

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021
7:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4

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

Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Agenda

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Smith.
Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

There were no conflicts of interest reported or amendments to the agenda.

Presentations

Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in English and Spanish.

Repurposing of 5000 and 5002 Queensbury Road

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton discussed the purchase of 5000 and 5002 Queensbury Road and provided a description of the properties. Director Chelton discussed the current scenario related to parking and safety as well as the project budget. Director Chelton discussed the recommendation to use the space for shared parking with Riverdale Elementary School and provided an overview of the proposed features to include electric vehicle charging stations, native trees and plants, and pervious asphalt. Director Chelton presented two conceptual drawings and discussed the recommended project timeline.

CM Lingua asked if the proposed parking lot could be used to store additional police vehicles to allow for more parking near the Department of Public Works (DPW) building. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the recommendation was to create a shared parking lot with the school and keep DPW vehicles in front of the DPW building in a secured area. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the Municipal Center Renovation project and the need for a secure parking area for DPW and staff as well as a secure pedestrian way. Town Manager Lestitian discussed seeking a partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to help fund improvements to the parking lot.

CM Lingua stated that the sustainable features of the proposed parking lot were great. CM Lingua stated that, at this time, he did not have an opinion on the ingress and egress of the proposed conceptual designs. CM Lingua stated that the Town would likely need to provide a considerable number of parking spaces for the school during the day as well as public parking for Municipal Center visitors.

CM Sadiq asked if converting the properties to a parking lot was the best use as a parking lot would only be used at most 30% of the time.

CM Smith asked if there was a plan for maintenance of the parking lot. Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis discussed the need for litter patrol as well as convenient waste receptacles. CM Smith stated that it was clear that parking was needed. CM Smith discussed the effects of climate change and the need to grow and develop in ways that do not require additional parking.

CM Faulx discussed his conversations with the principal of Riverdale Elementary School (RES) regarding parking for staff as well as the issues related to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at arrival and dismissal times.

Mayor Thompson thanked CM Faulx for sharing the information regarding the parking situation for RES as it was helpful to know that nearly 40 people were looking for parking spots.

Mayor Thompson stated that the area did not need to remain a parking lot forever.

Mayor Thompson asked about landscaping and stormwater management as it related to the current trees. Director Lewis stated that staff had not done an assessment of the trees yet, but the area would need to be landscaped in a manner that was attractive, welcoming, and safe. Mayor Thompson stated that the discussion could be continued in the future.

Mayor Thompson asked if staff had reached out to Community Forklift regarding any reusable materials in the homes and Director Lewis replied in the affirmative. Director Lewis stated that staff would reach out again prior to the demolition.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the Community Legacy grant received by the Town in 2013.

CM Lingua discussed his observations regarding the arrival and departure of students and the traffic in the area and on the streets. CM Lingua discussed how the parking lot would improve safety in the area.

Resident Lora Katz asked if thought had been given to exiting from RES onto Taylor Road instead of Queensbury Road which was a choke point. Ms. Katz also asked if angled parking had been considered to assist with traffic flow and if more than two electric vehicle charging stations could be added. Ms. Katz discussed potential unintended consequences of concentrating parking in one area and asked if pedestrian traffic flow had been considered.

Mayor Thompson thanked Ms. Katz for her comments and stated that no action would be taken at the meeting.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would like to schedule site visits for the Council so that they could see the impact of student arrival and dismissal. Mayor Thompson stated that he had the opportunity to see the impact of student arrival and dismissal firsthand in the past.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would like to bring the topic back to the Council in November to receive additional input. There were no objections.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- CM Mejia and CM Mayers are dealing with family emergencies but did not want to violate the privacy of the CMs by discussing specific details; CMs had missed several meetings but the issues were quite serious; seeking a formal motion to excuse the recent absences of CM Mejia and CM Mayers. CM Lingua requested that the topic be addressed as an item of New Business.
- Welcomed CM Smith to the Council. Recently met for over two hours regarding issues in Ward 1.
- Recent presentation at Work Session regarding flood mitigation: County CM Glaros would like to meet to discuss the issues that came up during the meeting and the County's efforts to mitigate flooding
- COVID-19 update: County statistics are getting slowly better, thank you to all for working hard to wear masks and get vaccinated; have not seen an increase in cases related to schools reopening; death toll reached 700,000 and saw the small white flags on the mall; glad to see the numbers decreasing but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month continues until October 15th
- Reminder to remain vigilant as weather starts to cool down and people move indoors: wear a mask, social distance, wash hands frequently, and get vaccinated.
- Moving into second month of the automated Farmers Market Dollars program and it is going well

