to come out and learn more about what we are hoping to achieve. This will be a monumental development in Riverdale Park and the surrounding area.
- Public Safety Committee Mtg was canceled in January. CM Lingua will reschedule soon. We will discuss Dance Hall Permits, how we want to regulate business that wish to have dancing and live entertainment.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Works Committee

- Big round of applause to Mr. Addison and Public Works for how they handled the snow storm. Encouraged residents to clean your sidewalks. Snow on the sidewalks can cause a hazard to residents and children. CM Henry would like homeowners to be held accountable via Code Enforcement.
- 1st Annual Public Works Meeting will be held on Friday, February 19th @10am.
- Speed cameras on Good Luck Road are really effective in slowing traffic in that area.

Discussion: Mayor Archer stated that the cameras will be moved periodically. Residents should not get used to their location.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Community Affairs Committee

- .Thanked everyone for coming out to the Holiday Festival.
- CM Rivas noticed that residents in Ward 5 have been throwing away their Town Criers. CM Rivas read the Ward 5 report so that residents who have not read it can be aware of what's going on in Ward 5. CM Rivas also challenged his colleagues to submit a report every month to the Town Crier.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Rivas Report

Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith, Legislative Committee

- Welcomed Officer Green to the force and looks forward to meeting him.
- Encourages residents of Ward 6 to attend the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Steering Committee Meeting.

This concludes Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith Report

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Public Comments

- Jim Coleman – Income statement of the Festival of Lights and Holiday Market – final revenues \$1,130.00, expenses -\$7,383.94 (net expense \$6,253.94). The budget was \$6,000.00, leaving us with a deficit of \$253.94. Adjustments can be made by renting propane tanks instead of the mushroom heaters to save money in the future. Also, the signage that was purchased last year can be used for the next few years which will also decrease the budget. Mr. Addison asked if Mr. Coleman is still pursuing grant funding for banners to announce events like this. Mr. Coleman has a team of volunteers who are working on this.

Legislative Action

1. Approval of minutes for January 4, 2010 regular legislative meeting.

CM Thompson moved to accept the minutes.

CM Allen-Smith Second

Motion passes 5-0

2. Resolution 2010-OR-01 regarding repeated offences of garbage refuses and trash.

CM Thompson moved to adopt Resolution 2010-OR-01 regarding repeated offences of garbage refuse and trash.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Thompson motioned to make minor amendments under Section 3615A by inserting the word ‘separate’ between the words ‘similar’ and ‘violation’ on the third line and change the final word of the paragraph from ‘offence’ to ‘violation’. CM Lingua Second. Motion passes 5-0. Mayor Archer strongly suggests that Council passes this ordinance. CM Henry asked for clarification of the time frame after the first violation. CM Thompson explained that another citation can be issued the next day. CM Thompson further explained that Code Enforcement is focused on compliance and not on punishment. Mayor Archer also pointed out that Code Enforcement has been very generous in giving warnings before fining residents. If a resident is not compliant and a fine is assessed it would cover the Town’s cost for removing the trash and/or furniture.

3. Resolution 2010-R-05 regarding the protection of Wells Run.

CM Thompson moved to adopt Resolution 2010-R-05 as presented.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: University Park, Hyattsville and the Town of Riverdale park will coordinate activities to protect and restore the water quality control, flood control, etc. of Wells Run. CM Henry asked if this resolution will aide Ward 2 residents with proper drain off when flooding occurs during rainy seasons. Mayor Archer responded that the idea is to encourage cooperation of the three towns to acquire restoration and flood control of these areas. CM

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Henry asked where the funds were going to come from. Mayor Archer replied that Public Works and the Department of Environmental Resources have taken the initial steps of redesign and rebuild. This will be a lengthy process. Federal and State Aid will be sought during this process.

4. Resolution 2010-R-06 to authorize participation in the Montgomery County Inter Agency Group for the supply electricity and related services.

CM Thompson moved to adopt Resolution 2010-R-06.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Thompson read the Resolution into record. He also stated that this will save the Town a lot of money. There are no downsides to using this electricity supplier. Administrator Imhulse, stated that the Town's current electric supplier has a rate of \$0.14/per kilowatt if we switch we will be billed a rate of \$0.07/per kilowatt. This will be a huge savings to the Town's budget. CM Henry asked what role the Montgomery County Inter Agency Group play in all of this. Mayor Archer explained that Montgomery County Inter Agency Group will act as an aggregator, they are not the provider.

5. Resolution 2010-R-07 regarding the ICC environmental mitigation.

CM Lingua moved to adopt Resolution 2010-R-07 as read.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Lingua read the resolution into record. CM Lingua explained that the ICC has successfully performed this mitigation for Montgomery County. He also encourages fellow Council to pass this legislation. CM Thompson stated that typically Resolutions like this include a Resolution directing the Town to inform various people in writing of the content of this Resolution. CM Thompson moved that all County, State and Federal Representatives and Councilman **Dernoga** should be informed of Resolution 2010-R-07. CM Henry Second. Amendment passes 5-0 Motion passes 5-0.

New Business

- Jeff Alderson who has inherited his mother's property at 4912 Riverdale Road has contacted the Town to see if there is interest in purchasing the property. Mayor Archer suggests that Council think about this opportunity.
- Grass Height (Code Enforcement) – CM Lingua stated that there is currently a 7day abatement period. Mr. Addison has been working with Code Enforcement to work on issues where residents let their grass get so high that people can hide in it. He asked Council to look into how to improve enforcement either by shortening the height requirement or abatement period or a combination of both.

Unfinished Business

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Adjournment

CM Henry move to adjourn 11:00pm

CM Rivas Second.

Motion passes 5-0

Typed from tape 2-4-10