

TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor
CM Alice Ewen Walker	Ward 1
CM Alan Thompson	Ward 2
CM David Lingua	Ward 3
CM Chris Henry	Ward 4
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 Lingua Second

Discussion: CM Lingua motioned to move new business under the last legislative item.

CM Ewen Walker Second.

Motion passed 6-0.

Sue Binder, Deputy Clerk, office of the Circuit Court to swear in elected officials.

Mayor's Report

- Calendar corrections – Trash pick up is Monday and Thursday unless a holiday falls on one of those days.
- Moving forward with search for Town Administrator.
- Several building lots and funding are available for a community/recreation building. A meeting will be held on July 22nd @ 7:30pm in Town Hall to discuss this project.
- The Town is moving toward better energy efficiency. Mayor Archer suggests that Council and staff begin to think in terms in some for of resolution or statement of yearly and long range consumption of energy.
- Rain Barrel Cooperative – CM Lingua represented the Town of Riverdale during the event in May.
- The Clean-Up along the Anacostia was a huge success. Members of our Sister City of Guatemala came out to help.
- We are in desperate need of volunteers for Riverdale Day, Holiday Market and various children's activities. Mayor challenged Council Members to find at least one rec. board member or volunteer.

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This concludes the Mayor's Report

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report:

Modified accrual report as of May 31, 2009: \$4,008,810.64 Revenues,

Budget as of April 30, 2009: Revenue = \$3,797,664.53, Expenses = \$2,004,211.77.

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

CM Ewen Walker Second

Motion 6-0

This concludes the Treasurer's Report

Town Administrator's Report

- Congratulated new Council Members and best wishes to former CM Sharpe.
- Dedication for the new additions in the Municipal Center – Sat, July 25th @ noon
- Restoration of the **open** Channel – The County is following up with a plan for the next 3 fiscal yrs of the Capital Improvement Plan. Looking for funding for FY10. Continuing to discuss ICC. Meeting scheduled on July 14th.
- CDBG (Rhode Island Ave.) – We have until Dec 31st to complete this project.

Discussion: CM Henry if anything can be done about the road at Riverdale Rd. and Kenilworth Ave. This road seems to be getting progressively worse. Mr. Prangley will call the President of University of Maryland to inform them of this problem.

This concludes the Town Administrator's Report

Police Department Report

- 4602 Queensbury – Fire damaged home in good shape.
- 5507 Goodluck Road – Close to agreement of fence replacement.
- Dept of Environmental Resources Satellite Office is open on Tues and Thurs at Town Hall from 9:30am – 12:30pm to answer questions from residents.
- Going Green – Chief Chambers as well as Mr. Prangley and others have been seen riding bikes.
- Awards Ceremony by PG County Police Chief's Association – Civilian of the Year – Officer Brittany **Hewison** and Officer of the Year – Officer Clay Alford.
- Grants Programs - \$892,246.00 total. The Police Dept is eligible for an additional \$11,232.00 in funding.
- CSX – The crossing arms were not working. Riverdale Police Department was unaware until repairs started to take place. Chief Chambers will figure out how the department can be notified when this happens as well as notification of when repairs happen prior to any road closures due to repair.
- Billboards – A new billboard featuring a group of chiefs of police will be displayed for the new Click It or Ticket program. Chief Chambers will be featured on the local billboard.
- The **Slattery** twins have arrived!

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Code Enforcement Issues

This concludes the Police Department Report

Public Works Report

- Trash collection – Never on Tues.
- Railroad Crossing – Mr. Addison will clear up how the Town of Riverdale is notified when there is a malfunction and repair.
- Going Green – Cutting down on energy consumption by riding a bike. Mr. Addison encourages his employees to join him in riding a bike.
- PEPCO is working to clean up trees and limbs that may or have caused power outages.

Discussion: Mayor Archer asked if the new fuel management system will be up and running by July 1, 2009. Mr. Addison stated that it will take time to get the new system up and running. The Town will have the ability to monitor and measure energy consumption for the town. CM Walker asked if the lighting issue has been addressed for the resident at 6201 Natoli **Place**. Mr. Addison will follow up on this issue. CM Henry stated that the CSX issue needs to be taken seriously before someone is injured or killed by a train. He suggested that some type of signage be placed so that drivers are aware of a malfunction and to prevent any liability to the Town of Riverdale. Mr. Addison added that the safety measure on the gates at the CSX crossing will go down to prevent any and all traffic from crossing when there is a malfunction. CM Henry also stated that there is a lot of street lights out in Ward 4. Mr. Addison will identify the light poles that are not working tonight and put in the proper work order(s) to get them repaired. CM Thompson asked if the curb at Lafayette and Tuckerman can be marked at the southeast corner of that intersection.

