

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**March 28, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
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  
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director  
Rosa Guixens, Acting Chief of Police  
Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services  
Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services  
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services

**Absent**

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Agenda Approval**

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

**Presentation**

FY2023 Budget Presentation: Budget updates and adjustments

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the presentation would provide an update on the progress of the FY2023 Proposed Budget as well as highlights.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed some highlights of the FY2023 Proposed Budget to include:

- Increase in health care costs by 11%
- Increase in Town portion of healthcare costs up to 78% (increase of 3% to offset the cost to Town employees)
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 2.75%
- New full-time position (from current part-time position): Walk, Bike, Drive Community Safety Manager
- Contingency increase to \$100,000
- Increase in fuel costs
- Inflationary increases in supplies and day-to-day operations
- Anticipated increase in Workers Compensation

- CIP Highlights: bond bill projections; CDBG projections; Mayor & Council Infrastructure Project (ARPA); Vehicle and Equipment Purchases (ARPA); Carry-over projects; and new visible and impactful projects
- Economic Recovery Strategy: assistance to residents and businesses

CM Sadiq stated that he was concerned about inflation and asked what the plan would be if the Town fell behind. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the General Fund Reserves and the process for amending the budget.

CM Lingua asked what the staff's view was on inflation over the next 24 to 36 months. Town Manager Lestitian stated that it depended on several variables including interest rates, and he was concerned about the impact on the next triennial reassessment. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff were hopeful that inflation was a short-term issue, but geopolitical challenges and supply chain issues could prolong the issue.

Mayor Thompson stated that he would like to see the percentage increases as dollar amount amounts. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the graphs that would be included in the FY2023 Proposed Budget.

CM Lingua asked if the budget would include historic and projected costs related to employee salaries and benefits. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the projections that would be included in the FY2023 Proposed Budget.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- Wished everyone a happy spring!
- COVID-19 Update: current COVID numbers are very good: some indications that another wave would be coming in about a month or so; encouraged everyone to maintain vigilance

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager John Lestitian reported:

- Reminder to the Council to schedule an appointment to meet with the consultant hired to create the position profile for the Chief of Police
- Community survey for Chief of Police profile expected to go out by the end of the week
- COPT building on River Road: College Park has supported the project, and it will be on the agenda next week
- FY2023 Proposed Budget will be sent to the Mayor and Council next week
- Upcoming Budget Public Hearing dates and departments covered at each public hearing

### *Discussion:*

CM Lingua asked if College Park had any conditions related to their support of the COPT proposal. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he was not aware of any conditions and Director Chelton stated that he would confirm that there were no conditions from the City of College Park.

CM Sadiq asked if the project included a housing area sponsored by Amazon. Mayor Thompson replied that it did not and discussed the location of the project.

Mayor Thompson stated that COPT had been open to requests for changes and, after a change in management several years ago, COPT seemed to be generating better building designs.

Town Manager Lestitian requested that the COPT presentation be e-mailed to the Mayor and Council in advance of next week's meeting.

## **Council Committee & Ward Reports**

### **CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx deferred the majority of his report to the Legislative Meeting. CM Faulx recognized the women on the Town staff team and expressed appreciation to the women on staff and in the community.

### **CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC working to finalize details for the Sarvis Café: going through final inspections; finishing design for tile fundraising program
- Outreach from resident regarding school buses speeding through Town; letter was sent to Prince George's County Public School System from resident

### **CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4**

CM Thomas Sadiq discussed the ongoing concern regarding students congregating in the woods after leaving Parkdale High School.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Discussion Items**

1. Fence Permit Request: 4601 Riverdale Road, 6-foot wood fence

Administrative Services Director Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the fence permit request for 4601 Riverdale Road and introduced the applicant, Christopher Mendenhall.

Mr. Mendenhall discussed his project which included removing and replacing chain-link fencing with wood fencing.

Mayor Thompson stated that the fence permit request would likely go on the Consent Agenda, and he would reach out to the Ward 1 CM. Mr. Mendenhall stated that he had also reached out to his CM and shared the plans for the fence.

2. Chapter 32- Ethics: Proposed Revisions

Director Barnes provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Chapter 32 and introduced two members of the Riverdale Park Ethics Commission, Andrea Huberty and John Wells.

Ethics Commission Chair Andrea Huberty stated that the Commission looked forward to assisting the Council with their review of the proposed changes to Chapter 32.

CM Lingua stated that he was supportive of the changes and appreciated the work of the Ethics Commission.

Mayor Thompson noted that Section 1(2)(b) of the Town Code addressed the use of “Town Administrator” in the Town Code.

Mayor Thompson stated that it was best to clarify the language and he was happy with the proposed new language.

Mayor Thompson stated that there were no objections to preparing the legislation for introduction at the next meeting.

### 3. Participation in Maryland Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control Program

Director Barnes provided an overview of the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Mosquito Control Program and stated that staff were seeking direction from the Mayor and Council regarding the Town’s participation in the program. Town Manager Lestitian clarified that staff were seeking direction regarding participation in the adult spraying portion of the program.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had recently met with members of the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee and discussed their concerns regarding the potential impact of the spraying on pollinators. Mayor Thompson outlined the different parts of the spraying program and stated that there was a question of whether the spraying was effective on Asian Tiger Mosquitos. Mayor Thompson stated that he would review the information provided by MDA and follow up with any questions that he had. Mayor Thompson noted that the Town needed to apply for the program by May 6<sup>th</sup>.

CM Lingua asked if it made more sense to build and develop bat colonies throughout Town versus participating in the spraying program. Mayor Thompson stated that he had recently purchased mosquito traps for catching Asian Tiger Mosquitos which could be another option.

Ms. Huberty stated, via chat message, that bats were not good predators for mosquitos because they preferred beetles and moths.

Mayor Thompson stated that he would review the information provided by the MDA in preparation for the April Legislative Meeting.

### 4. FY2022 Revenue Update

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones provided an overview of the revenue categories in comparison to the previous three fiscal years.

CM Lingua asked about line item 4401 and how much money would need to be sent to other entities. Deputy Director Jones stated that staff were monitoring the program closely and discussed the increase in program expenses.

Mayor Thompson asked about the decrease in real estate revenues and Deputy Director Jones provided an overview.

Mayor Thompson asked, related to the Safe Speed for Students Program, if there was any indication that people were starting to slow down and Acting Chief Guixens stated that she had not seen a decrease in speeding. Mayor Thompson stated that the cameras on Rivertech Court near College Park Academy had been effective at slowing drivers down.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the new Community Safety Manager position would look at comprehensive ways to address the issue with speeding in the community.

5. American Rescue Plan Act Update: Agreement for Housing Assistance Program

Director Chelton updated the Mayor and Council on the proposed agreement with Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc. (SEED) for administration of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program.

There were no questions or comments.

Mayor Thompson thanked staff for their work on the proposed agreement and stated that it looked good to him.

6. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council make staff aware of any changes or corrections needed to the minutes.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.