Town of Riverdale Park
Special Legislative Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2020

In Attendance
Alan K. Thompson, Mayor
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director
David Morris, Chief of Police
Ivy Lewis, Public Projects and Services Director
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director

Absent
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

Call to Order
Mayor Thompson called the Special Legislative meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda
CM Faulx made a motion to approve the Special Legislative Meeting agenda for May 26, 2020. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1: Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4: Absent
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5: Aye
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye
Alan K. Thompson, Mayor: Abstained

Discussion:
CM Lingua requested clarification regarding the order of the meetings. Mayor Thompson stated that the Special Legislative Meeting would proceed the Work Session.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Legislative Action Items
1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-OR-09 regarding the FY2021 Budget and Tax Rates

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-OR-09 regarding the FY2021 Budget and Tax Rates. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1: Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4: Absent
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5: Aye
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye
Alan K. Thompson, Mayor: Abstained

Discussion:
CM Lingua read Ordinance 2020-OR-09 regarding the FY2021 Budget and Tax Rates.

Mayor Thompson stated that the budget adopted a real property tax rate of $0.654 per $100 of assessed real property value and enacted a personal and operating property tax of $2.00 per $100 of assessed property value.

CM Lingua thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the budget prior to and during the pandemic. CM Lingua stated that it was a substantial task to do twice and the staff's efforts were appreciated. Mayor Thompson agreed.

2. Motion to authorize Town Manager to sign Cooperation Agreement with Prince George's County, regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Qualification for Federal FY 2021-2023

   CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a Cooperation Agreement with Prince George's County, regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Qualification for Federal FY 2021-2023. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

   Roll Call Vote
   CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1: Aye
   CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye
   CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
   CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4: Absent
   CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5: Aye
   CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye
   Alan K. Thompson, Mayor: Abstained

   Discussion:
   Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of Legislative Action Item 2.

   Mayor Thompson asked if the agreement would allow the Town to continue the practice of applying for CDBG funding through Prince George's County and Director Chelton confirmed that it would.

CM Dixon asked what the grant funds would be used for and Town Manager Lestitian clarified that the agreement provided the Town with the opportunity to apply for CDBG funds through the County and gave an overview of the CDBG process.

Resident Lora Katz asked if there would be opportunities for funding for sustainability related projects and if any projects were planned. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would review the County's Annual Action Plan to see if there were opportunities to apply for sustainability projects.

3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-14: Call to a Cooperative Approach to address the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

   CM Dixon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-R-14: Call to a Cooperative Approach to address the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

   Roll Call Vote
   CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1: Aye
   CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye
   CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
   CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4: Absent
   CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5: Aye
   CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye
   Alan K. Thompson, Mayor: Abstained

   Discussion:
   Town Manager Lestitian stated that Legislative Action Item 3 was staff's effort to capture the spirit of the discussion from a previous meeting through a resolution rather than a letter to individual property owners. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff had discussed the topic in the context of the CARES Act funding and a collaborative effort with the County's Department of Social Services on a rental relief program.

   Mayor Thompson stated that the resolution encouraged everyone involved to be engaged and understand that there was a substantial economic impact to all parties and also provided a vision statement for how to move forward.

   CM Lingua stated that it was likely the most balanced approach that the Town could take at this time and he wanted the Town to be proactive in its response to tenants and businesses.

   Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Office of Administrative Services would work to publicize the resolution as the position of the Town.

   CM Dixon stated that it was her understanding that the Town would work to create programs and initiatives to address tenant issues and Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff planned to present more information during the Work Session. Mayor Thompson stated that the resolution was a vision of where the Town we wanted to go and staff would bring ideas to the Mayor and Council about how to move forward.

New Business

There was no new business.

Unfinished Business
There was no unfinished business.

Adjournment
CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the Special Legislative Meeting at 7:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Dixon. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1: Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4: Absent
CM Colleen Richardson: Aye
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye
Alan K. Thompson, Mayor: Aye

Town of Riverdale Park
Work Session Minutes
May 26, 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 Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk/Director of Administrative Services
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director
Ivy Lewis, Public Projects and Services Director
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director
Gentry Jones, Finance Manager

Absent
CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4

Call to Order
Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda Approval
CM Lingua asked that the Council, Committee, and Ward Reports be moved to the end of agenda. There were no objections.

Mayor's Report
Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported on the COVID-19 cases in zip code 20737, Prince George's County and State of Maryland.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Town Manager's Report
Town Manager John N. Lestitian did not have a report.

Discussion Item

1. Fence Permit Request: 6-foot cedar fence in backyard of 6101 43rd Street

   CM Dixon stated that she had not had the opportunity to speak with property owners, but she planned to reach out to them prior to the Legislative Meeting. She requested that the Fence Permit request for 6101 43rd Street be placed on the regular agenda for the June 2nd Legislative Meeting.

Mayor Thompson noted that it appeared that the public right-of-way (alley) was currently being used as a driveway.

There were no additional comments.

2. Electric vehicle charging stations

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton reported that the Town was recently notified by Pepco that the Town's application for two vehicle charging stations had been approved. Director Chelton reported that the two charging stations would be installed (and maintained) at no cost to the Town in Town Center by the end of the fall.

Mayor Thompson asked what the format of the charging station would be and Town Manager Lestitian stated that they would likely be a level one or two and staff would reach out to Pepco for more information.

Mayor Thompson asked if the cords on the charging stations would be long enough to be used in different spaces if the spaces for the electric charging stations were filled by traditional cars.

