

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008**  
**REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer            Mayor  
CM Alice Ewen Walker    Ward 1  
CM Kate Sharpe            Ward 2  
CM David Lingua          Ward 3  
CM Timothy Kimbrough    Ward 5

Town Administrator- Patrick J. Prangley

Chief of Police- Chief Theresa Chambers

Director Public Works- Acting Director John Benjamin

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve Agenda-CM Walker

Second- CM Sharpe

Mayor stated Mr. Duncan could not be in attendance tonight, we will strike that item from agenda.

Approved

1<sup>st</sup> item, Patrick Prangley gave the presentation for the new website. Mr. Prangley stated that he hopes to launch the website in the very near future. Verenice will be our webmaster.

**Mayor's Report**

The Liquor Store Application for Riverdale & Kenilworth Avenue has been withdrawn. Letter written by Vivian Shih read in reference to the withdrawn application. Mayor contacted Councilman Eric Olson who has had direct contact with Mr. Lee to confirm the application has been withdrawn. Mayor stated that the town may want to make a clearer and broader statement on limiting the amount of liquor stores in the town. Mayor sent a letter today on behalf of the town asking that all liquor stores be limited to not opening until 10 a.m. or later. Mayor stated that the town's engineer is gearing up for the town-wide infrastructure projects that will complete getting the town's streets up to a good standard. Mayor signed a requisition to begin a survey for the trolley trail hiker/biker trail along the west side of town. Mayor reported that to provide top quality services to the town the staffing level in the Police Department needs to be 21 officers and 6.5 Civilian positions. Public Works staffing needs to be at 14. Mayor reported this year we need at least one person coordinating economic development in the town. Mayor stated that we need to improve efficiency in the town and change the way we do business to improve the town at lower costs. Mayor stated we don't see any significant new income coming in over the next year or two but there are ways we can save money. Mayor suggested privatizing certain areas of Public Works such as trash removal, tree management and street painting. Mayor spoke about a meeting held with Congressman Hoyer concerning the communication between the police departments and the possibility of bringing the dispatching departments of neighboring municipalities together. In an effort to save money Mayor would like to look into maybe shifting funds from Public Works to the Police Dept. and general government, however there are no proposals at this point.

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

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**Town Administrator's Report**

Town Administrator stated we are a recipient of a \$106,000.00 grant for Ingraham Street to conclude the storm drain project. Town Administrator stated that an application has been submitted for Maryland Ave for the major storm water management project prior to hopefully receiving funding assistance that will replace the road down to the town center. We will hear more about this in the spring. Town Administrator stated that there is an agenda item tonight regarding economic development proposal CDBG grant. A sub-committee met to go over the strategy for the application. Town Administrator stated he went to the department of housing today to get more information. Town Administrator reported that projects 31 and 32 are completed with a surplus of \$61,008.73. The Gypsy moth program from the state stopped coming to Prince George's County about 12 years ago, however they are trying to resurrect that. The head of the department will come out and do a more complete survey and give us more alternatives shortly. The elongated gate program, part of a \$900,000.00 effort to make crossing safer at Queensbury Road, looks good and on target for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

*This concludes the Town Administrator's Report*

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Prangle gave the Treasurer's Report. He stated that citizens have copies of revenue disbursement as well as modified reports which are year to date revenues that amount to \$3,021,621.45 Expenditure to date are \$2,725,757.65. Fund account amount as of January 31, 2008 are \$3,403,157.64.

Motion to Approve Subject to Audit- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Walker

**Approved**

*This concludes the Treasurer's Report*

**Code Enforcement Report**

The effort continues and apartment inspections are ongoing. There are a number of code matters that have been requested and are currently being attended to.

*This concludes the Code Enforcement Report*

**Police Department Report**

Chief Chambers stated that she wanted to give an update from the work session in reference to the stabbing victim who is still in critical condition and the suspect is still being held on a no bond status. Chief stated that she met with Congressman Hoyer and if all comes to fruition, all dispatchers from several municipalities will be dispatching from the same room and on the same radio frequency. The money from the federal side will be used for radios and in the long run for renovating of the community room in Hyattsville for dispatching. Chief also spoke concerning the new program crimereports.com. Chief stated that this new program could be up and running by the end of the week.