- Public Works staff will distribute 10 leaf bags to each single-family residence in Town, on or before the week of October 18th. Encouraging resident to bag their leaves as part of yard waste collection. Leaf bags will also be available for pick up on the third Saturday of the month (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the bulk trash drop off at the Public Works building through mid-January.
- Compost bins have started to be distributed and will be completed in the coming weeks. At this time, new requests will be added to a waiting list.
- The Municipal Center Renovations project continues to move forward. Staff have been moving furniture, packing items, and sorting records.
- Invitation to Bid for Roadway Repair Projects DPW 2021-004: 12 roadway projects on streets in different sections of Town; pre-bid meeting held today and bid submission deadline on October 22nd
- October 28th is National First Responders Day, and we are grateful for the good work of our first responders: RPPD and Riverdale Fire Department
- New this year for Veterans Day: requesting pictures of veterans from residents, staff, and Council to be included as part of Veterans Day video.
- Discussion regarding retirement of Chief of Police Morris. Chief Morris addressed the Mayor, Council, and community regarding his upcoming retirement
 - Mayor Thompson thanked the Chief for his 10 years of service. Mayor Thompson stated that his many years of devoted service to the residents and community was exemplary.

Discussion:

CM Sadiq reported that he had noticed several blue bags still attached to the new trash cans and that it seemed as if residents did not know that they should remove the bags from the cans. Town Manager Lestitian thanked CM Sadiq for his comment.

Monthly Finance Report

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones reported, subject to audit,

September

Revenue \$690,648

Expenditures \$481,688

Year-to-Date

Revenue \$1,425,396

Expenditures \$1,507,494

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones provided an overview of the revenue and expenditures over the last three fiscal years.

Mayor Thompson stated that the September headings on the report appeared to be off and he wanted to confirm that the numbers were correct. Deputy Director Jones confirmed that the numbers were correct.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was included in the Meeting Materials. There were no questions or comments regarding the Correspondence Summary.

Fire Department Report

There was no Fire Department Report.

Council Committee & Ward Reports

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1

CM Richard Smith reported:

- Thank you to Mayor Thompson for his time (2.5 hours) and it was very informative
- Thank you to Chief Morris for his kind words and looked forward to living up to them. Thank you for your service to the Town. Enjoy your promotion to civilian.
- National Noodle Day: encouraged everyone to visit Banana Blossom Bistro
- Reminder to patronize local small businesses and restaurants that were impacted by the pandemic

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Discussion regarding interactions with Chief Morris as a newly elected CM and his willingness to discuss any topic, his availability, his dedication to the community, and his desire to see proper policing
- Overview of recent meeting with Delegate Washington regarding parks
- Recognition of staff for their work during the pandemic
- Field of Dreams project: waiting for final verification of the grant and look forward to more dialogue about the project
- Lafayette Avenue continues to be problematic for residents and needs to be commuter and pedestrian friendly

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- Overview of upcoming CKAR CDC Meeting: overhaul of charter and bylaws and ethics standards for Board members, moving forward with Sarvis Café, Health Fair on October 9th
- Discussion regarding commitment of staff and growth of amenities in Town
- Encouraged residents to share their thoughts and ideas
- Great honor to work with Chief Morris over the last 10 years; credit to him and his staff team; a much different police department than when he started; proud to say that he lives in Riverdale Park; RPPD is one of two departments in Maryland that are fully staffed; Chief Morris will be missed

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4

CM Thomas Sadiq thanked Chief Morris for his service and wished him well in retirement.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items

Resident Corey Bettenhausen thanked Chief Morris for all of his support and stated that he hoped that he enjoyed his retirement.

Mr. Bettenhausen asked about the tree inventory, what type of information would be collected, and how it would be used. Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an overview of the content of the tree inventory and how it was expected to be used. Director Lewis stated that the plan was to make the tree inventory available to the public in a way that was more user friendly. Mr. Bettenhausen asked about the replacement of Bradford Pear trees and Director Lewis stated that a strategic plan was needed but that it would not necessarily include the replacement of the trees.

Resident Alex Hirtle thanked Chief Morris for all of his support and dedication. Mr. Hirtle stated that his daughter also thanked the Chief and wanted to be a police officer. Mr. Hirtle stated that he hoped that Chief Morris enjoyed his retirement and asked him to keep in touch.

