

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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  
CM Keelah Allen-Smith   Ward 6

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley  
Deputy Town Administrator- Penny Mendoza  
Chief of Police- Chief Teresa Chambers  
Director Public Works- 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 Henry  
Second- CM Lingua  
Motion passes 5 – 0

Mayor Archer asked to make the first item on the agenda to nominate Charles Ryan as Fire Department Chief. CM Henry motioned to nominate Ryan as Fire Chief for of RP Fire Dept. Mayor struck item #5 from agenda to put under new business for lack of legislation to read. Mayor Archer thanked Walter Bustamante, Jeremy Emerick, Anna Wendland, and Tracy Perrin. Officer Bustamante was promoted to Private First Class, Officer Emerick was promoted to Corporal, Tracy Perrin was promoted to Records Manager for the Department, and Anna Wendland was promoted to Office Manager. Following the presentation, pictures of the promotees and their families were taken.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor first wanted to thank Anissa Sunday and Andy Huberty for their work on Riverdale Park Day as well as the Fire Department for helping out with food at the last minute and for their overall participation. He also thanked the Dental Group for their work in the community. He congratulated economic development on their success with the Town Center Open House. Despite the light turnout, he felt it was well presented. He noted that the Town Center has gotten their first lease and have several new prospects for the future. He stated that he looked forward to having the Town Center open seven days a week and not just for the Farmer's Market on Thursdays. On October 13, 2008, William Wirt Middle School will be honoring Men Make a Difference Day and the Mayor commented that he would like for some Riverdale Park Police Officers to participate. Anyone interested in participating should contact their local schools. He also mentioned that Council Members will have a presentation to put together for the State Legislation Delegation on October 20, 2008. He expects for it to be completed by the middle of next week for Council comment.

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

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**Treasurer's Report/Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report and stated that citizens have a copy of this report. As of August 31, 2008 the town's balance is \$1,608,238.62. Revenues as of September 30, 2008 are \$691,329.18. Expenditures to date amount to \$1,217,496.03. Town was successful in negotiating with the Director of Office of Finance for a \$200,000 advance on Town tax receipts without fee to the Town so that it was received before the normal disbursement date of October 10, 2008. Friday was the start of the Town's annual review with the Office of Management and Budget; the Town has thus far received 100% recognition on all departments and hopes to continue this trend after this year's review. Director Addison and the Chief attended a Homeland Security Summit where some of the current policies in place were shared among officials. Town also participated in the Envision Price Georges County Economic Development Summit which facilitated dialogue with distinguished leaders of government and business to engage institutions in advocating further development in the area. Town Administrator congratulated Anissa Sunday and all volunteers on a successful Riverdale Park Day.

*This concludes the Treasurer's Report*

**Police Department Report**

Chief Chambers stated that Code Enforcement and property owners have been successful in their efforts to cease the playing of loud music by La Grande and Pan Am grocery stores. She mentioned that Officer Joe Blanco will be graduating on October 16, 2008 and invites the public to join in celebrating this day by attending his graduation. Problem Oriented Police Officer Alexander is currently seeking long term solutions to issues in the community. He will begin to sit in on Legislative meetings more regularly to hear concerns from the community. She commented on the new traffic pattern for school zone and the benefits it has in thinning out the crowd during arrival and dismissal. The crossing guards would like to thank Riverdale Park for helping to keep the children safe.

*This concludes the Police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

Director Leonard Addison gave the public works report. He added to the report submitted to council by stating that he would be attending a meeting with the Town's contractor and engineer on-site tomorrow to take care of discussed issues regarding speed hump installation, paving, landscaping, concrete work, etc... In order to decide when the work will be completed. He mentioned that the work on Route 1 and East-West Highway will continue for about five more weeks. The North end of East-West Highway is close to completion and they are waiting for fabricated material to be placed on the island, then paving of the street will begin. Primary congestion will remain in the morning for a few more weeks.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

**Fire Department Report**

The President of the Fire Department stated that Acting Chief Ryan was in attendance and they were pleased to assist with Riverdale Park Day. Regarding ambulance billing, not much has changed since the last meeting and he hopes to have issues resolved by the November Legislative Meeting. He commented that the Fire Department may need the Town's assistance and support with these issues in the future. He will have a copy of the report to send out to all affected municipalities in the near future. Tomorrow there will be the reading of two bills in front of the County Council. The first will be regarding the "zoning law" which will be a great source for fundraising for fire departments. The second will be regarding the elimination of the current volunteer fire commission, and replacing them with county appointed officials

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representing the career service citizens. These are Council Bills 70, 73, and 74. He believes the system needs some attention; however the fire department would appreciate Town support. He mentioned the second generator that has been installed at the Fire Department and other building upgrades. CM Walker noted Council's previous action to change the DO NOT ENTER sign on Queensbury Road back to the hours of 6-9 a.m. and stripe the pavement. Town Administrator stated that he would observe the rear of the Fire House to get a proposal on the resurfacing of that space.

