

**TOWN OF RIVERDALE PARK
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007
REGULAR LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS 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
CM Vacant	Ward 5
CM Keelah Allen-Smith	Ward 6

Town Administrator- Patrick Prangley
Chief of Police- Acting Chief Patrick Timmons
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 Henry
Second- CM Walker

Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Archer stated that we are moving along with the Trolley Trail, along the western side of the Town. Mayor Archer stated that we are contracting with Reese to do the title search on the properties along the trail. Mayor Archer stated that there have been a number of dead chickens found along the railroad track, by the crossing of Queensbury Rd. Mayor Archer stated that Code Enforcement and the Police Department have been working with animal control to try and minimize the problem. Mayor Archer stated that those of you, who see the chickens, please call Town Hall, do not pick them up yourselves.

This concludes the Mayor's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurer's Report. (Copies Available)
Motion to approve, subject to audit- CM Sharpe
Second- CM Walker

Approved

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Code Enforcement Report

Mr. Prangley gave the Code Enforcement Report. (Copies Available)

This concludes the Code Enforcement Report.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Prangley introduced the new Deputy Town Administrator, Ms. Penny Guzman. Mr. Prangley welcomed her with open arms and commented that she was a liaison for Prince George's County. Mr. Prangley stated that on October 23, 2007 at 6:00p.m., there will be a meeting on Economic Development and safety at 6200 Sheridan St. Mr. Prangley stated that the Weather Control and Climate Center is moving along very quickly.

This concludes the Administrator's Report.

Police Department Report

Acting Chief Patrick Timmons gave the Police Department Report. (Copies Available)

This concludes the Police Department Report.

Public Works Report

Acting Director Michael Scott gave the Public Works Report. (Copies Available)

This concludes the Public Works Report.

Mayor Archer stated that the connection with the Town and the Fire Department is through a Charter. Mayor Archer stated that the volunteers elect their officers, and the Town is subject to approval. Mayor Archer stated that the Town gives the Fire Department an annual grant of \$10,000, to keep the building maintained. Mayor Archer stated that the recent event that was broadcasted on the television was a personnel issue. Mayor Archer stated that we are very concerned on what happened and how it was addressed, what happened afterwards, what will happen next, and what we need to do to move forward.

Fire Department Report

Mr. Vince Harrison, Chief of the Fire Department gave the Fire Department Report. (Copies Available)

Mr. Harrison spoke about the incident that happened on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Mr. Harrison stated that there were some individuals doing some immature things, playing with alcohol foam. Mr. Harrison stated that alcohol foam will not hurt you. Mr.

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Harrison stated that one individual's pants caught on fire, and resulted with a 2nd degree burn on his back. Mr. Harrison stated that this individual was involved in playing around, and got hurt. Mr. Harrison stated that the other two individuals who were active in this immature behavior were given the maximum amount of suspension that is able to be given. Mr. Harrison stated that the individual who got hurt did not say anything for 2 days, before telling another fire department. Mr. Harrison stated that after hearing what happened immediate action was taken place. Mr. Harrison again stated that alcohol based foam, is to be used to wash your hands. It will burn you if you let it burn, but not if you put it out right away. Mr. Harrison stated that the fire house cares, and are going to continue to care. Mr. Harrison stated that this is a black eye in our eye, and we are going to continue to go forward. Mr. Harrison stated that we are going to do the best that we can.

The Mayor and several members of the council expressed concerned about the incident and requested that the government be updated about the results of the county investigation now in progress. Concerns noted by council members included the need to hold department volunteers accountable to a professional code of behavior, the need to limit and protect against potential legal liability of the Town of Riverdale Park, and the need for revised policy in the fire department regarding young adults. Mayor Archer thanked the Chief, men and women of the Fire Department. Mayor Archer stated that he appreciates everything that the Fire Department is doing and putting themselves on the line for the Town.

Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Walker, Economic Development

CM Walker stated that would like to call attention and thank the Police Department for the additional coverage on the train tracks and Dumm's Corner, where a lot of drinking and unsavory behavior has been happening. CM Walker stated that she has been talking with Public Works and they have cleaned up the trash in that area about three times in the past five weeks, and containing mostly in the trash, are alcohol bottles. CM Walker stated to please call the Police Department if you have any complaints. CM Walker stated that Park & Planning has had all of their pumpkins stolen from the Mansion, and a resident is having everything picked out of her garden. CM Walker stated that if you see something that you are concerned about please contact us. CM Walker thanked Code Enforcement and the Police Department for getting the cars off of the grassy area on Cleveland Ave. CM Walker stated that the Town is pursuing on getting lighting at the Pepco pole on Ravenswood and under the bridge of East West Hwy. CM Walker asked if there had been any updates on CSX.