Resident Lora Katz thanked, via chat message, Chief Morris for his service to the community.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Minutes: September 13, 2021, Legislative Meeting and March 29, 2021, Work Session

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Sadiq seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Legislative Action Items

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-OR-08 regarding Amendment to FY2022 Budget related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-OR-08 regarding an Amendment to FY2022 Budget related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

CM Lingua provided an overview of the ordinance.

2. Introduction of Ordinance 2021-OR-09 regarding Town Personnel Manual – Mandatory Vaccinations

CM Faulx introduced Ordinance 2021-OR-09 regarding Town Personnel Manual – Mandatory Vaccinations and provided an overview of the ordinance.

3. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with E&R Services for an amount not to exceed \$109,684 for 48th Avenue Sidewalk Project

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with E&R Services for an amount not to exceed \$109,684 for the 48th Avenue Sidewalk Project. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

Director Lewis provided an overview of the procurement process. Town Manager Lestitian reported that the bids for the Taylor Road project came in under \$20,000 but was awarded to the same company because they had the most responsive bid.

4. Motion regarding Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Legislative Request Survey

CM Smith made a motion to recommend to PGCMA: State legislation to mandate glass and plastic bottle and aluminum can deposits and refunds; State or County legislation to ~~establish a fee for~~ eliminate the use of plastic bags; and State legislation regarding construction, maintenance, and replacement of sidewalks along State roadways. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 3-1-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Nay

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

CM Lingua made a motion to amend the previous motion to remove “establish a fee for” and add “eliminate”. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 3-1-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Nay
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

CM Smith made a motion to include ~~County legislation to establish Inclusionary Zoning~~ a study of inclusionary zoning as a possible change to the Zoning Ordinance taking into account the specific conditions within Prince George’s County. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Favorable: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

Administrative Services Director Barnes provided an overview of the request from the Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) for input and the discussion at the Council Work Session. Director Barnes provided an overview of the list of potential topics generated by staff.

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of inclusionary zoning in response to a question from CM Sadiq. CM Sadiq stated that he disagreed.

CM Sadiq stated that the mandate regarding glass and plastic bottle and aluminum can deposits/refunds was substantial. Director Barnes discussed the legislative process and noted that many legislative initiatives took several years to move forward.

CM Smith stated that he supported most of the recommendations except for the stop sign cameras. CM Smith outlined his concerns regarding stop sign cameras and automated enforcement.

CM Lingua suggested pairing the list down to three items to focus the discussion. CM Lingua stated that his top three choices were: County legislation for inclusionary zoning, State legislation to mandate bottle and can refunds/deposits, and sidewalk maintenance

along state roadways. CM Lingua stated that he had seen bottle and can refunds/deposits work in other areas.

CM Lingua discussed the Town's speed camera program.

CM Faulx stated that he would like to see stronger legislation regarding plastic bags. CM Faulx also stated that he would also like to see County legislation regarding accessory dwelling units. Mayor Thompson stated that accessory dwelling units were addressed in the County's new zoning ordinance.

Mayor Thompson asked if "construction" should be added to the last bullet point and Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff supported the addition of the word "construction". Mayor Thompson asked for a friendly amendment to CM Smith's motion to add the word "construction". The friendly amendment was accepted by CM Smith.

CM Sadiq stated that he strongly opposed inclusionary zoning and discussed the reason for his position.

CM Sadiq stated that paper bags were environmentally degrading and discussed his research on the topic. CM Lingua disagreed.

CM Smith asked if a friendly amendment could be made to the amendment to include "or establish a fee". CM Lingua stated that he did not accept the friendly amendment and the friendly amendment was withdrawn by CM Smith.

Ms. Katz stated that she supported the three selected topics from a sustainability standpoint. Mayor Thompson discussed the legislative process. Ms. Katz stated that funding for Sustainable Maryland should be included on the list.

CM Sadiq stated that the elimination of plastic bags was not a net gain for the environment. CM Lingua stated that there were alternatives to paper bags.

CM Sadiq discussed his concerns regarding restrictions on builders and stated that he would be happy to share additional information with the Council.

CM Smith asked for additional information from Town Manager Lestitian regarding inclusionary zoning. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the jurisdictions that had inclusionary zoning and stated that staff could compile information and reach out to M-NCPPC to provide more information to the Council.

CM Sadiq stated that studies had shown that inclusionary zoning does not work, and he would provide additional information at a later date.

