

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2009
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice Walker	Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Raymond Rivas	Ward 5
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley

Police Department – Chief Chambers

Director of Public Works – Leonard Addison

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:07 p.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 Walker Second

Discussion: CM Lingua motioned to move the legislative items before the ward reports.

CM Walker Second.

Motion passes 4-0.

Presentation by Maryland State Delegate Justin Ross

- Delegate Justin Ross briefed the Mayor and Council of the Budget Crisis facing the state of Maryland and how it relates directly to Prince George’s County.
 - Starting at a \$1.5M deficit (due to shortfalls in sales and income taxes) in January, Congress passed a stimulus package in February which allowed a \$4.6B to the state and counties out of which \$2.3B was used for structural aspects of the budget.
 - The Board of Revenue estimates cut \$1.1M of the budget.
 - The County lost 1% of funding from the state.
 - If GCI standards remain in effect Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties will benefit disproportionately from other counties in Maryland.
- Domestic Violence/Protective Orders
 - Court must remove all firearms.
 - Temporary Protective Orders discretionary to the court.
- Drunk Driving
 - Only 1 PBJ (Probation Before Judgment) in a ten year period.
 - No more than 2 DUI’s within five years. License will be suspended for 1 year or driver must subscribe to the interlock engine system where the driver must blow into a device to start the engine.
- Speed Cameras
 - 12MPH over the speed limit in a school zone warrants a \$40 ticket.
- Driver’s License
 - After a very emotional debate it was passed, as of June 1, 2009, that everyone must prove that they are a U.S. citizen to obtain a Maryland license or I.D. card.

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- Thanked the City of Riverdale for its support toward the Multi-Cultural Youth Center and the Riverdale Market projects.
- The Governor's office indicated that there will be another grant available for communication systems for Price George's County.
- Thanks CM Henry for a great picnic!

Mayor's Report

- National Night Out Against Crime- Tuesday, August 4th. Would like all Council Members to coordinate smaller events in their wards.
- The Community Building in Riverdale Park – The Town has received money and land for this project and the Mayor is ready to move forward. Meeting on July 22nd at Town Hall @7:30pm to discuss and set up the process of creating the Community Building.
- Ribbon Cutting for the expansion of Town Hall on July 25th @ noon.
- We need volunteers for the REC board. We need organizers for Riverdale Park Day.
- The Mayor met with Carlos Hernandez, President of the local association of immigrants from **Ipala**. After success like the clean up in April and the volunteer teacher's program t his organization would like to do another project with Riverdale Park. The sister city program could possibly be the second fairly substantive use of volunteers for the city of Riverdale. Mayor Archer will join the teachers that went to **Ipala**. They need help on how to utilize and preserve a volcano crater lake.
- State Laws
 - H.811 – Working with MML and the town's attorney, Fred Sausman, to come up with a proposal for a Debt Policy.
 - H.640 – Towns and Counties may pass laws requiring all foreclosing agents to give notice within 5 days of filing a foreclosure. Benefits: help the Town track which houses are empty and gives the Town an opportunity to provide resources to the homeowner.
- Cuts within Engine Company #7 – There are still paid day spots in the budget. Details provided in fire department report.
- Meeting on July 7th with Riverdale Park, Templeton Knolls and Riverdale Heights at Maryland Multicultural Youth Center on 62nd Place. Discussions on common concerns and communication.

Discussion: CM Thompson asked if H.640 will give notice 5 days before the foreclosure process starts. Mayor Archer responded that compared to now, where we get no prior notification of foreclosure, this bill will enable to town a formal notice prior to foreclosure.

This concludes the Mayor's Report

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report:

Modified accrual report as of June 30, 2009: \$4,223,211.68 Revenues,

Budget as of May 31, 2009: Revenue = \$1,758,514.60, Expenses = \$4,136,469.61.

CM Thompson move to approve Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

CM Walker Second

Motion 5-0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

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Town Administrator's Report

- July 14th – Will follow up with Dept. of Environmental Resources (DER) staff to further discuss the Open Channel proposal. DER has recommended \$20K for a restoration plan study and a \$4M for the restoration of our channel. ICC has expressed interest in this project.
- July 14th @ 7pm – Public hearing for CR 42 (economic development grant proposal for the Sidon Lady). Located at the County Administration Bldg in Upper Marlboro, MD.
- Possible new Grant Proposal – Deadline Aug 24th. Mr. Prangley will look at the details of the grant requirements to see if some of the Town's projects can be submitted.
- Thanked Mayor, Council and Community for filling in the gaps during his absence.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

