

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK**  
**MONDAY, MAY 5, 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 Christopher Henry    Ward 4  
CM Timothy Kimbrough   Ward 5

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley  
Deputy Town Administrator- Penelope Mendoza  
Chief of Police- Chief Theresa Chambers  
Director Public Works- Director Leonard Addison

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 Kimbrough  
Second- CM Sharpe

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor started by saying he wanted to welcome the new Public Works Director Mr. Addison. He also wanted to thank all those involved in the Arts Festival. This is a great new tradition and over 600 people came out to take part in the event. Mayor also stated that we seeking financial grants from Elks and Lions Club to assist with the purchase of the equipment for rapid graffiti removal. Mayor stated that the proposed budget for 2009 has been submitted and copies are available. Mayor did not propose spending any surplus funds this years as cash reserves are at the lowest point in which the town is comfortable spending in order to have adequate emergency reserves. The cost of living is up by 4.5% and it is important to maintain that. Mayor proposed bringing in another Full Time Police Dispatcher to keep the uniformed officers on the street. Mayor also proposed adding one Code Enforcement Officer as well as maintaining funds to uphold the level of service that is currently maintained by the local government. The Mayor also proposed adding some money to the arts council and farmers market than in previous years. Mayor stated that there is a 2% improvement to the cost of living. There will be a one cent per hundred overall tax increase so that the yield would be Fifty-four cents per hundred on general budget. This will be on cent more than the current capitol. Mayor pointed out to council members that MD Law states in order to maintain the tax rate, the tax hearing must take place unless council proposes an increase tax rate tonight, 65.1 cents per hundred will be advertised. CM Sharpe pointed out that we would not be able to raise the rate; however we could still lower the rate. Mayor agreed with the statement by CM Sharpe.

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

**Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasure's Report and stated that the ending cash balance as of March 31, 2008 is \$3,245,114.05. The Actual Budget as of April 30, 2008 is \$3, 284,344.61. Dispercements to date are \$3, 231,566.40.

Motion to Approve Subject to Audit- CM Sharpe  
Second- CM (Unable to hear in video, please advise)

**Approved**

*This concludes the Treasurer's Report*

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**Town Administrator's Report**

Town Administrator stated that the Police Department and Public Works are working hard to gather graffiti equipment and get the program up and running. This should be launched very soon and the community should see a strong message that we will not tolerate the graffiti in the Town of Riverdale Park. Business leaders seemed to support this. Infrastructure improvements are moving along well and we are down to the last four or five streets. Town Administrator stated that we also need to do a town-wide inspection this month and council members are making a list of areas that are still in need of work. We are looking at Riverside, Greenway and Oglethorpe as well as 6400 and 6500 Blocks of Taylor Road in the coming month. Town Administrator also noted that under the sixty day agreement the Hiker/Biker Trail should be ready however due to a serious family illness, there was some delay. This should be back on track soon. The Gypsy Moth Spraying began with the first application on Friday and the second and final application will be applied tomorrow. This went smoothly and we have not had any complaints. CM Kimbrough asked Mayor where 54<sup>th</sup> Place is on the list in regards to completion. Town Administrator stated that there is a meeting tomorrow at 9:30am to meet with the contractor and engineer and stated that it is on the top of his list. CM Walker asked about an update on CSX Crossing. Town Administrator stated that most of that project is completed and he will double check on the timeframe for the last phase of the project.

*This concludes the Town Administrator's Report*

**Code Enforcement Report**

Chief Chambers gave the code report. She stated that there were two documents given out to Mayor and Council. The first was a spreadsheet that showed where the activities took place. It showed that there were 100 activities and of those 93 had some action taken by code officers. She stated that she would like to have code add a column for compliance so that it can also be displayed. Chief asked council to give feedback on these documents and inform code if this information is helpful and if there are any suggestions to please email her. Chief also mentioned that she had a meeting with a judge and stated she learned a few important and useful things related to code. These include information in regards to successful prosecution we need to show that the owner clearly knows that the issue is clearly a violation of town code. Chief also stated that the States Attorney will represent the town in these cases and that the Code Officers will not have to stand in court on their own. She also noted that there is no bench warrant for those who do not appear in court which is good for us to know. Chief also had an update on the Shi's property and stated that the Asbestos report is completed and we are currently waiting on the inspector to obtain a permit from Prince George's County. She stated that it will be at least one week before we see any movement

*This concludes the Code Enforcement Report*

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**Police Department Report**

