

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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- 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.

Mayor Archer is moving his report to after the security cameras presentation.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve Agenda with changes to order– CM Walker

Second – CM Henry

Motion passes 6 - 0

**Presentation for Security Cameras for the Town**

Zotera and IP Vision slideshow presentation to show how their software and camera systems work to provide security for private property, businesses and communal areas of the Town of Riverdale Park.

**Mayor's Report**

- Calvert House signed to lease part of their building to Sheehan Indian restaurant.
- Jamal Development signed a 7 year lease for 2 spaces on Queensbury for a gourmet sandwich shop.
- Rancho Grande on Baltimore Avenue moving forward with their bar and grill.
- Met with Mike Arnold of the River Post building who is close to reaching an agreement with Miles Spicer of the Archie Edwards Blues Society. This would be a welcomed addition to Town Center.
- This Sunday at 1:00 pm there will be a reception honoring the Plummer Family at the Riversdale Mansion. This is a public event with music and refreshments provided.
- Congrats to Riverdale Elementary School who met AYP and are now off the State Watch List.
- On Town Talk an informal committee has formed and is exchanging ideas to create a dog park in town. For more information please contact Adrienne at adgealleg@hotmail.com

*This concludes the Mayor's Report*

CM Sharpe moved to amend agenda to move up items involving residents that are present.

CM Walker second

Motion passes 6-0

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**Legislative Action**

**Parking on Queensbury Rd. during school hours**

CM Sharpe Moved to allow 1 temporary parking pass to 4910 and 4912 Queensbury Road.  
CM Henry Second  
Motion passes 6-0

Discussion: A friendly arrangement was made to make these temporary passes effective until the January 2009 legislative meeting when a better assessment of the whole situation can be made.

**# 10 Approval for curb-cut for Mr. George Cois, 4308 Queensbury Road.**

CM Walker moved to approve curb-cut with the condition that resident remove the existing driveway and restore the apron.  
CM Sharpe second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

**Easement for Verizon on West Beale Circle**

CM Walker Moved to approve Verizon's easement request to relocate poles in the Town Park.  
CM Sharpe Second

CM Walker amended the Motion pending legal review by the Town's attorney and language changes to tree trimming to meet specifics according to MD law.  
CM Henry Second  
Amendment passes 6-0

Discussion: Joe Caputo from the Potomac Development Group stated that there are two new poles identified for relocation. Mr. Addison asked if burying the cables had been considered, but burying the cables would be significantly more. CM Henry stated that there should be a better way to install these cables. Redesigning this project would take an indefinite amount of time. CM Walker recommended that in the future applications like this Verizon proposal should be presented to Mr. Addison first, so that he can provide a staff recommendation to council members.

CM Walker withdrew the motion due to overwhelming concerns from fellow Council Members and suggested that the town engineer please review and make recommendation.  
CM Henry Second  
Motion passes 5-1; CM Lingua opposed

Mayor called for a short recess  
Meeting back to order

**# 9 Approval for Dance Hall Permit for Mr. & Mrs. Shih, owners of Alamo Restaurant.**

CM Lingua moved to approve the Dance Hall Permit for the Alamo Restaurant.  
CM Allen-Smith second  
Motion passes 5-1; CM Walker opposed

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Discussion: CM Allen-Smith provided a liquor license for the Alamo that states “entertainment” which is the language needed to apply for the Dance Hall Permit. Corp. Clarence Shannon will be in charge of security for the Alamo. Chief Chambers explained that after talking to County and Town officers, Corp. Shannon’s actions and tactics have been exemplary. She recommends the approval of the permit.

CM Walker moved to amend the Dance Hall Permit to end on March 15, 2009.  
CM Allen-Smith second.  
Amendment passes 6-0

**Town Administrator’s Report**

- Deadline coming up for the Community Development Block Grant. Central Kenilworth Avenue façade improvement is the focus of the proposal. Mr. Prangley suggests that the Council take action this evening.

