

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice Ewen	Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Christopher Henry	Ward 4
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6

Town Administrator- Ms. Sara Imhulse
Police Department – Chief Teresa Chambers
Director of Public Works – Leonard Addison
Fire Department – President Lamphier

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.

Approval of Agenda

CM Thompson motioned to approve the agenda.
CM Ewen Second.
Motion passes 4-0

Discussion: CM Lingua moved to move Ward Reports after Legislative Items. CM Ewen Second.
Motion passes 4-0

Presentation by Anne Healey, House Chair, Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review

1. Sustainable Communities Tax Credit will go into effect in October. This is similar to the historic tax credit.
2. Funding the purchase of Medevac Helicopter
3. \$15M for PG Hospital System
4. Proposed a bill that was passed to have state highway commission build sidewalks along Kenilworth Ave from Rt. 410 towards Edmonson Road (along state highway)
5. Local Governments can get a 5 year tax credit for urban agriculture activities (1/8 acre).

Discussion: Mayor Archer asked how Riverdale Park could go about obtaining sidewalks along Kenilworth Ave. CM Lingua asked what happened that the County lost \$18M from schools budget? There was a federal formula that has been changed.

Presentation to Captain, Patrick Timmons, for 20 years of Outstanding Services. Mayor Archer presented Corp. Timmons with a plaque. There were many fellow officers and well wishers present and pictures were taken.

Mayor's Report

- Sat June 5th – First Annual Town Hall Mtg. for kids. About 23 kids showed with some parents. There were several worthwhile comments from the children during the meeting.

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- Riverdale business association dinner @ Crescent City June 14, 2010
- Work Session on June 21st
- CM Olson's Office is organizing a tour on June 25th, highlighting opportunities for Town Center and Rt. 1.
- October 13th @5pm – 7pm – Stakeholders meeting on Kenilworth Ave. renovations.
- Field of Dreams has new soccer nets to keep the soccer balls out of the street and off of residential property.
- Organizing exchange with **Impala** - 8 teachers will be traveling at their own expense to teach in Impala. Hoping to receive 6 educators from Impala in October.
- Thanks to Roland Alexander for speaking at Mayor Archer's team ceremony at his school. He did a wonderful and inspirational talk with the students.

Discussion:

This concludes the Mayor's Report

Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, 2010: Revenue = \$4,200,341.00, Expenses = \$3,480,256.00.

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

CM Ewen Second

Motion passes 5-0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

- Thanked police command staff for their hard work.
- Second **C-KAR** mtg. on June 9th
- FEMA mtg. on June 10th- funding will not come in this fiscal year
- Friday, June 11th – Public Works Committee Meeting.
- Special Legislative on June 21st is scheduled. Ms. Imhulse will need to know in advance of any legislative actions. She will not be able to attend the Legislative Mtg. in July.

Discussion:

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

- Thanked everyone for attending the fiesta for Cpt. Timmons.
- Vacant Home and Foreclosure list is in the council packets.

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- Officer Alfred is in attendance. His primary focus is in traffic abatement.
- Corp. Alexander has begun a 2 year bachelor's degree program.
- JAG grant \$10K+ has been received so far for computer needs for the police force.
- National Night Out (Tues., Aug 3rd) – Working on a central location for communities that don't have an individual location. Looking at Riverside Park for a larger event.

Discussion: CM Lingua thanked Corp. Alexander for coming out for the Kids Legislative Mtg.

Code Enforcement Issues

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- June 19th (9am – 2pm) – Free residential electronic recycling event. Bring your electronics to the Dept. of Public Works. Good Will is going to pick up items. Please bring operational items only with the exception of computers. TVs should be cable ready. All electronics will be reused. Please refer to the website for a list of items you can bring.
- Starting in July we will be going to once a month drop off of bulk trash due to budget cut backs. Drop offs of bulk items will be on the third Saturday of the month.

Discussion: CM Ewen asked if we have street and sidewalk repair scheduled for this summer. Mr. Addison already has the contractor back to fix things that did not last since the last repair. Mr. Addison will check the area and figure out what repairs the Town can afford. CM Henry pointed out that Good Will is giving out a tax write off for the electronics that will be recycled. CM Thompson received an e-mail from a resident that has an issue with WSSC. They will speak offline about the issue.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

- The fire department sent a statistical report. They are not present at the meeting.