Chief Chambers stated that as far as the Graffiti task force, the power sprayers have been purchased. Chief stated that a detailed report was given about crime at the works session and copies are available. She will also be working on posting this information on the town's website. Chief stated that at 5000 51<sup>st</sup> Ave we had a criminal homicide. She also stated that gang members did make a threat to an officer's life and other police departments such as County Police were notified. Chief also stated that solicitors in the town should not be let into residents home and the police should be called. CM Walker asked the Chief to comment on the arrest of a suspect in the rape that recently occurred. Chief stated that there was an arrest of a suspect that is likely to have taken part in what is known as the dumpster rape. The individual was identified and did have a firearm upon his arrest. He is currently being help by Prince George's County and we should have test results back next week. CM Henry asked Chief to prepare a cheat sheet for council members who may approach these houses and Chief agreed she would look into it. CM Kimbrough also thanked Chief for her excellent delivery against criminals and thanked Mr. Prangley and Public Works for their quick attention to graffiti.

*This concludes the Police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Addison, Director of Public Works gave this report. Director stated that he is getting to know his personnel and each are learning the others expectations. He spoke about the Farmers Market and Arts Festival and stated that both were successful. There are still a couple of banners than need removed but other than that everything is back to normal. He asked that if there are any suggestions for the future to please contact him. Mayor stated that there would be a meeting about the Lafayette contract at the area of concern tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. The objective will be to install a curb at 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue to make it safer while at the same time meeting the needs of the business owners. Director stated that the tree trimming contractor was approved and hope for him to be there next week to take care of dead trees. The landscaping contractor is in place to beautify the area in front of town hall and he is pushing to get that going. Director stated that there was a concern from a council member to look at 410 and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, he stated that WSSC was contacted to take care of the problem. There was also some discussion to look at the sidewalks between Lafayette and Nicholson Street and possibly construction of a retaining wall. Director stated that he will look into this matter. CM Shape asked the director to look at 4700 Ravenswood as grass is getting very tall. Director stated he will look into it. CM Sharpe also noted that she had a call from a resident about a trash can that was spray painted at the field of Dreams. The Director stated that both Public Works and Mr. Addison went to the site and there was nothing found. CM Henry asked about painting of the divisional line on Riverdale Road and Mr. Addison stated he will look in to it. CM Lingua commented on the street lights at Riverdale Road and Mr. Addison stated he is currently working on them to ensure they are on. CM Walked asked about the clock at the Town Center and Mr. Addison said he checked on it today but will check it again.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

**Fire Department Report**

The President and other members were unable to attend due to prior engagements but the written report was submitted.

*This concludes the Fire Department Report*

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**Ward and Committee Reports**

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

CM Walker stated that the Arts Festival was great. CM Walker also pointed out that the Farmers Market is every Thursday from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. through October. She also wanted to extend a welcome to Mr. Addison and thank the Public Works Staff for the assistance at the Festival. CM Walker stated that a resident called and thanked the Police Department for waking her up at 12:30 a.m. to let her know she had left her GPS in her vehicle. The resident was very thankful and wanted to thank Mr. Hayes for stopping by her home. CM Walker suggested changing the fine from \$50.00 to \$500.00 for solicitors to make a stronger statement. CM Walker also reported on Economic Development. She stated that the town submitted a supplemental CDBG Grant for \$50,000.00 to help with code enforcement issues and graffiti problems. She also mentioned that June 12, 2008 will be the open house at town center. This is to invite new businesses to our town and inform them about financing information and business support. CM Walker also wanted to thank Public Works for the tree route protection and stated many residents were pleased to see this. CM Walker asked the town to allow the Fire Department 90 days to make other plans and remove the do not enter sign posted on Queensbury Road. CM Walker also stated that the Anacostia Watershed Project will be on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9a.m. to 12 p.m. and they are still looking for volunteers to plant trees.