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Mr. Scott: There have been no updates from CSX.

Mr. Prangley: As far as the improvements, they have told us late fall.

CM Walker stated that Riverdale Park Day is on Saturday, October 6th, 2007. CM Walker stated that if you would like to volunteer it is a lot of fun.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Walker's Report

Ward 2, CM Sharpe, Finance Chairman

CM Sharpe stated that she would like to highlight a few things that were looked over at the Finance Committee meeting on September 25th, 2007. CM Sharpe stated that the town's purchase system was looked at, and the Town uses checks with the exception of a few accounts that we have credit with. CM Sharpe stated that they are looking at obtaining a Town credit card, which would enable us to make purchases on the internet, and to make purchasing a little bit easier. CM Sharpe stated that the purchases would have the same scrutiny as the voucher system which would be obtained. CM Sharpe stated that there will be a Block party this month at the corner of 49th Ave. and Sheridan St., we are not sure on the specific date yet, but a flyer will be sent out soon. Please contact CM Sharpe, Danielle, or Marietta for more information. CM Sharpe stated that there has been an increased amount of litter and vandalism on Lafayette Ave. and encouraging all residents to contact the Police Department if you see anything. CM Sharpe stated that as far as the turf field that was proposed for the Riverdale Park, there are some plans in the works for the field, and MNCPPC will be in sometime this month or November to answer questions residents might have. CM Sharpe stated that the road improvement project will be moving to Taylor Rd. next, and any residents who would like to have a curb cut and apron please contact me.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Sharpe's Report.

Ward 3, CM Lingua, Public Works

CM Lingua commented on the Public Works report and would like to commend the report that is being given, and to please keep up the good work. CM Lingua stated that there was a Public Works Meeting on September 19th, 2007, and the next Public Works Meeting will be on Monday evening, October 22nd, 2007 at 7:00p.m. CM Lingua stated that if anyone sees areas where it is dark, it may be due to the tree canopy that is lower than the street light. CM Lingua stated that if you do notice these tree canopies, to please contact Public Works. CM Lingua stated that Riverdale Park Day is this Sunday, so come on out, and see the bikes raffle Public Works is putting together. CM Lingua stated that there are new speed humps on Nicholson St. CM Lingua stated that he has heard from some residents that they feel that essentially there should have been more, or placed differently.

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CM Lingua stated that he has spoken with Mr. Scott and he said that due to the trees on Nicholson St. they are in the way for more signs to be put up to indicate the speed humps. CM Lingua states that since more signs are not able to be installed due to the amount of trees, more speed humps can not be put in. CM Lingua stated that the Shoemakers have installed a communications tower on their property; this is a communications tower with 0.03 watts of signal. This is less than the amount that comes out of a cell phone. CM Lingua stated that it is not a health hazard and should not interfere with your electronic equipment at home. CM Lingua stated that the owner of the Danor Property is looking into to getting the property divided into eight lots.

CM Lingua stated that we have found the requirement for a cul-de-sac is 50ft. in diameter, and the owner is proposing 35ft. in diameter. CM Lingua stated that the owner is requesting for a letter be composed due to this project. The owner has not received any type of certifications from fire rescue, or from public works. The only acknowledgement the owner has received is from the Director of Public Works two years ago. CM Lingua stated that the owner is still going to try, and will be back on October 29, 2007 at the Work Session Meeting. CM Lingua stated that the challenge has been raised, on which ward is going to have the better lights for Christmas Time.

This concludes Ward 3, CM Lingua's Report.

Ward 4, CM Henry, Public Safety

CM Henry stated that this has to be the most pleasing report from the Police Department that he has heard in quite a while. CM Henry stated that he would like to comment Acting Chief Timmons. CM Henry stated that it is a great step in the right direction, and whatever you are doing, keep up the good work. CM Henry stated that the second public safety meeting was on September 22, 2007, and had a lot of good substance coming out of the meeting. CM Henry stated that he has noticed that the street lights on Patterson St. are completely out. CM Henry stated that he would like to welcome the new Deputy Town Administrator, and is looking forward to working with her.