This concludes the Public Works Report

Fire Department Report

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 Ewen Walker, Economic Development

- The Economic Development Committee met and discussed the following:
 - Establishment of a welcome packet
 - Developing a brochure to market the Town of Riverdale
- There was an incident near the intersection of Riverdale Road and Rhode Island Ave where a shot fired out. CM Ewen Walker will talk to Chief Chambers to figure out what happened and how to deal with this type of incident.

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- The F4 Route is a concern.
- CM Ewen Walker expressed her concern about the incidents of arson. She would like to see more oversight on these matters.
- Grant for the rain gardens is currently on hold.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Ewen Walker's Report

Ward 2, CM Thompson, Finance Chairman

- Finance Committee Mtg. – Monday, June 8th @8pm, will finalize the FY09-10 Operating and Capital Budget. This meeting is anticipated to last 1.5 to 2 hours.
- Thanked everyone for coming out on Election Day and for the support of the residents.
- CM Thompson has canvassed his ward to introduce himself as new Council Member of Ward 2 and to see if there were any concerns from residents.
- Mosquitoes – Residents should dump any standing water.
- Pot Holes at everyone's favorite cut through. CM Thompson asked that this issue be addressed.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Thompson's Report

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

- Thanks residents for coming out and voting last month.
- Goals as CM – CM Lingua will step down from the Traffic Studies Committee and being an active planner in the Rec. Board Committee. He will continue to build on the successes of the Police Department and Public Works Department and to continue serving on the Kenilworth Ave. Revitalization Steering Committee.
- Center for Watershed Protection turned down the funding request this year. A letter is being drafted. CM Lingua will contact the office tomorrow to discuss a possibility of gaining any funding for the Town of Riverdale. Thanked Mr. Addison for all his work on this project.
- Neighborhood Watch being formed at 5000 block of Oglethorpe, 5000 block of Nickerson and 5800 – 6000 blocks Riverside Dr. If residents would like to get involved please contact CM Lingua.
- Block Party – 48th and 49th block of Madison. Thanked Alice and Jody for organizing. Nice event!
- Traffic Study mtg. tomorrow @ 7pm.
- Public Safety mtg. will be scheduled in the near future.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

- Thanks residents for coming out in the rain to vote during the Town's election.

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- Thanks to Chief Chambers and Colleen Ferguson for the work on removing the fence on the corner of Colleen Ave. This will enhance the safety of bicyclists and other residents in that area.
- Crest Park Residence – CM Henry met with community leaders to discuss the annexation of this area.
- Christmas in April – There are quite a few homes in this town that need a little TLC. Elderly owners and residents with disabilities are helped to perform repairs to their homes.
- Trash Can Holders – Children in the area are throwing trash on the ground in that area because there are now trash cans or trash pick-up for that area.
- CM Henry looks forward to working closely with CM Ewen Walker on the Economic Development Committee.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report

Ward 5, CM Rivas, Legislative

- Thanked residents for coming out to vote and electing him to office. CM Rivas promised to do his best to represent his ward and the Town of Riverdale.

This concludes Ward 5, CM Rivas's Report

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

- Thanks residents for coming out to vote and encouraged residents to come out to the legislative meeting and get involved in activities in the Town of Riverdale.

This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report

Public Comments

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Legislative Action

1. Departing council member's remarks to the town.

Former CM Sharpe thanked the Town and Council Members for support and hard work. It's been a wonderful two years. Former CM Sharpe asked that the council continue its work on the Cool Cities Program and the Cafritz project.

2. Nominations for committees

CM Thompson moved to approve the nominations for all committees.

CM Ewen Walker Second

Motion 6-0

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3. Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.

CM Henry moved to approve Robert's Rules of Order.

CM Thompson Second.

Motion 6-0

Discussion: CM Henry requested that copies of Robert's Rules of Order be distributed among Council Members, especially the newer members.

4. To approve minutes for the regular legislative meeting on April 6, 2009.

CM Ewen Walker moved to approve the minutes for the regular legislative meeting on April 6, 2009.

CM Thompson Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: CM Lingua would like the Resolution number to be corrected. Mayor Archer corrected the date of the Prince George's Historic Preservation Reception at Riverdale Mansion was held on May 21, 2009.

5. To approve minutes for the regular legislative meeting on May 4, 2009.

CM Ewen Walker moved to approve the minutes for the regular legislative meeting on May 4, 2009.

CM Allen-Smith Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: Mayor Archer would like the minutes to reflect that he was re-elected as well.

6. To set the tax rates for FY 09-10 Operating & Capital Budget.

CM Thompson moved to set the Real Property Tax rate at 54.8 cents per \$100 of accessed evaluation, Special Tax rate at 9.29 cents per \$100 of accessed evaluation, Tangible Property Tax rate at \$2.00 per \$100 of accessed evaluation and the Operating Tax rate \$2.00 cents per \$100 of accessed evaluation.