Discussion: CM Lingua would like the Council to keep in mind that the fire department has more area to cover due to cuts in force from other agencies.

This concludes the Fire Department Report

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Ewen, Economic Development Committee

- Progress on the dog park – This project has progressed via Park & Planning.

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- Community Garden – Park & Planning came to a meeting to inquire about potential sites for the community garden.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Ewen's Report

Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman Committee

- Purple Line mtg. will happen in approx. 3 weeks.
- The MUTC met this week about a proposal on a cell tower and a drive thru ATM at the Wachovia Bank
- No budget meeting this month.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Safety Committee

- Tomorrow night there is a meeting for Ward 3 residents to discuss the progress on storm water alleviation in their back yards. Hopefully we will be able to move towards improvements.
- Budget – A resident from Ward 1 stated that they would be happy with tax increases if staff can get pole increases.
- Tree removal in Ward 3 was appreciated.
- Central Kenilworth Ave. Revitalization Committee received its EIN number. They will soon establish a bank account and will have a community corporation.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Works Committee

- Public Works Committee Mtg will be held June 19th @ 7pm.
- Kudos to Ms. Imhulse for great work on resolution on the grass and weeds items.
- Town Advertisements – There are issues occurring throughout the town.
- Christmas in April – CM Henry would like to reach out to the senior residents for FY11.
- Residents are doing a great job with their lawns.
- School Cameras on Good Luck Rd – Important. Speed has increased in that area since their removal.
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This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Community Affairs Committee

This concludes Ward 5, CM Rivas Report

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Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith, Legislative Committee

- CM Allen-Smith left the meeting before giving her report.

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

Public Comments

Legislative Action

1. Approval of minutes for regular legislative meeting on May 3, 2010.

CM Thompson moved to accept the minutes.

CM Ewen Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Thompson - Mayor's Report 2nd bullet – change “he believes the budget will increase”, CM Lingua ward report (page 5) under M-NPPC

2. Approval of minutes for special legislative meeting on May 24, 2010.

CM Lingua moved to accept the minutes.

CM Thompson Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: Add 10am – 8pm (under time period)

3. To approve building permit application for EYA (curb cut).

CM Ewen moved to approve building permit application for EYA (curb cut).

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

4. Approval of ordinance resolution 2010-OR-05 an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 68, weeds...

CM Henry moved to approve ordinance resolution 2010-OR-05 an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 68, weeds.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: CM Thompson would like to amend line 52 “for any subsequent offence in a calendar year”.

5. Approval of ordinance resolution 2010-OR-06 an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 36, garbage, refuse, and trash.

CM Thompson

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CM Henry Second
Motion passes 5-0

Discussion :

6. Approval of ordinance resolution 2010-OR-07 an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 57 streets and sidewalks, removal of tall vegetation.

CM Thompson moved to approve of ordinance resolution 2010-OR-07 an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 57 streets and sidewalks, removal of tall vegetation.

CM Henry Second
Motion passes 5-0

Discussion: Melissa Avery (4710 Ravenswood Ct) would like to see

7. Discussion of variance request for 5801 Taylor Road.

CM Lingua moved to have council instruct the Mayor to write a letter to Ann Taylor of Upper Marlboro for variance request for 5801 Taylor Road.

CM Thompson Second.
Motion passes 5-0

8. Discussion of variance request application for 4713 Ravenswood Road.

Ms. Imhulse explained that this item will go in front of the Board of Appeals on June 16th. She suggests that Mayor and Council send a letter to request addition time if they need to. CM Ewen agreed that Council will need additional time. Ms. Imhulse invited the applicants to attend tonight's meeting. Mayor and Council will discuss this item during the Special Legislative Meeting on June 21st. Melissa Avery (4710 Ravenswood Road) is curious as to what is going on at this house. Cecil Page (4713 Ravenswood Ct.) applied for the permit with the County. He stated that the plywood on the porch was rotten and needs to be replaced. He is making the foundation of the porch stronger and is rebuilding the porch. CM Thompson asked if the porch will be enclosed. Mr. Page replied that only a part of the porch, on the side, will be enclosed. Ms. Imhulse read into record Item #2 of the permit form. CM Ewen asked what materials will be used for this project. Mr. Page replied steel, concrete blocks, vinyl siding and plywood. CM Henry clarified that Mr. Page is rebuilding what was already there. CM Henry asked who will take care of the old materials. Mr. Page responded that the old rotten wood has already been discarded.