*This concludes the Town Administrator’s Report*

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer’s Report:  
Modified accrual report as of July 31, 2008: \$1,780,972.06 Revenues,  
Budget as of August 31, 2008: Revenue = \$317,158.26, Expenses = \$845,790.48

CM Sharpe moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit.  
CM Walker second  
Motion passes 6 - 0

*This concludes the Treasurer’s Report*

**Police Department Report**

Chief Chambers indicated that Mayor and Council have a copy of her reports in their books under tab 4, however she will highlight a few things.

Ward 4 – 5400 block of Riverdale Road. Code Enforcement coordinated with apartment management and adjacent commercial property owners to remove and or repair barbed wire and chain link gate that was in disrepair. Property owners complied.

Ward 4 – 5500 Block of Good Luck Road. Violation involving a six-foot privacy fence obstructing the view of motorists and bicyclists. Ms. Ferguson learned that the property owners had a Prince George’s County permit but no Town permit. Code Enforcement Manager Ferguson spoke with a PG County supervisor who stated the situation is currently being investigated and has been assigned to an inspector.

Ward 3. A Police officer alerted Code Enforcement to a situation in which a senior citizen was living in a house filled with what the sergeant described as ‘decaying food, strong smell of urine, human feces, trash everywhere, horrible stench of rotten garbage, etc.’ (Photographs are available for review). Code Enforcement Manager Ferguson immediately notified the PG County Dept. of Environmental Resources (DER) Directors office, who agreed that the Town of Riverdale Park Code officers will take the lead in this investigation, but will be strongly assisted by the PG County DER Inspectors. Subsequently, the property was posted “Unfit for Human Habitation: by the Town of Riverdale Park Code Enforcement Division.

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Ward 6 – 5400 block of Kenilworth Terrace. During routine patrol, Code Enforcement employees noted extensive violations – trash, boarded windows, and unsafe conditions. Code Enforcement Manager Ferguson spoke with management regarding the timeframe for corrections. Management sent letters to all apartment residents requesting cooperation and compliance, and they immediately repaired the windows.

Ward 1 – 4700 block Ravenswood. Code Enforcement became involved in violations of trash, debris, and general nuisance issues. Code worked with the property owner and various Prince George’s County agencies for compliance.

Ward 1 – 6400 block of Baltimore Avenue. Regarding the church operating at that location, the Use and Occupancy permit has not been signed off on by the Fire Marshall or Zoning Inspector. No violations have been noted during frequent surveys of the area.

Ward 3- Riverdale Elementary School Area. Code Enforcement officers have been assisting each day with pedestrian and vehicle traffic control and safety at the start and end of each school day since this school year began.

Thanks to everyone who participated in and contributed to the success of this year’s National Night Out. Your efforts and outreach made certain that this first-of-its-kind block party of food, fun and fellowship was a memorable one

The Riverdale Park Police Department is investigating a fraud case involving a business operating as “Amalia’s Travel and Multi-Services,” which had been located inside “Dollar Value City,” 5715 Riverdale Road (Riverdale Plaza). The suspect abandoned her business, and the victims have been unable to find her. Town Police has been able to identify the suspect and is working to physically locate her. The case has been reviewed with the State’s Attorney’s Office whose representatives are interested in pursuing criminal charges in this matter.

Chief Chambers thanked the Mayor and Council for supporting our opportunity to hire a young man who will complete the police academy on October 16, 2008. This applicant speaks fluent Spanish and the Chief plans to personally interview this applicant sometime this week before officially offering him a job. In the meantime, as promised, the Chief has moved forward in establishing a problem-oriented policing position within the Riverdale Park Police Department. The Dept. has applied for grant funds to provide training for this newly identified problem-oriented policing officer and the Deputy Chief of Police in the skills necessary to successfully implement problem-oriented policing.

*This concludes the Police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Addison indicated that his report is available under section 5, and is only mentioning a couple of things.

- Yesterday was the first Holiday since the new trash removal contract was implemented. Although the Town was alerted to put their trash out on the next trash day some residents missed the notices, but PW will continue to remind everyone and will also put out at calendar as the holidays near.
- Awaiting approval of a grant from the State for the rain garden.