*This concludes the Police Department Report*

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**Public Works Report**

Acting Director John Benjamin gave the public works report.

Acting Director stated that the staffing level is fair however we are using unskilled temps to fill in as needed. The current projects he is working include the repair of the clock at the town center. He stated the striping on Riverdale Road is on hold. CSX started the excavating installing of levers and has begun with minimal to no traffic disturbance. Acting Director stated the street painting and sweeping is a priority weather permitting. He stated the trolley trail work is looking good. Also thanked the public works department for working together.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

**Fire Department Report**

The president of the Riverdale Vol. Fire Department gave the report. He stated that the station is in the top three in the county for the ratio of volunteer to career members which is good to see. He stated that he needs to get with Mr. Henry and Ms. Walker in reference to the traffic on Queensbury Road. He wanted to thank the town for including his department in the town website. He stated the Fire Department is also part of the ongoing radio project that Chief Chambers spoke about. President stated that the federal grant period for Firefighter assistance has opened and they will apply for two grants. The first grant is to gather funds to refurbish the aerial tower and the second to refurbish equipment.

*This concludes the Fire Department Report*

**Ward and Committee Reports**

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

CM Walker stated that she would like to thank the Riverdale Police Department and the Hyattsville Police Department for being proactive. She spoke of an event in the town in which a community member saw what he/she believed was a gambling operation taking place which did in fact prove to be true. CM Walker stated that there continues to be problems with the Little giant on Route One and wanted to ensure that the owners are spoken with in regards to zoning rules. CM Walker displayed an example of a sign that was being posted throughout the town and how it is a constant source of irritation. She would like for the Town to follow up with those that have posted phone numbers. CM Walker mentioned that the Farmers Market will run from May 1, 2008 – October 30, 2008 from 3pm to 7pm every Thursday. CM Walker stated the potential for credit card use this year and she will follow up with the finance committee. CM Walker wanted to thank the town for getting Crescent Cities to upgrade the fence along their parking lot and it looks great. The Arts Festival is on May 4<sup>th</sup> and she asked for any artists to contact Emily Fanning. CM Walker thanked Danielle Glaros for coordinating the open house event at Riverdale Park Elementary School last week. The Christmas in April project is on April 26<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are asked to call Bruce Warnick at 301-779-6273. CM Walker stated that there is a correction to her Ward report printed in the Town Crier. The report stated that the Economic Development Committee met with Mr. Malaki of the County Economic Development Commission. A meeting was scheduled after the Crier went to print, and was later canceled due to Mr. Malaki's schedule. The Town will work to reschedule this meeting. The Committee still held the scheduled meeting. Business owners suggested possibly contracting with the town for commercial trash service. CM Walker wanted to thank the town administrator for swiftly getting the survey on track for the trolley trail. She also stated that she received a letter requesting for the prize to be given to the winner of the Christmas Bakeoff.

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

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Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

CM Sharpe stated that she is excited to see the Environmental initiatives going on around the town. She stated that a presentation is in the works on native landscaping and improvements and was excited to hear about it. The Finance committee is looking for ways to better coordinate the information presented annually by the auditors with our own bookkeeping. CM Sharpe stated that they are in the process of implementing QuickBooks software to update our systems.

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

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

CM Lingua stated he wanted to welcome Mr. Benjamin. He stated the traffic study meeting will be held tomorrow at 7pm and the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on March 10, 2008 at 7:15pm. CM Lingua stated that the RFP for the redesign of the offices in town hall should be out soon. CM Lingua stated that Mr. Ed O'Neil of MD National Capital Park and Planning came out last week to discuss the town's authority for permitting of Riverside Park to provide better management through the permit. CM Lingua brought to the attention of the Town and Council the substantial tagging of men's and women's restrooms at the park and pointed out the importance of the quick action that was taken to cover it. CM Lingua mentioned that Volunteers are needed for the Christmas in April Project on April 26, 2008. CM Lingua stated that if you can not make it out for the above event, the Anacostia Clean-up project is looking for volunteers and more information is to come.