*This concludes the Fire Department Report*

**Ward and Committee Reports**

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

CM Walker stated that on September 23, 2008 she put together comments for Park and Planning's Capital Improvement Budget. She was unable to attend the hearing and would like to thank CM Lingua and CM Sharpe for attending. The comments supported \$100,000 for the Riverdale Park Playground north of East West Highway on the West side of the tracks. She noted that she would like to see it implemented as soon as possible as it is budgeted for this year. The Town also re-iterated their support for improvements to the Riversdale House Museum. They noted their continued concern regarding maintenance and police capacity for Park and Planning. The Town supported work on bike paths and expressed interest in the possibility of a Dog Park in the future. However, the Riverdale Park playground is a priority. She thanked Jim Coleman and Penny Mendoza for their work on the Open House and looks forward to the future. On December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> the Town will hold the Holiday Market and the Festival of Lights. Please contact Jim Coleman or Tina Van Pelt for more information. The next economic Development meeting will be on October 29, 2008 at 7 p.m. She would also like to thank Director Addison for his work on the speed humps in Ward One. She is pleased with the success of the new traffic pattern during school zone for Riverdale Elementary School. She read 2008-R-09, a Resolution in Recognition of National Physical Therapy Month passed at the Special Legislative Meeting on September 29, 2008. October 2008 is now National Physical Therapy Month in Riverdale Park, thanks to business owner Deborah Holmes of Complete Physical Therapy.

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

**Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman**

CM Sharpe thanked those who made the Dog Park Presentation last week. She also thanked CM Lingua for drafting a letter of support regarding the prospect of a Dog Park in Ward 2. CM Sharpe thanked her neighbors in Ward Two along with Danielle Glaros for a successful block party held yesterday. She noted new business owner Tina VanPelt and her art studio located on 5614 Baltimore Avenue; she encouraged the community to stop by and visit the art studio. CM Sharpe stated that she would like to begin putting together information on foreclosure resources at the town, county, state, and non-profit level and hopes to come back with more on this topic at next month's meeting.

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

**Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works**

CM Lingua stated that the Public Works Committee will be meeting on October 13, 2008 at 7:15. Traffic Study will be October 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. CM Lingua stated that he spoke to Riverdale Elementary crossing guard Cathy Baker who provided him with more tips for pick-up and drop-off; overall the crossing guard was impressed with the improvements to the arrival and dismissal procedures. He would like to thank public works, Anissa Sunday, Andy Huberty, Fire Department and all volunteers for their help with

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Riverdale Park Day. He would especially like to thank Erica Wilson, drum artist for her entertainment at the event. For more information on volunteer opportunities for the upcoming Holiday Market, please call Town Hall or visit the Town website. CM Lingua stated that he has spoken with Chief Chambers and Mayor Archer regarding solutions to the problem of excessive vehicular speed on Taylor Road, south of Longfellow Street. He also appreciated Code Enforcement's and the Chief's efforts in tackling the problem of residents engaging in commercial work on their properties. CM Lingua asked that the public please try to trim bushes and branches that hang over onto the public right of way.

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

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry stated that this past September, he engaged in discussion with Verizon regarding tree branches and cable wires. He and Addison observed the site and decided that the best way to install cables would be overhead. Trimming of the tree will also be done to abate the problem. He did not appreciate Verizon's reluctance to find a solution to the problem. Neighbors have been complaining of drivers making a U-Turn at Good luck Road and Silk Tree Drive in the morning. He congratulated Tina VanPelt and wished her success with her new business. He stated that he would like to bring in a financial expert next month to do a presentation to help troubled homeowners. He stated that he attended the Farmer's Market for the first time last week and was pleasantly surprised. He encouraged the public to come and visit the Farmers' Market on Thursdays. He noted the spotlight in his report in the Crier on Total Auto and their longtime presence in the community. He has not noticed any criminal activity in the community in his observations. He thanked CM Kimbrough and the police department for their work in the community in keeping it safe.

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

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

CM Kimbrough announced the passing of two pieces of legislation regarding "Increasing the Penalties and Repeat Offense of Unlawful Disposal of Dead Animals", and "The Prohibiting of Parking Vehicles on Unpaved and Unprepared Surfaces upon Residential Properties". He is hopeful that the legislation regarding the Shortening of the Time Period Property Owners Have to Remove Weeds, Grass, and Thickets from their Properties, as well as the No Loitering Ordinance Resolution will also pass.

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

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

CM Allen-Smith thanked all Riverdale Park volunteers for their hard work for Riverdale Park Day. Over the last couple of weeks, she had attended several meetings with the management of Jefferson Hall Apartments, Riverdale Park's Code Enforcement Manager, and community police. They discussed numerous issues and the meeting was very productive. She welcomed the new Jefferson Hall Apartments Manager, Heidi. She thanked all residents who had contacted her with their concerns; in the future, the best way to contact her is by email: [keelahd@yahoo.com](mailto:keelahd@yahoo.com). She thanked Director Addison and Public Works for their work on keeping the streets in Ward Six clean.

