

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK  
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009  
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice Walker	Ward 1
CM Kate Sharpe	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Chris Henry	Ward 4
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley

Deputy Town Administrator- Penelope Mendoza

Chief of Police - Chief Teresa Chambers

Director of Public Works – Leonard Addison

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:14p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Henry Motioned to approve the agenda.

CM Sharpe Second

Changes: Mayor Archer added legislative item #6 – Nomination for Central Kenilworth Avenue revitalization committee.

Motion passes 3 – 0

**Presentation regarding a proposed Conflict Management Fair**

Mr. Jackson urged the council to do the following:

- Host the fair
- Pass a resolution for the Town to be part of the fair.

Mr. Jackson provided a one pager to council and residents about the Dispute and Conflict Resolution Fair.

CM Walker – Would residents bring disputes to the fair?

Mr. Jackson – Mr. Jackson is just inviting residents to take a look at the fair and provide feedback

**Mayor's Report**

- Tree removal and trimming contract with Timberline. Asked council member and residents to recommend those in need of tree removal and/or trimming. Residents should be able to obtain a more reasonable price for the services through Timberline.
- Johns Hopkins University has come up with several ways to help solve the problems in the City of Riverdale.
  - Day laborers
  - Crime
- Creating formal position descriptions for all officers in the police force by using professionals working for the county that are involved in a master's program. CM

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Henry asked if there is a committee involved in planning the work for these volunteer professionals. Chief Chambers stated that she identified her department's needs which are currently job descriptions. This project could also include other projects like enhancing the performance evaluations of the police department.

- PG County Property Standard's Group wants to put up a satellite office in the Town of Riverdale Park offices. They would be able to help with zoning and property issues.

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report:

Modified accrual report as of November 30, 2008: \$2,986,649.29 Revenues,

Budget as of December 31, 2008: Revenue = \$2,288,542.54, Expenses = \$2,938,950.92

CM Sharpe move to approve per audit

CM Henry second

Motion 3-0

*This concludes the Treasurer's Report*

**Town Administrator's Report**

- Federal Economic Recovery Package – The state of Maryland will benefit. This town has already identified problems that will be submitted within the next three months.
  - Bridge Project to Anacostia
  - Energy
  - Environmental
- MNCPPC will host a planning session this month at the Univ of MD on Saturday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup>
- Senior's Event was a success. Many were grateful for the town's support.

*This concludes the Town Administrator's Report*

**Police Department Report**

**Code Enforcement Issues**

Police Report/Code – Referred to Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Report

- Reimb from Crime Reports.com
- School started back up today.
- Will find way to grow the John Hopkins program mentioned in the Mayor's report.
- Chief Chambers is celebrating her 1 year anniversary on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>.

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*This concludes the Police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

- 1. Tree contract – Several residents call the office on a day to day basis to examine their trees.
- Festival of Lights – Thanked Mr. Coleman for all of his work.
- Winter Watch – Mr. Addison and staff have been monitoring a new database of weather forecasting information for the winter months. Public Works will stay on top of weather developments and will be prepared to handle winter weather.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

**Fire Department Report**

- December – 327 incidents including a small chimney fire on Baltimore Ave., a few automobile fires, etc. All fires appeared to be accidental.
- Smoke Detectors are available
- The Santa run was cut short on Christmas Eve due to an emergency
- Brake the Ice Fundraisers – Friday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 8pm – 10pm at Wells Skating Rink (\$5/per person in advance)

*This concludes the Fire Department Report*

**Deputy Town Administrator's Report**

*This concludes the Deputy Town Administrator's Report*

**Ward and Committee Reports**

**Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development**

- Attending the Planning 101 session at Univ of Md – ins and outs of development planning.
- The Cafritz Family project is moving along. Approx 960 units of housing. They have a pre-lease endorsement from Whole Foods. They will provide further updates.
- Recreation Board is looking for members. The present chair is resigning this month.

*This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report*

**Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman**

- Finance Committee mtg on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Audit will be discussed. Encouraged residents to attend.

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- Leaf collection ends Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a parking sign removed during construction on the corner of 49<sup>th</sup> and Riverdale Rd. Residents are asking that the sign be replaced.
- CM Sharpe asked Chief Chambers for an update on the armed robbery that happened on Ravenswood. Chief Chambers stated that there have been no arrests made yet and that the police are reviewing tapes from surrounding areas.

*This concludes Ward 2, CM Sharpe's Report*

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

*This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report*

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

- Kudos to Mr. Addison for the Madison Hill project. Residents are happy about the work.
- MHOA mtg are changed to the second Saturday of the month.

*This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report*

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

*This concludes Ward 5, CM Kimbrough's Report*

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

- Ward 6 was relatively quiet during the holidays.
- The streets are clean.
- Happy New Year!

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report*

**Public Comments**

- Maria Novicky, Editor of the Town Crier (4805 Sheridan Street) – Procedures are now provided for creating the Town Crier. Important things outlined are
  - Deadlines are always on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month
  - There are 10 issues per year
  - July/Aug and Dec/Jan are the only doubled up issues.
  - Spanish translations are imperative. It is important that we reach out to our Hispanic community.