*This concludes the Public Works Report*

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**Ward and Committee Reports**

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

- The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- At the last Econ. Dev. meeting we discussed the Town Center Open House which is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> and a “State of the apartments” which would provide info such as life cycle of the buildings, physical conditions, and calls for service.
- September 7<sup>th</sup> Block Party on Sheridan St., CM Walker will provide Mr. Addison with the person of contact
- CM Walker would like the status of speed hump on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street
- CM Walker asked if the eviction scheduled on Ravenswood Court took place, and Chief Chambers replied that she was under the understanding that it was done earlier that day.

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

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

- Residents at Tuckerman Street want speed humps to slow traffic. There will be a petition distributed to residents to sign. This was brought on by a recent car accident and Chief Chambers indicated that she will follow up with CM Sharpe on the details of the accident.

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

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

- The next Public Works committee meeting will be on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm.
- CM Lingua thanked residents Tim Zastro and Dave Shea for their contributions to making ward 3 a nice place to live.

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

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

- Riverdale Park Day at the mansion on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Please come out!
- Kudos to Mr. Addison for cleaning up Silk Tree Drive.
- Thanks to Colleen Ferguson for following up on the 6 ft. fence on Good Luck Rd.
- CM Henry asked that residents be mindful that the weekends are off days for the Council Members.

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

Ward 5, CM Timothy Kimbrough, Legislative

- CM Kimbrough expressed his sadness about a homicide that took place last month.
- National Night Out was a hit! Thanks to all residents for coming out supporting the Town.
- CM Kimbrough is excited about the implementation of Community Based Policing headed by Chief Chambers.
- Ward 5 residents can call CM Kimbrough for assistance at (301) 864-1997
- The legislative committee will be proposing three pieces of legislation, two which will require a vote tonight and the other one will be discussed at a later time.

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

Ward 6, CM Keelah Allen-Smith, Public Affairs

- CM Allen-Smith encouraged residents to read her report in the Town Crier.
- There is a carnival currently running. Please come out and support the local fire department.
- Thanks to Code Enforcement for working with Jefferson Hall Apts.

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Keelah Report*

**Legislative Action**

**# 3 Action on Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-03 concerning Parking on unpaved and unprepared surfaces.**

CM Kimbrough moved to move forward and vote tonight.  
CM Walker second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

Discussion: Mayor stated that the language stays the same and that this is so that the rules that apply to the front of the house can now be applied to the back of the house.

**#4 Action on Ordinance Resolution 2008-OR-04 concerning violation and penalties for the unlawful disposal of dead animals.**

CM Kimbrough moved to move forward and vote tonight.  
CM Henry second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

Mayor Archer asked CM Kimbrough if the introductions to his two Ordinance Resolutions could be moved to the next Legislative Meeting due to the length of meeting. CM Kimbrough replied that it could wait until next time.

**#7 Introduction of Resolution in recognition to Dog Park advisory committee.**

CM Walker moved to formalize a Dog Park Committee.  
CM Lingua second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

**#8 Approval for Permit for Raul & Elizabeth Osorio for Mexican Independence Day Celebration for Sunday, September 14, 2008 from 2pm – 8pm, held at 5550 Kenilworth Avenue.**

CM Allen-Smith moved to approve permit  
CM Walker second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

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**#11 Street Closure for Block Party on 46<sup>th</sup> street between Oliver & Riverdale Road for October 11, 2008 – Ward 1.**

CM Walker moved to approve the street closure from 7am – 11pm.  
CM Lingua second  
Motion passes 6 – 0

Discussion: CM Walker stated that closing this block off all day would not disturb neighborhood traffic nor would it be an inconvenience to anybody.

**New Business**

**Action for CDBG grant**

CM Walker moved to approve that the town apply for the CDBG grant for façade improvements on Kenilworth avenue.  
CM Sharpe second  
Motion passes 6-0

**#1 Approval of minutes for August 4, 2008 regular legislative meeting**

CM Lingua moved to approve minutes  
CM Walker Second with a few noted changes  
Motion passes 6-0

**#2 Approval to close 54th Place during carnival hours 9/2 – 9/5 6 – 11pm and on Saturday 9/6 1 – 11pm.**

CM Sharpe moved for approval  
CM Lingua second  
Motion passes 6-0

**Adjournment**

CM Sharpe moved for adjournment at 12:05am  
CM Walker second  
Approved 6 - 0

Typed from live meeting on 09/02/2008.