

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK  
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007  
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor	
CM Alice Ewen Walker	Ward 1	
CM Kate Sharpe	Ward 2	
CM David Lingua	Ward 3	
CM Christopher Henry	Ward 4	Excused Absent
CM Vacant	Ward 5	
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6	

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley

Lieutenant Harry Adams

Director of Public Works- Acting Director Michael Scott

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion-to approve Agenda CM Sharpe

Second CM Walker

**Approved**

Addition to the Agenda:

CM Kate Sharpe: 1. 4811 Somerset- Approval of a 6ft Fence

2. Endorsement letter from Mayor and Council to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission supporting the Turf field at Riverdale community Park

**Approved**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Archer stated that he attended a meeting held at Douglas Development; also in attendance was Douglas Jemal, Doug Duncan, Irene Redmile, County Council Representative Eric Olson, Alice Ewen-Walker, Kate Sharpe and Patrick Prangley. Mayor Archer stated that a number of items were discussed including keeping the commercial buildings in compliance, Mayor stated that boarding up buildings is not the appropriate appearance for the Town and that the situation will be promptly addressed and corrected. Doug Duncan, on behalf of the University of Maryland discussed at the meeting how the University would like to work with Jemal to get things going in the Town Center. Another item discussed at the meeting: ideas and ways we can provide tax incentives to new tenants of the Town Center.

Sidewalk and Street projects continue ahead of schedule and under budget. Mayor requested that Staff provide him with a projected plan, so that we are informed as to what streets are going to be redone next, so that residents get adequate notice. Mayor stated that we continue to have a Council vacancy in Ward 5; Mayor explained that the vacancy has been advertised and he would like a candidate from either Ward 5 or 4 & 6 to please contact him. Mayor

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explained that the appointment of a Ward 5 Councilmember can be from outside of the ward. In the Town Charter there is an allowed action if a councilmember misses 3 consecutive meetings in a row under an unexcused status; Council can declare that seat vacant. Mayor stated that it should be stated whether the councilmember's absence is excused or unexcused then the 3 are on public record. CM Henry's absence tonight is excused, he announced at the work session that he would be on as business trip and unable to attend tonight's meeting, this is an excused absent. Council might want to come up with and pass legislation

MUTC recommendation Aakash Thakkar of EYA.

There were some soil tests performed around Town Hall prep for possible building expansion, everything went fine.

*This concludes the Mayors Report.*

Town Treasurer's/ Town Administrator's Report/ Code Enforcement Report

Treasure's Report:

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report. (Copies available)

Motion to approve subject to audit- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Walker

**Approved**

Code Enforcement good news stats are going down compliance is going up.

Administrators Report- Report received basically testing soil. Report states we may need some piling in the back but nothing serious. The approval of implementing Harbour Lights for our Town website design is on the agenda tonight and staff is very excited to get started. Quick update on the Rail Road Crossing: Mayors letter is going out, we are looking at the concrete pads. Annual Audit is approaching we want to file on time without extensions. Hiker/Biker Trail update, Mr. Colaresi submitted an update stating that documents/titles are being searched. Storm drain in Ward 3 on Ingraham we are waiting for a response from Prince Georges' County. Litter is a great concern.

CM Walker- Is CSX coming back in August

Patrick Prangley stated that its taking more time than originally planned they will be back late fall early spring.

*This concludes the Town Administrator's reports*

Police Department Report

Lt. Adams gave the police statistical report for July. (Copies available)

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*This concludes the Police Department Report*

Public Works Report

Acting Director Michael Scott stated that the trash on 54<sup>th</sup> and Riverdale road has become a constant. We will be addressing the litter issue in town. We have received the Do Not Enter signs for Queensbury Road by the Fire House. We have been preparing for back to school with the painting of the crosswalks.

*This concludes the Public Works Department Report*

Fire Department Report

390 calls for the month of July. Statistics broken down, copies available.  
CM Lingua- There was an Apartment Fire Sunday, any of the specifics available?  
Fire Department- No information at this time

*This concludes the Fire Department's Report*

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

Issues on Oglethorpe are being addressed. On August 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with Ravenswood Apartment owner to discuss continuing safety concerns. Public works are looking into the installation of more lighting at the Ravenswood Lafayette area. 43<sup>rd</sup> street residents are concerned about traffic and speeders. CM Walker thanked Public Works for cleaning out the alley on 43<sup>rd</sup>; CM Walker requested an update on the water main break on Cleveland. A-D PW Michael Scott stated that WSSC should have completed that job today. CM Walker stated that in reference to Economic Development, there will be a meeting with Kennedy Smith and they will recommend that she pursue environmental services cluster type small businesses that don't rely on drive by traffic for the Town Center. CM Walker stated that she attended the meeting the Mayor spoke about with Douglas Jemal and CM Walker is optimistic.

*This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report*

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Committee

For Finance Committee there is no report at this time.  
For Ward2 fencing around the Riverdale Community Park was taken down. Literature was distributed to residents who live near the park. Rittenhouse street curb and street work to begin next month. The Home and Garden show is doing a segment on a home located on Ravenswood Road. We encourage all to volunteer for the gorgeous Prince Georges.

*This concludes Ward 2, CM Sharpe's Report*

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Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

On July 16<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting with Mr. Scott on upcoming events including, events, town services and special projects. 4700 Block of Lafayette water main break has been taken care of. Patrick Prangle stated that the 4700 Block of Lafayette applicant would like to attend the next work session to introduce preliminary plans for the lots. There will be a closed meeting to discuss an employee matter on August 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward 3, I have been hearing from neighbors that do not want new sidewalks put in. The permitting agreement with MNCPPC for Riverside Park, noticed a few discrepancies in how we are permitting and will be looking into this. Any Ward 3 resident, who wants a curb-cut as projects come along, let me know. Congratulations to the Kotch family on the birth of their new baby.