CM Faulx stated that he looked forward to more dialogue about the topic but, at this time, he supported inclusionary zoning.

Mayor Thompson stated that each CM was permitted to provide two comments and that there appeared to be unanimous consent to allow CM Sadiq to make a third comment. There were no objections.

CM Sadiq stated that he would send out an e-mail to the Council in the next two days with more information.

Mayor Thompson stated that PGCMA would collate the information provided by municipalities and determine the legislative priorities based on the input provided. Mayor Thompson stated that the Town could direct that the Town's representative to PGCMA to request that a priority be revoked if the Council changed their position on a topic.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had spoken with County CM Glaros and the County had not implemented the Zoning Ordinance yet so establishing inclusionary zoning as a priority at this time may not be an efficient use of PGCMA lobbying efforts.

CM Lingua discussed a 2009 report from Boise State University on inclusionary zoning and stated that the topic likely needed more discussion, and he was looking forward to receiving information from CM Sadiq. CM Lingua discussed a proposed development project that incorporated inclusionary housing.

Mayor Thompson suggested that the County could also establish a study group to determine the impact of inclusionary zoning. CM Lingua stated that he was comfortable with adding that language to the motion. CM Smith stated that he thought that it was a good course of action to amend the motion. CM Faulx stated that he also supported Mayor Thompson's suggestion.

Mayor Thompson suggested a friendly amendment to change the main motion to establish as a legislative priority through the PGCMA form that Prince George's County study inclusionary zoning as a possible change to the Zoning Ordinance taking into account the specific conditions within Prince George's County. CM Smith accepted the friendly amendment. There were no objections.

Ms. Katz thanked Mayor Thompson.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

CM Sadiq provided an overview of the items that he would send to the Council.

New Business

Council Absences

CM Lingua stated that he did not have language for a motion yet and the motion needed the specific dates for the meetings missed.

Director Barnes reported that the Ward 5 CM had been absent for the following meetings: August 30th Work Session; September 13th Legislative Meeting; September 27th Work Session; and October 4th Legislative Meeting.

CM Lingua made a motion to excuse the absence of CM Ward 6 from the October 4, 2021, Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

CM Lingua made a motion to excuse the absence of CM Ward 5 from August 30, 2021, Work Session. The motion was seconded by CM Smith.

CM Lingua made a motion to take a 5-minute recess. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

The meeting was called back to order at 10:20 p.m.

CM Sadiq made a motion to amend the previous motion to include the September 13th Legislative Meeting; September 27th Work Session; and October 4th Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Smith.

CM Lingua made a motion to request leave to withdraw the original (main) motion. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 3-1-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Nay
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

CM Lingua made a motion to excuse the absence of CM Ward 5 for the September 27, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

CM Lingua made a motion to excuse the absence of CM Ward 5 for the October 4, 2021, Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye
CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent

Discussion:

CM Sadiq suggested that if the issue was serious then the Council should address all three absences at once.

CM Lingua stated that he wanted to consider each absence individually as it was a slippery slope to group absences together.

CM Faulx stated that he would like to have a dialogue offline as he was concerned that Ward 5 residents were not being represented.

CM Lingua asked if staff had been contacted and Mayor Thompson reported that he had been contacted by the CM. CM Lingua asked if the excuse was reasonable and CM Faulx stated that he found the excuse to be reasonable.

Mayor Thompson discussed the requirement to declare a vacancy and schedule a special election in the case of more than three unexcused absences. CM Sadiq stated that he felt that all of the absences should be considered at once and excused.

CM Lingua stated that he thought that each absence should be considered individually.

CM Faulx stated that he agreed with CM Lingua. CM Faulx discussed his concerns related to Council absences in the past. CM Faulx suggested that the last two absences be excused.

Mayor Thompson clarified that at least two absences needed to be excused in order to avoid the declaration of a vacancy.

CM Lingua requested to retract his original motion and, in its place, make a motion to excuse the absence of CM Ward 5 from the Council meeting on September 27, 2021.

Mayor Thompson asked the Council to recess in place so that he could review Robert's Rules of Order. Mayor Thompson provided clarification regarding the next steps needed to move forward.

Ms. Katz stated that she was aware of absence issues in the past and would like more transparency regarding the attendance of CMs. Ms. Katz stated that she trusted the judgement of everyone on Council regarding excused absences. Ms. Katz requested that the Council consider a valid excuse in conjunction with the ability to serve.

Adjournment

CM Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson- Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1- Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2- Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3- Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4- Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5- Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6- Absent