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

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry was out of town on business.

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

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Public Affairs

CM Kimbrough began by welcoming the new Chief of Police as well as Mr. Benjamin. He thanked Mr. Benjamin for the efforts on 54<sup>th</sup> Place and what an excellent job he did. He also thanked Mr. Prangley for organization and response and Colleen for her enormous efforts. CM Kimbrough stated that he had made a commitment to be at the Liquor board meeting but it was postponed. CM Kimbrough stated that the residents of Ward 5 are having difficulty obtaining the Town Crier. He also stated that he spoke with Chief Chambers in addressing graffiti.

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

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

CM Allen-Smith is sick and unable to attend.

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report*

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**Public Comment**

Alan Thompson stated he is excited about the town's new website and is looking forward to working with town staff. Also he addressed the closed meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> and asked if the Mayor will report on it. Mayor thanked Mr. Thompson for the reminder and then informed him that he will call for a recess shortly to get his notes so that he can report on that closed meeting.

Al Dembrowski stated that Riverdale Road from Kenilworth Avenue to the bridge looks like skid row; he states that he has addressed many concerns with Code Enforcement who says to go to the County. Mr. Dembrowski also stated that he has an issue with the town thinking about contracting out the tree trimming when the town owns a bucket truck that it never uses. Lastly, Mr. Dembrowski suggests that the town should stop trying to be Hyattsville.

**Legislative Action**

- # 1 Approval of minutes for the February 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Meeting

CM Walker made motion to accept meeting minutes.  
CM Lingua second  
Approved

- #2 Approval of Permit Request for 6ft fence at 4800 Sheridan Street in Ward 2. The Request is for a wooden fence 5' tall with 1' of lattice is necessary for the resident's privacy.

CM Sharpe made motion to accept request for permit to construct fence  
CM Walker second  
Approved

- # 3 Motion to approve fund for CDBG economic development to add code enforcement resources focused in Kenilworth Ave Area. Move to request Town Administrator to take action for funds to be concentrated on safety improvement as per memo at work session.

CM Walker made motion to accept approval fund for CDBG  
CM Sharpe second  
Approved

- # 4 Request for Carnival permit to be supported by Riverdale Lions Club to be held April 2-13, 2008

CM Kimbrough made motion to approve  
CM Walker second  
Approved

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- # 5 Creation of temporary advisory committee not to exceed one year to implement RFP to utilize native plants in the town of Riverdale Park. Three people have agreed to work on this including Danielle Glarios, Michael Severner and James Key.

CM Lingua made motion to create the committee  
CM Walker second  
Approved

- # 6 Request for grant application for safe route to school program to look at traffic flow and improvements for safety.

CM Walker made motion for application for safe route to school program  
CM Lingua second  
Approved

**Unfinished Business**

CM Lingua recommended that maybe in the future the town could set up an account for the sponsorship and recognition of youth and community members, maybe something under community affairs.

**New Business**

Motion made by CM Walker for the Liquor Store Policy recommending that the town should limit number of liquor stores, limit the off-site sales of liquor, eliminate sales of singles, and limit the hours of operation for liquor stores in the town. Second: CM Lingua. Approved

CM Walker read for the record the introduction of Ordinance # 2008-OR-01, which will be put on the legislative agenda on April 7, 2008. The ordinance would relocate the Code Enforcement Division under the supervision of the Police Chief. She stated that she has consulted with CM Henry regarding the proposal, since he is Public Safety chair. (Note – The Town conducted a follow up committee meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposal at length.)

**Closing Remarks**

Mayor reported to the public in reference to the February 21, 2008 executive session closed meeting. He stated that the purpose was to discuss personnel matters and to obtain legal advice in regards to the noose incident in Public Works. Two actions were taken; the first was the agreement that the final report by the town attorney Fred Sussman be released to the town's insurance carrier known as LGIT. The second action was that the Mayor would be removing the acting director of public works since based on the report would no longer be able to continue. Mayor was also given the authority by the council to nominate a town outsider as a replacement for up to ninety days.

**Adjournment**

CM Walker Made motion to adjourn  
CM Sharpe Second  
Approved

Typed from video tape 03-03-08