9. To adopt FY11 Budget.

CM Thompson moved to adopt the FY11 Budget with the following changes:

- Town property tax rate – .5955 per \$100 assessed valuation.
- Rate rounded to - .596
- Total - .6767
- Total Operating and Capital Real Estate Tax rate – 0.6767

CM Ewen Second.
Motion passes 5-0

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Discussion: CM Thompson thanked the Town Administrator, Ms. Imhulse, Sandy Bonnefond, the Town Hall staff, as well as Department heads and their staff, for assistance. All of these people helped immensely to answer his questions and the council's questions. CM Thompson stated that there were more than 8 hours of meetings concerning the budget as well as additional personal time to go over items of concern. As council, we have to balance: requests from citizens, needs of staff, duty to keep Town on even financial need (our fiducial duty) and the need to make sure that we don't run out of money in middle of year. The budget before you reflects that balance. Tax rate is set at the "Constant Yield" rate - the Town will receive the same number of dollars in property taxes as last year. Half of the people will see taxes go up (including mine), but half will see them go down; the people whose taxes will go down are, in general, those who are paying more now and are in an overall worse financial shape. This seems fair to me, to give tax cuts to those paying more and in worse financial shape. To keep the same tax rate would require significant reductions in staff and services, so we aimed to keep the same tax bill. Therefore taxes for some residents will go up and some will stay the same. How? Utility reductions (thanks to the hard work of Ms. Imhulse), deferring purchases of vehicles for Police and Public Works, trimming of many small items which requires higher efficiency (Town Crier in particular), asking town staff to increase contribution (in some way) to health insurance, significant reductions in allocations for reserve fund, and finally enhanced revenue from non-tax sources. CM Lingua thanked CM Thompson and Council members for all their hard work to come up with a comprehensive budget. CM Henry complimented CM Thompson and Ms. Imhulse for coming up with a good, conservative budget. CM Ewen also thanked CM Thompson for making the necessary changes to have a good budget. Bruce Warner (4606 Queensbury Road) pointed out the salary increases in Code Enforcement, Town Administrative Staff and Police Department Staff Salaries. Why is there such a significant increase (approx 29%) in Civilian police department? Mayor Archer explained that there was additional staff hired. Another concern was an increase in expenses in the police department in Line 6. CM Thompson explained that this line item is lower than last year and that it is monies dedicated to police training. Mayor Archer also explained that the Town tries to operate with at least two months of reserves. Are we getting any tax revenues from the building on River Road? Mayor Archer confirmed that all buildings are taxable.

10. Introduction of 2010-OR-08, an ordinance concerning changes to Chapter 25, Dance Halls.

CM Lingua read ordinance 2010-OR-08 into record.

New Business

- Mayor Archer brought up a possible agreement with business owners for SOD improvements. He suggested the Town begin negotiations by asking for 50% for contributions and go as low as 25%.

CM Ewen moved for the Town to set guidelines in the façade program to ask for anywhere from 50% to 25% from business owners.

CM Lingua Second

Motion passes 4-0

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CM Lingua amended the motion t to include property owners as well.

- Melissa Avery (4710 Ravenswood Road) would like to use the parking lot for CM Ewen moved to use the parking lot at Town's Center for the Fourth of July festivities.

CM Henry Second

Motion passes 4-0

Discussion: Mr. Addison stated that the Dept of Public Works will make sure that the tables and chairs are there for the residents.

- Jim Coleman (4911 Somerset) – A frame signage should go up at the Jamal building for the Fourth of July festivities.

Unfinished Business

Adjournment

CM Lingua moved to adjourn 10:15pm

CM Henry Second.

Typed from live meeting 06-07-10.