

Town of Riverdale Park
Special Legislative Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022
7:30 p.m.

In Attendance

Mayor Alan K. Thompson
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1
CM David Lingua, Ward 3
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager
Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services/Town Clerk
Ryan Chelton, Director of Development Services
Rosa Guixens, Chief of Police
Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services
Nouman Haider, Special Projects Coordinator

Absent

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Special Legislative Meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the agenda for the December 20, 2022, Special Legislative Meeting. 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: Absent
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Absent

Discussion:

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Legislative Action Items

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-11 regarding Permit Parking

CM Lingua introduced Ordinance 2022-OR-11 regarding Permit Parking.

2. Motion to approve and adopt Town Manager Performance Review timeline and process

CM Smith made a motion to approve and adopt the Town Manager Performance Review timeline and process. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Absent

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the performance review timeline and process.

New Business

County Legislation: CB-013-2023, CB-014-2023, CB-015-2023, CB-016-2023, CB-017-2023 and CB-018-2023

CM Lingua made a motion to send a letter of general support for CB-013-2023, CB-014-2023, CB-015-2023, CB-016-2023, CB-017-2023 and CB-018-2023 signed by Mayor Thompson. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 3-0-2 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Abstained

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Absent

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Aye

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Absent

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson reported that there were several pieces of County legislation that were moving through the legislative process, and the deadline for submission of feedback was approaching.

CM Lingua discussed the extensive process that the County had gone through to rewrite the zoning ordinance and asked how it related to the legislation. Mayor Thompson noted that the legislation would repeal legislation that was adopted by the previous County Council at the end of their term which would undo or delay aspects of the new zoning ordinance.

CM Lingua stated that he would prefer that what was created through the zoning re-write process remain in effect. CM Lingua stated that he did not want to see specific carve outs and noted the importance of transparency. Mayor Thompson stated that it sounded like CM Lingua would support sending a letter of support and CM Lingua agreed.

CM Smith asked if the legislation would impact the proposed developments in Town or single family detached dwelling units and Mayor Thompson stated that the legislation would not have an impact. Mayor Thompson discussed how single family detached dwelling units would have to be addressed by the County Council.

CM Sadiq stated that he did not support the legislation and opposed another quick change. CM Sadiq discussed his concerns.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns with the late term amendments of the previous County Council and the limited amount of time to deliberate or receive input.

CM Smith asked about the timeline of the zoning rewrite and subsequent amendments. Mayor Thompson provided additional details regarding the timeline.

CM Sadiq discussed his concerns regarding a rush to the repeal the changes when there was plenty of time for discussion at this time. CM Lingua suggested that the letter could include a request to take more time to consider any further amendments and CM Sadiq agreed.

Mayor Thompson asked if the letter should include language requesting that the repeals be done in a deliberate and careful process to ensure adequate opportunity for public input and CM Lingua stated that he was open to language of that nature.

Mayor Thompson discussed the zoning rewrite process and CM Lingua noted that there was significant time taken for each step in the zoning rewrite process. CM Lingua stated that there was significantly less time for the amendments to be considered and discussed his concerns related to “legislative whiplash”.

CM Lingua suggested that perhaps a request that the decision on the legislation be delayed by 30 to 60 days and additional public hearings be held could be included in the letter.

CM Smith stated that the legislation would correct an error that was made by changing something that had been created through a transparent and deliberate process. CM Smith stated that he would not support the request for an additional process and would prefer to go back to the changes that were made as part of the zoning rewrite process.

Mayor Thompson discussed the options available regarding the motion on the floor as the Council was split in their opinions.

CM Lingua asked for Mayor Thompson’s position on the legislation. Mayor Thompson discussed his concerns and stated that it was his opinion that the amendments were contrary to the goals of the years-long zoning rewrite process and most should be repealed. Mayor Thompson stated that a careful and deliberate process would be good but did not think that including a specific timeframe for the County Council was appropriate as the County had a process for consideration of legislation. Mayor Thompson stated that he was supportive of a

letter of general support but with a request for careful and deliberate consideration of all items to be repealed.

CM Sadiq recommended including language in the letter requesting that there be a deliberate, methodical, and transparent process for each bill and CM Lingua agreed.

Mayor Thompson stated that an amendment to the motion may not be needed as direction regarding the content of the letter may be sufficient. CM Lingua expressed his support.

Town Manager Lestitian requested clarity regarding who would sign the letter and noted that letters sent to elected officials were typically signed by the mayor as the top elected official of the Town. CM Lingua stated that either would be sufficient, but he agreed with the Town Manager's comments.

CM Smith accepted a friendly amendment to the motion to have the letter signed by Mayor Thompson.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

Adjournment

CM Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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