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

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**Legislative Action**

**# 1 Approval of Charles Ryan as Fire Chief for Riverdale Park Volunteer Fire Department**

Motion made by CM Henry  
Seconded by CM Allen-Smith

Discussion: CM Lingua asked Acting Chief Ryan how long his term would be and what were his plans for the future were and if there were any issues within the Fire Department he felt needed to be addressed. Acting Chief Ryan stated that he would be finishing the next 14 months of a two year term as Chief. He is looking forward to the completion of building renovations, getting the ambulance billing situation settled and the purchase of a new engine for the Fire Department. Mayor mentioned that in the past, there have been Riverdale Park Fire Chiefs who have not lived in the Town as well.

CM Sharpe-moved to amend the motion to approve Chief Ryan and waive requirements for Chief living in Town  
CM Allen-Smith- second  
Amendment passes 6-0

Discussion: CM Walker stated that one of her biggest concerns is Human Resources setting professional standards for behavior in public and in private. CM Henry stated that he would like for the Fire Department to re-iterate their code of conduct with a list of do's and don'ts posted in the Fire House. President Lamphier stated that a list has not yet been posted. Chief Ryan stated that a complete list would be posted as soon as the kitchen renovations were completed, however a list with top priority conduct codes could be posted within the next 30-60 days.

Motion passes 4 – 0; CM Allen-Smith was away from her seat; CM Walker abstained

**#2 Approval of Minutes for September 2, 2008 Regular Legislative Meeting**

Motion made by CM Lingua  
Seconded by CM Walker  
Motion passes 5 – 0; CM Allen-Smith was away from her seat

**# 3 Action to Award Architect Agreement for design and oversight for Riverdale Municipal Center Building Addition to KDA**

Motion made by CM Lingua  
Seconded by CM Sharpe

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Discussion: CM Lingua talked about the bidding process and the staff's choice of KDA to work on the project. Director Addison stated that KDA will be added to the budget and that they would serve as the architect, project manager, provide inspections, get necessary permits, utilize green engineering, and will complete the project within 90-100 days. CM Henry requested some clarification on the exact work that will be going on. Mr. Addison stated that they would be completing the phase 1 operation to extend office space to rear of Town Hall for personnel, supplies, and records.

Motion passes 6-0

**#4 Approval for Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Riverdale Park and the Maryland Transit Administration**

Discussion: Chief Chambers stated that the language of the MOU was too broad for the Town of Riverdale Park and that adjustments had been made to narrow it down. Mayor stated that they should move to support a resolution to support the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding

Motion made by CM Lingua for a 5 minute recess to review the MOU before the agenda item was voted on.

Seconded by CM Sharpe

5 minute recess.

Motion made by CM Walker to approve the MOU as written

Seconded by CM Sharpe

CM Lingua addressed concerns with the management of fatal accidents as outlined in the MOU. Chief Chambers stated that Fred Sussman had reviewed all language and that the chain of command, in response to vehicular incidents, as outlined in the MOU, was appropriate.

Motion passes 6-0

**# 5 Introduction of Charter Resolution 2008-CR-01 to amend Article II, Section 204 requesting Mayor & Council to recess for the month of August.**

CM Lingua gave the first reading of 2008-CR-01. Mr. Pranglely stated that the Charter Resolution would be advertised in four weekly intervals and the Town would hold a short public hearing regarding the Charter Resolution.

**# 6 Introduction of Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-05 concerning loitering**

CM Kimbrough read through 2008-OR-05. Mayor stated that the Ordinance Resolution would be advertised and discussed at the work session.

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**# 7 Introduction of Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-06 concerning cutting weeds at owner's expense**

CM Kimbrough read through 2008-OR-06. Mayor stated that the Ordinance Resolution would be advertised and discussed at the work session.

**#8 Approval of Letter of Support for a Dog Park in Riverdale Park**

Motion made by CM Sharpe  
Seconded by CM Henry  
Motion passes 6-0

Discussion: CM Walker made a friendly suggestion to move the graphic on the first page of the letter to the second page of the letter.

**New Business**

CM Henry stated that he would like to hear Council's thoughts on raising the stipend for Council members beginning FY09. A discussion was held on the history of Mayor and Council stipends. A discussion on the shortening of meeting times and presentations followed with a consensus that presentations and discussions should be limited to 15 minutes.

CM Allen-Smith stated that Raul and Elizabeth Osorio of El Bucanas Restaurant have submitted an application for a Dance Permit. She stated that there were a few more items to be straightened out and paperwork to be submitted and that they would be coming before Council in the near future.

CM Lingua wanted to give Council a heads up about concerned citizens in Ward Three who may have a petition in the works for the implementation of speed humps on Taylor Road in regards to the issue with speeding cars on that portion of the road.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by CM Lingua  
Seconded by CM Sharpe  
Motion passes 6 - 0