*This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report*

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

Excused Absence.

Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith, Community Affairs

CM Allen-Smith stated that she attended a Community Affairs meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Riverdale Day will be Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Pleased to report that the bus shelter on Kenilworth Avenue at Jefferson has been fixed. Thanks to Code enforcement and Debbie Murphy of Public Works for addressing the litter on 54<sup>th</sup> and Riverdale Road, the situation was handled promptly by both individuals. 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and most streets in Ward 6 receive a lot of foot traffic which contributes to the litter problem; the Town trash cans in that area are always filled. CM Allen-Smith stated that she has not seen the street sweeper over in that area. CM Allen-Smith announced that on Thursday, she will be attending a meeting with the Apartment managers addressing rodents, bed mites and workable solutions towards addressing these problems. Graffiti has been removed from the Red-Top. Tomorrow is National Night Out and CM Allen-Smith encouraged all to attend.

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith's Report*

Correspondence Summary - None

Public Comment

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**Rob Oppenheim**  
Cleveland Ave

Mr. Oppenheim stated that the Rail-Road Crossing humps are too high, stating that they are above the rails. We use to get a lot of false signals and the height might have something to do with that CM Oppenheim discussed the cost of street lights.

**Mary Donaldson**  
Sheridan Street

The Traffic Study Committee will continue. The meetings are the Tuesday after the Legislative meetings, the first Tuesday of the month. Encouraged all to attend the meeting. Ms. Donaldson asked if Crescent Cities has a new owner. Mayor Archer stated that he was aware of the new managers but not of new ownership. Ms. Donaldson stated that there have been several break-ins on Queensbury road and asked what hundred block did these occur? Lt. Adams said he would look into it and reply back to Ms. Donaldson.

**Legislative Action**

#1. Approval of March Legislative Meeting minutes

CM Lingua made motion

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

CM Walker stated that she would like the pages numbered.

#2. Approval of April Legislative Meeting minutes

CM Walker made motion

CM Lingua second

**Approved**

**Changes:** Correctly state Bucket Truck 70,000.00 expense coming out of what town account/fund.

4-07 minutes state CM Oppenheim wanted a closed government should have read CM Oppenheim wants an open government.

#3. Approval of July 30<sup>th</sup> Special Legislative meeting

CM Walker made motion

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

#4. Appointment of Mary Donaldson as Traffic Study Committee Chairperson

CM Walker made motion

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

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#5. Approval of a 6ft fence 5316 Taylor Road Replacement of a 3ft to 6 ft

CM Lingua made motion

CM Walker second

**Approved**

Discussion: Resident discussed fence and installation placement and replacement of existing 3ft chain-link. Mayor Archer brought up discussion of the request of two 8ft gates.

#6 Approval of a 6ft fence 5324 Taylor Road

CM Lingua made motion

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

#7. Approval of Resolution regarding Jey's Auto

CM Walker – discussion no action/ to be discussed at the September Legislative meeting.

**No Action/Tabled until September**

CM Walker stated that the MUTC has been working with Jey's Auto Care for the past few years; CM Walker discussed the surrounding gateways currently projected for Hyattsville. CM Walker stated that she does not recommend a special use permit for a gas station at this location. Owner of Jey's Auto Care stated that his attorney is out of town and asked for an extension until the attorney can be present.

#8. Approval of Harbour Lights to develop the Town Website

8a) Suspend the sealed bid process

CM Sharpe made motion

CM Allen-Smith second

**Approved**

8b) Approval of \$ 13,000.00 for Harbour Lights for website construction

CM Sharpe made motion

CM Lingua second

**Approved**

CM Walker discussed numbers 6, 8 and 10 of Harbour Lights proposal stating that a lot is described as outside the scope and additional fees and requested clearer definitions

#9. Approval 2007-OR-07

CM Walker made motion

Cm Lingua second

**Approved**

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Resolution was read at last meeting ordinance Resolution to amend 57-26 Sidewalks Minimum standards to state 5 votes.

Mayor Archer stated that he feels this change is cluttering the Code. CM Walker gave background and discussion in reference to the requested change.

#10. 4811 Somerset 6ft fence request

CM Sharpe made motion

CM Lingua second

**Approved**

CM Sharpe gave background

#11. Resolution to support with conditions MNCPPC Turf Field at Riverdale Community Park

CM Sharpe made motion

CM Walker second

**Approved**

Friendly amendment by CM Lingua to add implement between investigation and options.

#12. Councilperson Henry's Absence as an Excused Absence

CM Lingua

CM Sharpe

**Approved**

## **Unfinished Business**

## **New Business**

CM Walker requested approval for block party 6200 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Closure between East-West and Queensbury Road on September 15, 2007 from 11am- 6pm or rain date September 9, 2007 from 11am-6pm

CM Walker made motion

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

CM Walker began an extensive discussion reference to the Legislative Meeting Minutes and Town compliance with the open meetings act. CM Walker introduced an Ordinance Resolution requiring that minutes of legislative meetings be produced by the date of the following work session.

CM Walker read into record a proposed Ordinance Resolution

CM Sharpe Second

**Approved**

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CM Walker made motion to adjourn

CM Sharpe second

**Approved**

**Adjournment**

Transcribed into summary form based on the 8-6-07 Legislative Meeting video tape