

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
December 21, 2020
7:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk/Director of Administrative Services
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director
David Morris, Chief of Police
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director
Gentry Jones, Finance Manager

Absent

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 8:14 p.m.

Agenda Approval

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- COVID-19 Update: two approved vaccines currently being administered; new variant of virus in the United Kingdom; in the middle of the last great battle against COVID-19; have lost a lot of ground over the last 6 months; encouraged everyone to stay home, stay safe, wear masks, wash hands, do not have social gatherings, and if possible, do not travel over holiday; do not spread this disease.
- Overview of community meeting regarding Wells Run: there has been significant progress; moving forward with naturalizing and creating a storm surge area; possible construction as soon as 24 months.
- Want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. Reminder to look out for others who are having a difficult time.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Lestitian reported:

- Wishing everyone happy holidays; we all need to change our holiday celebrations this year due to COVID-19
- 89 days until spring and 109 days until the FY2022 Proposed Budget introduction.

- Thank you to staff team: doing an incredible amount of work; shifting from typical duties to more of a social service agency; everyone has done an outstanding job; proud to lead the team.
- Thank you to the Mayor and Council for their leadership and for their outward focus.
- Town Hall and the Department of Public Works operations will be closed on December 25th, and on January 1st. Operations will also close early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve
- Holiday toy delivery: 102 kids received toys. Thank you to the Police Department for spearheading the program.
- Thank you to the Department of Public Works for their work during the recent snow event.
- Status and Information Report will go out on December 23rd due to the holiday.
- Waiting for CARES Act reimbursements; will publish a report when it has been received.
- On behalf of the Leadership Team, looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council in 2021.

Mayor Thompson stated that the staff had been heroes this year and had done amazing things. Mayor Thompson also stated that he was glad to work with the Town Manager and the Council who had provided strong leadership in response to the pandemic.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1

CM Marsha Dixon reported:

- Wished everyone a happy holiday and a happy new year.
- Please stay safe as we close out holiday season and enter the new year with a new level of normalcy.
- Staff have been tremendous this year and have really shown what an asset they are to the Town. All have gone above and beyond during a unique year.
- Thank you to Council colleagues - we have all found a way to continue to work together.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- So proud to be part of this team.
- Staff have put Council in a place to be able to respond to our most at risk residents.
- Thank you to Town Manager Lestitian and Mayor Thompson.
- Happy holidays to all.
- Looking forward to a better 2021.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC will meet in January and more information will be available at the Legislative meeting about the agenda. There will also be a strategic planning meeting during the first week of February.
- Could not be prouder to be a member of the Council and community
- Hats off to all of you; appreciation for all that you have done, pivoting, and adjusting over last 9 months.
- Happy holidays to all.

- Reminder to wash your hands, wear your mask, stay safe, and show love for others.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

CM Hala Mayers did not have a ward report but wished everyone happy holidays and reminded everyone to stay safe.

Public Comments

Resident Lora Katz provided an update on the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee (Green Team). Ms. Katz reported that the next Green Team meeting would be held on January 6th at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Thompson encouraged the Green Team to consider moving their meetings to the second Wednesday of the month so that they did not conflict with MUTC meetings. CM Lingua inquired about the City of Greenbelt composting report. Ms. Katz encouraged everyone to review the report and hoped that there was something in the report that the Town could adapt for use with the community garden.

Discussion Items

1. FY2021 Revenue Analysis

Finance Manager Gentry Jones provided an overview of the FY2021 revenue reports.

CM Lingua asked about the surplus and Finance Manager Jones discussed the reasons for the increased revenue.

2. FY2022 Budget Development Calendar

Finance Manager Gentry Jones provided an overview of the FY2022 budget adoption and development calendar.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that there were fifteen (15) formal opportunities for members of the community and the Council to discuss and comment on the Proposed Budget.

3. Residential Trash Collection

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an overview of the approach taken to seek a new vendor for residential trash collections services. Director Lewis discussed the County's assistance in providing a list of their residential trash collection providers that were serving similar sized communities. Director Lewis stated that staff had sent a request for proposal to four haulers and only received two submissions; one of which was responsive.

Director Lewis provided an overview of a draft contract with JEDA Trucking and stated that the draft contract maintained the current levels of service and collection days. Director Lewis discussed the cost as it related to the scope of services as well as the initial term of the draft contract. Director Lewis stated that staff would be seeking authorization to sign an agreement with JEDA Trucking at the January Legislative Meeting.

CM Lingua noted that Director Lewis had provided a thorough presentation and stated that he was interested in hearing from Mr. Jesse Tartt, the owner of JEDA Trucking.

Mr. Tartt provided an overview of his company and stated that he contracted with Prince George's County to provide service to approximately 13,000 homes per month. Mr. Tartt described himself as being very hands-on and stated that most issues would be handled by the owner of the company.

Mayor Thompson asked how many trucks were in the JEDA Trucking fleet and Mr. Tartt reported that he currently had 8 rear packers and 1 roll off truck. Mayor Thompson asked if Mr. Tartt had smaller trucks as there were sections of Town that had alleyways. Mr. Tartt stated they would be purchasing a smaller truck to service those areas before the start of the contract.

CM Dixon asked if Mr. Tartt had been briefed on the issues that the Town had with the current vendor. Town Manager Lestitian responded that the focus of discussions had been on the Town's expectations with regard to spillage, missed collections, the need to be accessible, customer service, as well as thoroughness of service delivery. CM Dixon stated that she wanted to be sure that Mr. Tartt was aware of the issues that the community faced and was aware of the Town's expectations.

Mr. Tartt discussed his position on customer service and noted that communication was key.

Resident Lora Katz asked if there were expectations regarding data collection and Director Lewis confirmed that there were reporting requirements. Ms. Katz asked if electronic recycling was included, and Director Lewis stated that it had not been included but could be in the future. Ms. Katz suggested gathering as much data as possible for strategic planning purposes.

Ms. Katz asked where the yard waste collection would go because of past concerns that yard waste was mixed with trash and Mr. Tartt confirmed that yard waste would go to the yard waste facility for composting or mulching. Ms. Katz also asked about the disposal of batteries and Styrofoam and Mr. Tartt discussed how both items were handled. Ms. Katz noted that New Carrollton had a collection point for recycling Styrofoam.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would come back to the Council on January 4th seeking Council approval to notify the current vendor that the Town would exercise its authority to terminate the current agreement. CM Dixon asked if there was a contingency plan in place to provide service to residents and Town Manager Lestitian replied that there were several contingency plans in place.

4. Town Election: May 3, 2021

Administrative Services Director Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the Town Election preparations.

Director Barnes discussed a Charter Amendment, recommended by the Town Attorney, that would remove a section of the Charter that referenced a section of State Law that no longer existed. Mayor Thompson stated that the entire Charter needed to be reviewed for other irrelevant references to State Law.

5. Nominations for Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee membership status.

There were no questions.

6. Request for letter of support regarding Veto Override of House Bill 1236

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the request for a letter of support regarding the veto override of House Bill 1236.

Mayor Thompson asked if the matter could be added to the January 4th Legislative Meeting and there were no objections.

CM Lingua stated that the Town should support an veto override as the veto impacted plans to extend services which would benefit many people for a nominal amount of money.

7. Town Manager Annual Performance Review format and schedule

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the performance review process for the Town Manager which was substantially similar to last year's process. Mayor Thompson noted that the Council should consider the actions performed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic when evaluating the Town Manager's performance.

8. Minutes

Mayor Thompson asked the Council to review the draft minutes and provide feedback to Ms. Barnes.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.