**Legislative Action**

1. Approval – Minutes for December 1, 2008 regular legislative meeting.

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CM Lingua  
CM Allen-Smith second  
Motion 4-0

**2. Motion to approve partnership for Earth Day w/AWS for NE Branch cleanup.**

CM Walker move to approve the partnership for the Earth Day cleanup.  
CM Sharpe second  
Motion 4-0

**3. Request for fence permit for a 6ft fence at 6215 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Steve & Kay Whitesell.**

CM Walker move to approve the permit for the 6ft privacy fence at 6215 43<sup>rd</sup> Street.  
CM Sharpe second  
CM Walker postponed this until the next legislative session.

**4. Resolution of invitation to Ipalan dance and marimba groups to perform at our next Riverdale Park Day.**

CM Lingua moved.  
CM Henry second  
Motion 5-0

**5. Resolution R1-01 to permit proposed 5 day furlough for all staff.**

CM Lingua moved.  
CM Henry  
Motion 4-1

Discussion: Cash flow problems have been identified as early as September 2008. The County was able to help out the Town of Riverdale Park in October 2008. Recently the audit report showed that the Town's carryover from 2008 was approx \$200K. Mayor Archer has conducted the Town's finances with a 2 month expense cushion. The Town is currently approx \$230K below that threshold. Mayor Archer asked the department heads to come up with a way to retain \$134K in expenses. \$44K will be saved from implementing the furlough. The other \$90K will be saved by other types of cuts (reduction of overtime, clothing and related expenses, public works, etc).

CM Sharpe is supportive of making budget cuts and is glad that the Mayor stepped up with a proposal to take action. CM Sharpe stated that she is not comfortable with the idea of furloughs.

CM Walker is interested in the opinions and suggestions of senior staff. How will the furlough impact the police department's coverage?

CM Lingua asked how will the general government, police depart and public works be conducted if the furlough is implemented?

Mr. Prangley answered that the furlough would be staggered so that services to the Town would not suffer. The Town is looking into other ways to generate revenue and reduce costs while providing the same level of service.

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Chief Chambers stated that the sergeants will manage the reduction of their officer's time (with the Captain's oversight) by cutting back 2 hours per week per officer for a total of 8 hours a month per employee. The Chief is confident that the furlough will not impact the protection and safety of the Town of Riverdale Park.

CM Henry asked if the furlough has been talked about to the staff of the police department, the town and public works.

Chief Chambers has not provided specific information of the furlough to her employees.

Mr. Prangley has heard a number of comments from staff about the furlough. No specifics have been given to staff.

Mr. Addison has talked to his employees about this in anticipation of the furlough. He let his employees know that the furlough would be spread out over a period of time so that no one would miss an entire payroll check if the furlough were to be two weeks.

CM Henry – In what ways would the Town of Riverdale increase it's revenue?

Mr. Prangley – Real estate and personal property revenues are a short term solution. Another solution would be that the gas prices are going down.

CM Henry – Can trash disposal be reduced to one day a week?

Mr. Addison – There is a trash removal contract in place. Mr. Addison can look at the Bates contract to see if there is room for modification.

CM Henry – Can we reduce the police vehicles on the streets?

Chief Chambers – The Town of Riverdale Park is fairly small and the mileage on the vehicles is not an issue. The only way to reduce the vehicles would be to put two officers in each car would not be a productive to the Town.

CM Henry – A furlough would bring down the coronary of the Town's employees.

Penny Mendoza– Are the different departments able to spread the furlough out as far as possible so that it will not affect the level of service? Could furlough hours be used on holidays where vacation hours can be supplemented?

CM Smith-Allen stated that she is behind the furlough. CM Smith-Allen would not want to see any jobs cut due to budget problems.

Maria Novicky, who was recently laid off, applauds the town's thoughtfulness and the foresight to handle this crisis with a furlough instead of laying people off. Will the council and department heads be affected by the furlough?

Mayor Archer replied that the mayor and council are not privy to the furlough but volunteered that if the furlough is passed he will personally right a check to the Town to reimburse his portion of salary that would have been affected.

CM Sharpe and CM Henry joined the Mayor in that promise.

**6. Nomination for Central Kenilworth Avenue revitalization committee.**

CM Walker moved to nominate CM Lingua and CM Kimbrough to head the revitalization committee for the central Kenilworth Ave project.

CM Henry second

Motion 5-0

**New Business**

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CM Sharpe moved to remove all parking restrictions at 4912 ?? (School zone).

CM Allen-Smith second

Motion 4-0

CM Lingua motioned to table.

No second.

CM Sharpe withdraws her motion.

CM Sharpe moved to extend the parking pass for 60 days.

CM Walker second

Motion 4-0

Discussion: CM Lingua asked if anyone has talked to the crossing guards about the parking restrictions. Chief Chambers replied that school just resumed today and that the crossing guards will be questioned for their opinions on the matter. CM Walker would like to hear what the crossing guards have to say about the parking restrictions before any changes are made.

CM Lingua moved to co-sponsor Anacostia Society Workshop 2009.

CM Sharpe second.

Motion 5-0

**Adjournment**

CM Sharpe move to adjourn 10:49pm

CM Walker second

Motion 4-0

Typed from live meeting 01-05-09.