- Chief Chambers thanked Mayor and Council for allowing her to attend MML this year.
- Dept of Environmental Resources of PG County is here at Town Hall every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm to answer questions about permitting processes.
- Brittany Hueson was named citizen employee of the year among all police departments in PG County.
- Capt Pat Timmons graduated from the FBI National Academy! A first for
- NIXLE (New Communication) – Encourage citizens to provide a cell phone number so that they can obtain alerts and reminders for events like National Night Out.
- PG County has offered access to their Crime Solvers organizations including letterhead, logo, and toll free number and funding to help solve crimes in the area.
- Speed Trailer – It will be moved frequently and used as a deterrent to make drivers slow down.
- Corp. Alexander solicited help from the Mayor, Council Members and citizens to organize block parties in their ward for National Night Out. Contact information for Corp. Alexander can be found in the Town Crier. CM Walker asked if refreshments will be provided by the police department for the block parties. Chief Chambers answered that some resources will be provided by the department.

Discussion: CM Thompson asked about the radius of the speed cameras in a school zone. Chief Chambers answered that the radius is a half mile. She also reminded the Council that there are traffic studies currently underway on East-West Highway and Good Luck Road.

Code Enforcement Issues

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- Mechanical Sweepers are now working.

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- Thanked CM Henry for coordinating the kids' activities on July 3rd and the event on July 4th. Also thanked the Lions Club who assisted with the 4th of July event and Mr. Prangley for being responsible for permit parking signs that are now up.
- Paving problem on Kenilworth Ave. and Riverdale Rd. – Information has been submitted to the County.
- Ongoing Issues:
 - Longfellow/Taylor Ave. area – Mr. Addison will meet with project managers about design and a timetable for construction.

Discussion: CM Thompson thanked Mr. Addison for putting up the signs. CM Lingua requested that 3 No Parking signs be replaced along Riverside Drive on the side of the park. Mr. Addison will follow up with the police department and M-NCPPC.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

- President Steve Lamphier attended the public safety meeting and participated in the Arts Council Event.
- Staffing – A month ago it was reported that Riverdale Heights and/or Station #7 would lose its staffing. Since that announcement the County worked out a plan for staffing issues that includes being down approx 100 career firefighter positions (including retirements, personnel and light duty and inability to offer another recruit class). Brown Outs – Some stations are losing 4 -5 career staff a day as well as shift people. Shift people cover 24 hours a day as well as leave for career personnel. Station #7 successfully filling in the gaps by utilizing shift people for the last six weeks.
- New Fire Chief Jones will be sworn in on July 14th by the County Council.

Discussion: Mayor Archer commended Pres. Lassiter and Chief Ryan's work to maintain coverage for the station by utilizing and maintaining its volunteers. We appreciate what you do. CM Walker inquired about a couple of houses in Riverdale Park involved in an arson investigation. Pres. Lassiter responded that this is a police matter but from what he understands the investigation is progressing.

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 Committee

- Economic Development Committee Mtg – July 13th @ 7pm. Several teams emerged from the last meeting. Discussions were centered on the appearance of the town.
- Thanked the Art Council volunteers, Lions Club, fire department and Chief Chambers for participating in the July 4th celebration. Volunteers are an issue for events. CM Walker would like the council to consider this when planning events.

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- Squatting – Residents have complained of people hanging around vacant homes in surrounding areas. Please keep a look out for this activity in Riverdale Park.
- Thanked the Town for the opportunity to participate in Maryland Municipal League (MML) this year. CM Walker attended the Foreclosure Database presentation, Smart Growth presentation, Stimulus Funding presentation (highlighted energy efficiency grants), the Speed Camera presentation and the Overcrowding Forum.
- Pleased to see Mr. Prangle honored with a lifetime achievement award and standing ovation.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report

Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman Committee

- Finance Committee passed a budget for the current fiscal year and modified last year's budget to meet the charter requirements. Still has concerns regarding employee benefits.
- Thanks to Town staff for patience during the budget process.
- Code Enforcement has been active in Ward 2
- National Night Out – Aug 4th – CM Thompson will be in town and will forward suggestions to police department.
- MML – Thanks citizens of the Town for sending him to this seminar. CM Thompson attended more of the core session for new Council Members. He also attended the Traffic Colony session and has ideas of what to do with East West Highway from that.
- Thanked CM Henry for the July 3rd Ward 4 celebration and the Arts Council for the July 4th celebration.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Safety Committee

- MML – Attended Teen Activities session where they talked about low cost and no cost projects. Also attended the Foreclosure presentation where representation from the State's Attorney's office was missed and Smart Growth and Public Wellness conferences. CM Lingua thanked the Town for sending him.
- Public Safety Mtg on July 27th @7pm. CM Lingua will extend an invitation to Chief Jones to discuss staffing between houses 7 and 13.
- Flooding – CM Lingua has talked to the person responsible for the design of the properties along Longfellow and on the west side of Taylor Rd (5400 block) that have had problems with flooding. It is a process. The Town is looking into acquiring mobile pumps.
- Thanked the Arts Council and CM Henry for putting on the July 3rd and 4th celebrations.
- Drive Safely. Have a great summer!