CM Ewen Walker Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: CM Henry asked for clarification of the Special Tax rate. CM Thompson pointed out that a mistake had been made and that the tax is not 92.9 cents per \$100 of accessed evaluation as indicated previously.

7. To approve permit parking for 5300 block of Powhatan Road.

CM Thompson moved to approve permit parking for the 5300 block of Powhatan Road for the residents only.

CM Ewen Walker Second

Motion 6-0

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Discussion: CM Thompson provided a signed petition from residents and explained that the streets are narrow and residents find it hard to get out of their driveways. There are many vehicles that park along that street who live in neighboring apartments. CM Henry expressed concern that it may not be fair to other Riverdale residents to have permit parking on a public street. Another concern is that the approval of permit parking on a public street may turn into a trend in the City of Riverdale. CM Thompson responded that parking on this street is a major concern and that one resident was involved in an accident involving a parked car trying to get out of their own driveway. CM Henry asked if the residents on that street were able to install a driveway on their property. Mr. Prangley stated that the right-of-way on that street is 40ft (smallest in town, largest being 60 ft.). CM Henry became clear that the entire block (not one individual) requests permitted parking on that block. Melissa Avery of Ravenswood Road commented that exception permits are issued in other areas for visitors of residents who have permitted parking on their street. CM Lingua suggests that the Council take a further look into permit parking.

8. To approve a permit to install a 6ft. fence at 4713 Tuckerman Street for Mara Lopez (Ward 2).

CM Thompson moved to approve the permit to install a 6 ft. fence at 4713 Tuckerman Street for Mara Lopez.

CM Lingua Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: CM Thompson spoke to neighboring residents who voiced their approval of Ms. Lopez's fence. CM Henry stated that he would like to be able to view legible documents from the County. Mara Lopez, owner of 4713 Tuckerman Street for 32 yrs, stated that the wooden fence is a privacy fence and that there are quite a few projects happening at the same time including a new deck. For clarification CM Henry asked if the placement of the fence is along the rear of the home. Ms. Lopez replied "yes".

9. To approve a permit to install a 6ft. fence at 6112 44th Ave for Daisy Miller (Ward 1).

CM Ewen Walker moved to approve a permit to install a 6ft. fence at 6112 44th Ave for Daisy Miller (Ward 1).

CM Lingua Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: CM Ewen Walker is concerned of which 'property line' the fence will be placed at. She would like the Council to require that the 'property line' be explain on the permit application. CM Henry asked Mr. Prangley if this fence could be placed passed the rear of the house. Mr. Prangley explained that this could happen if there is a special exception approved. CM Ewen Walker stated that Daisy Miller has been working with Code Compliance for over 2 months for this project and that it should be in compliance. Chief Chambers will provide code information about this project to Council for clarification. CM Thompson moved to amend the motion to indicate that the fence be allowed to continue along the line to the fence on the south side of the residence. CM Henry Second. Motion 0-0. CM Thompson moved to postpone this motion until after a break. CM Ewen Walker expressed to fellow Council Members that there

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should be a reasonable expectation of residents and their compliance to city codes. Ms. Miller has put in a huge amount of work for this fence project as well as council and the county code enforcement. CM Thompson moved to suspend a further consideration of this item indefinitely. CM Ewen Walker Second. Motion 6-0. CM Lingua asked that if Mayor and Council can listen to one piece of new business before break since the resident is present. Mayor Archer agreed.

New Business

1. Approval for building permit to replace a 6ft. fence on 6001 Taylor Rd.

CM Lingua moved to approve building permit application for 6001 Taylor Rd.

CM Henry Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: Mrs. Hutchison state children have vandalized the existing fence and people have stolen lawn mowers and a ladder from her yard because of the existing fence being torn down from vagrants. Yard furniture has been destroyed and vandalized as well. Mrs. Hutchison is fearful for the safety of her family as well as the children that attend her daycare (6009 Taylor Rd.). CM Henry recommends to Council to approve this project.

2. The Town of Riverdale would perform certain services during an event on July 4, 2009 sponsored by the Arts Council.

CM Ewen Walker moved that the Town perform a celebration on July 4th in conjunction with the Arts Council.

CM Thompson Second

Motion 6-0

Discussion: The Arts Council, represented by Melissa Avery (Ravenswood Rd.), would like to hold a function on July 4th from 11am – 5pm. She is not sure of the details of the event yet. The event would include vendors and a live band. Mayor Archer asked that details be provided to Mayor and Council as soon as possible.

3. Request that the town homes at Madison Hill be repainted.

4. Request to have a pedestrian crossing on Silk Tree Dr. at the area separating Parkdale High School and Good Luck Rd.

Unfinished Business

Adjournment

CM Lingua move to adjourn 10:03 pm

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CM Henry Second
Motion 6-0

Typed from tape 06-01-09.