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

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

CM Sharpe wanted to make sure that street contactors give proper notice to the residents before beginning construction and ensure that they know not to remove the trees. In the Finance Committee report CM Walker stated that tough books and software were ordered for Code. CM Walker scheduled three Budget Meetings with Mayor and Council which are scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Town Administrator added a meeting for the Constant Yield Hearing to be set for May 27<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

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

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

CM Lingua started his report in welcoming Mr. Addison. He also stated that in order to be proactive we need to provide a climate and resources for staff members to advance in merit as far as their talents will take them regardless of age, race, handicap, marital status etc. He also stated that concerns and problems must be identified and two way communication and respect to human dignity must be maintained for long term success. He stated some projects such as tree trimming didn't get done and are being worked on now. CM Lingua also wanted to thank Mr. Benjamin for his work here. He also stated that the Native Plant Initiative should begin in the spring at three parks located at Sheridan and Lafayette, DuPont Circle, and Lafayette and Oliver. There will be a Public Works meeting May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The Traffic Study Meeting is tomorrow at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Prangle stated that will try and have the contactor come out may 14<sup>th</sup> before beginning street scape work in Ward 3 at Oglethorpe, Nicholson, and Riverside. There is also a Pot Luck Barbeque on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4p.m.-6p.m. at Novella's house and copies are available at town hall. There were some questions as to why the Riverside Restrooms were still locked. CM Lingua asked for town staff to check with MD National Capital to open them and prevent people from using alternative means in public view. CM Lingua stated that the Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Presentation was impressive and we will soon have a copy of the book they are putting together.

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

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Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry stated the first Public Safety Meeting was on May 2 and was very successful. He thanks the Chief for her report. He also stated that not all but some business owners were in attendance. CM Henry made a clear point to the owners that he will be working on a six month initiative to help them with security concerns. He stated that all parties must get involved to make this work. He has a ride along planned with the Chief next week. CM Henry requested that Madison Hills Home Owner Association information be removed from the Town Crier as it is no longer in effect. CM Henry also stated that he would like someone to look into an incident where a resident was refused transport to a hospital following a seizure.

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

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Public Affairs

CM Kimbrough stated that the Legislative Committee is making progress and has tweaked three codes to help get more things done.

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

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

CM Allen-Smith was not in attendance.

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report*

**Public Comments**

Alan Thompson of 4711 Sheridan Street commented about MUTC meeting to be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a development proposal for Douglass Development for the Town Center. Public is welcome to attend.

Danielle Glarous of 4800 Sheridan Street stated that the walking town meeting with Eric Olsen May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to be held at town hall. She also stated the arts festival was very nice and would like the town to come up with a way to appreciate the volunteers so they keep coming back. Possibly set aside additional funds in the budget for the Pastor of the Christian Life Church as the town is in constant use of their services. She would also like to see Historic Signs put up in the town. She would also like to see an increase in the notification of business to include putting up a sign on 410. Also, she would like to see how we can obtain funds to begin a community center for the town. She also would like the stop sign removed from her property and placed closer to 48<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan because residents do not see it where it currently resides. Danielle would also like for the town to begin tracking foreclosures so that we can maintain the grass and the property.

**Legislative Action**

# 1 Approval of minutes for the April 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Meeting

CM Lingua made motion to accept meeting minutes.

CM Kimbrough noted that there were some problems with the Motions and Seconds. CM Walker asked that we have numbered votes for actions.

CM Lingua made motion to table minutes at this time

CM Sharpe second

Approved 4-0

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#2 Approval of Minutes for Special Legislative Meeting held April 28, 2008.

CM Lingua made motion to accept meeting minutes  
CM Henry second  
Approved 5-0

CM Kimbrough asked if there is no vote, does it count as a yay or a nay. Mayor stated that the Charter requires in order to pass a budget, budget amendment, ordinance change or charter change that four (4) affirmative votes are needed and that absence would be a nay. For a resolution to be passed a majority of votes is needed.

# 3 Approval of Variance to exceed patio enclosure lot coverage at 4503 Riverdale Road.

CM Walker made motion to accept variance  
CM Sharpe second  
Approved 5-0

# 4 Ordinance Resolution OR-2 2008 Multi Family licensing and Inspection Application fee

CM Lingua made motion to accept  
CM Henry second  
Approved 5-0

# 5 Motion to Approve Spanish outreach committee

CM Walker made motion to accept  
CM Lingua Second  
Approved 5-0

**New Business**

Movement to approve resolution to honor resident at 4711 Oliver Street for living in town since 1922

CM Walker- made motion  
CM Lingua- Second  
Passed 5-0

CM Lingua requested to send a letter to Riverside Mansion for secured gate. He stated that it was intended to be permanent. It has been six months and no action has been taken. Mayor stated he would call Mr. Day to see what we can do. No motion made at this time.

**Adjournment**

CM Sharpe Motion Made  
CM Walker Second  
Approved 5-0

Typed from video tape 05-05-08