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

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Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Works Committee

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Community Affairs Committee

- Thanked the Town for sending him to the MML seminar.
- CM Rivas is working to gather volunteers for community events.
- Thanked the Arts Council for the July 4th festivities.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Kimbrough's Report

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Legislative Committee

- Reminds Ward 6 that we all need to play a part to keep Ward 6 clean and safe.
 - If you see litter on the street contact DPW.
 - If you see people loitering or drinking in public contact the Police.
 - If you have concerns about the maintenance of the exterior of the properties contact the Property Managers.
 - If you have concerns regarding items in your apartment that require repair contact the Property Managers. After which if you can contact Code Enforcement.
- Property Managers Meeting on July 15th – Any concerns can be forwarded to e-mail at keelahd@yahoo.com.
- The next Legislative Mtg will be held sometime in August.
- Attended Madison Hills Homeowners Community Day. Great job to Mr. & Mrs. Henry and the Madison Hills Homeowners Association.

This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report

Public Comments

- Marie Novicky, 4805 Sheridan Street, on behalf of the Arts Council thanks Mayor and Council for supporting the 4th of July community event.
- Tim Kimbrough, 5400 Riverdale Road, expressed concern about the amount of litter on the 5400 block of Riverdale Road coming from Kenilworth Ave. CM Lingua responded that he has spoken to Chief Chambers about Mr. Kimbrough's other concerns of drug transactions in front of his building. The police department is aware and is working to solve these issues.

Legislative Action

1. To approve minutes for the regular legislative meeting on June 1, 2009.

CM Lingua moved to approve the minutes for the regular legislative meeting on June 1, 2009.
CM Thompson Second

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Motion 5-0

Discussion: CM Thompson requested the following changes: Mayor's Report – 4th item – change 'some for' to 'some sort', Agenda #6 – operating tax rate \$2.00 (no cents) and assessed (not accessed), New Business #1 – Mrs. **Hardising** (not Hutchinson). CM Lingua requested the following changes: Page #4 – Public Safety Report and Page 5 – switch committees for CM Allen-Smith and CM Henry. Mr. Prangley requested the following change: Town Admin. Report – River Rd (not Riverdale Road). CM Walker requested the following change: Page 7 – Change the header to indicate that the motion was not approved.

2. To approve a dance permit for Alamo Mexican Restaurant, LLC, located at 5508 Kenilworth Ave. 7/1/09 – 12/31/09 on Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings from 9:00pm until 3am. (Ward 6)

CM Allen-Smith moved to approve a dance permit for Alamo Mexican Restaurant, LLC, located at 5508 Kenilworth Ave. 7/1/09 – 12/31/09 on Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings from 9:00pm until 3am.

CM Walker Second

Motion 0-5

Discussion: Sharon Wertz, Templeton Knolls Civic Association, is in opposition of permits for dance halls in this area. The parking may not be adequate. Alcohol is a problem in the area. There have been empty alcoholic containers left in adjacent neighborhoods. After speaking with the local police department there is a concern for organized prostitution in and around the Alamo Mexican Restaurant, LLC. Elaine Daniel-Claross, 4800 Sheridan Street, is in strong opposition of the dance permit for the Alamo. Elaine encourages the Town Hall to examine these types of permits and how they are regulated. Ginnina, Light Christian Church 5820 Riverdale Road, is in opposition of the dance permit. There are many church members who live in the area that confirm there is prostitution. Del. Ross commented that when these types of issues arise "it never turns out well." CM Walker asked Del. Ross if other communities are regulating these permits more heavily. Del. Ross responded yes and gave Tick Tock Liquors of Langley Park, MD as an example. Chief Chambers suggests that council ask the owners to provide the information of who they are contracting with to bring the female entertainment. CM Lingua asked how does the Alamo continue to operate on a permit that has expired. Operating without a license for three months is not acceptable for CM Walker. CM Allen-Smith visited the Alamo during a party and witnessed women dancing for tickets that were purchased inside of the restaurant. The Alamo was sited by police. CM Allen-Smith is also opposed to the dance permit for the Alamo. CM Thompson would like to hear the Call/Service Report from Corp. Alexander. Corp. Alexander reported repeated calls for theft and assault between the hours of 11pm – 5am. They are using a dancehall permit to bring in girls. This activity can strain the police department.

New Business

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Unfinished Business

Adjournment

CM Thompson move to adjourn 10:30 pm

CM Allen-Smith Second

Motion 5-0

Typed from tape 07-06-09.