CM Lingua asked what other locations were considered and Director Chelton reported that the parking lot near Town Hall and Town owned property on 54th Avenue were considered.

CM Lingua asked if the charging stations could be expanded in the future and Director Chelton stated that Pepco had mentioned that it would be possible for the Town Center location.

CM Lingua asked how the structures would be set-up and Director Chelton stated that Pepco would follow established procedures for operation of the charging stations.

Resident Lora Katz discussed the electric vehicle charging station in Riverdale Park Station and reported that it was helpful to have the spots clearly marked. Ms. Katz discussed her thoughts as they related to the location of the charging stations and the format of the charging stations.

Mayor Thompson stated that the charging stations encouraged people to stay in Town Center while their cars were charging.

3. Renewal of Economic Development Programs

Development Services Director Chelton provided an overview of the Go Green Initiative and Redevelopment Zone Initiative and the need to extend them by resolution.

CM Lingua asked if there would be a change in the maximum amount of the waiver for the Redevelopment Zone initiative and Director Chelton replied that there would be no changes to the programs.

CM Lingua stated that the resolution should be on the agenda for the June Legislative Meeting.

CM Faulx thanked staff for moving these items forward.

Resident Lora Katz gave two thumbs up.

4. CARES Act Funding Plan

Director Chelton provided an overview of the Town's CARES Act Funding Plan to include reimbursement and funding for Personal Protective Equipment, reimbursement and continued funding for the Town's food programs, and a rent relief program for Town residents in collaboration with the Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Town was given very little time to develop a Funding Plan but would have the opportunity to amend the Plan, if needed. Town Manager Lestitian discussed a collaborative effort, between the Town and County, to assist residents with rent.

Mayor Thompson stated that the demand was very high for the County's rent relief program. Town Manager Lestitian reported that the County had over 7,000 applicants and approximately 20-25% of applications were from the zip code 20737.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that with regard to rent assistance for businesses, staff learned that if the Town provided assistance to businesses then they would likely be disqualified for County programs as they cannot receive both. Town Manager Lestitian discussed other options for assisting businesses.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that a response on the Town's Funding Plan could take as long as 30-days and the money must be expended by December 15th.

CM Dixon stated that she wanted the primary emphasis of the Plan to be to assist as many residents as possible.

5. Ethics Commission Appointments

Town Clerk Barnes reported that the terms of the Ethics Commission members were coming to an end and the current members were active and interested in continuing to serve.

CM Dixon asked for the names of the current members and Town Clerk Barnes stated that the current members were Andrea Huberty, John Wells, and Corey Beauford.

6. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that any feedback on the minutes be reported to Town Clerk Barnes.

New Business
There was no new business.

Unfinished Business

1. International Property Maintenance Code

   Director Chelton provided an overview of the recommendations from Neighborhood Services team.

   CM Faulx stated that the recommendation was common sense and it should be passed as soon as possible.

   CM Lingua suggested that the recommendation be amended from ½ inch to two (2) inches, with regard to the height of lettering. There were no objections. Director Chelton noted the change.

   Mayor Thompson requested that staff check the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) for consistency of the height of lettering.

2. Ordinance 2020-OR-05 regarding Chapter 53 Police Department

   CM Lingua stated that Ordinance 2020-OR-05 regarding Chapter 53 Police Department had been discussed before and it was ready for legislative action at the June 2nd Legislative Meeting.

   CM Faulx stated that he agreed wholeheartedly with CM Lingua and he was very proud of the legislation.

3. Charter Amendment 2020-CR-01 regarding Town Government Organizational Structure

   Mayor Thompson read the proposed new language: WITH WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOWING FOR A TOWN COUNCIL COMMENT PERIOD ~~NOT TO EXCEED~~ OF TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DAY OF NOTIFICATION.

   CM Lingua stated that ten (10) days was a fair compromise.

   CM Faulx stated that he was concerned that the Town needed to be able to act sooner than ten (10) days because he did not want to make a prospective employee wait for a long period of time. CM Faulx stated that talent acquisition was extremely important. Mayor Thompson stated that ten (10) days was a relatively short period of time when counting weekends.

   CM Lingua suggested eight (8) days and Mayor Thompson expressed his concerns regarding bringing the Council together in such a short period of time if a CM was on vacation or out of town.

   Town Manager Lestitian reviewed the process when Director Lewis was hired and stated that ten (10) days was balanced and would give the Council an opportunity to act, if needed.

There were no public comments.

4. Ordinance 2020-OR-06 regarding Organizational Structure of Town Government

   There was no discussion regarding Ordinance 2020-OR-06 regarding the Organizational Structure of Town Government. CM Lingua stated that he was fine with the legislation.

5. Ordinance 2020-OR-07 regarding Revisions to Town Personnel Manual

   There was no discussion regarding Ordinance 2020-OR-07 regarding Revisions to Town Personnel Manual.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1
CM Marsha Dixon did not provide a report.

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM Aaron Faulx stated that the Town needed to be prepared to move forward as safely as possible when Prince George's County began to lift restrictions. CM Faulx suggested ways to safely utilize public space.

Mayor Thompson discussed examples of how people were safely social distancing in Town.

CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM David Lingua stated that he planned to discuss ways for Music at the Mansion to move forward safely with Ed Day. CM Lingua also stated that he would like to discuss, at the June 2nd Legislative Meeting, other ideas for utilizing public space, perhaps converting some streets to one-way traffic.

CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5
CM Colleen Richardson left the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and did not provide a report.

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6
CM Hala Mayers stated that she did not have a report.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.