This concludes Ward 4, CM Henry's Report.

Ward 6, CM Allen-Smith, Community Affairs

CM Allen-Smith stated that the Extermination/ Clean Up week, was a success to say the least. CM Allen-Smith would like to thank the Property Managers, Code Enforcement, and the residents, who all helped during this week. CM Allen-Smith stated that she has spoken with Mr. Prangley regarding the sidewalk on 54th Ave., where there have been some markings made in the new cement. CM Allen-Smith stated that Mr. Prangley said that they will be fixed. CM Allen-Smith stated that Riverdale Park Day is this Saturday, so come on out and enjoy the day with us.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Fuerst
5512 Taylor Rd.

Mr. First stated that he has lived in Riverdale since 1922, and is requesting for some kind of assurance that there will be a wall or fence of some sort at the point of where his property line begins and where the Danor Property begins.

CM Lingua: I have spoken with your son about your request for a fence, and I will make sure that your wishes are known to the property owner.

Mr. Prangley: We appreciate your concern, and we will most definitely let the property owner aware of what your needs are.

Legislative Action

#1. Approval of minutes for September 4, 2007 for Regular Legislative Meeting.

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Walker

Approved

#2. Approval of minutes for Special Legislative Meeting September 11, 2007

Made a motion- CM Walker

Second- CM Henry

Approved

#3. Approval on handicapped parking request for Mr. Rafter on Oliver St.

Made a motion- CM Walker

Second- CM Sharpe

Approved

#4. Approval for pet Halloween event at Town Center.

CM Sharpe moved to close the Farmer's Market section of the Town Center parking lot from 12 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 28th, 2007 for the 7th Annual Riverdale Park Halloween Pet Costume Party and Old Town Pets official grand opening.

Second- CM Walker

Approved

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#5. Approval for 74' of 6' high fence, 193' of 4' high fence at 4721 Riverdale Rd. for Tammatha R. O'Brien. Ward 1.

CM Walker made a motion for the front yard fence to be no closer than 12" to the side walk.

Second- CM Sharpe

Approved

#6. Resolution 2007-R-11 affirming Mixed-Use Town Center Development Plan and Zoning map represents official Town policy.

That the Town Council of Riverdale Park affirms that the Riverdale Park M-UTC Development Plan and Zoning Map as written represents the official development policy of the Town of Riverdale park for development within the Riverdale Park M-UTC Zone; and that to the extent and in the manner provided by State and County law, the Town Council may consider requests for variances within the Riverdale Park M-UTC Zone on a case-by-case basis.

Made a motion- CM Walker

Second- CM Sharpe

Approved

#7. Resolution 2007-R-12 Publishing Agendas for Meetings of the Town Council.

That proposed agendas for Work Sessions, Regular Legislative Sessions, and Special Legislative Sessions of the Town Council of Riverdale park shall be prepared and posted in advance of each meeting, no later than twenty-four hours before the relevant meeting.

Made a motion- CM Walker

Second- CM Sharpe

Approved

#8. Resolution 2007-R-13 Publishing Electronic Documents on Email lists.

As of October 1st, 2007, the following documents: issues of *The Town Crier*, election announcements, election results, notices seeking applicants for appointment to any position, proposed agendas for Town Council meetings, approved minutes of Town Council meetings, proposed ordinance changes, proposed charter amendments, and adopted charter amendments, ordinances and resolutions; Shall be published in a timely fashion by posting each document in full in electronic format to the TownAnnounce email list. Each document shall be published in a separate email with a descriptive subject line; and that the availability of these documents on TownAnnounce shall be publicized with a notice in *The Town Crier*, and on the TownTalk email list.

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Made a motion- CM Walker
Second- CM Henry
Approved

#9. Resolution 2007-R-14 Providing Newsletters of Neighboring Municipalities to the Town Council.

That a copy of any newsletter received from a neighboring municipality be provided to each member of the Town Council.

Made a motion- CM Walker
Second- CM Henry
Withdrawn

#10. Resolution 2007-R-15 Providing Requests for Referral To the Town Council.

That a copy of any request for referral from M-NCPPC shall be routinely provided to the Chair of the Economic Development Committee, and to any other Councilmember who so requests.

Made a motion- CM Walker
Second- CM Sharpe
Approved

#11. Resolution 2007-R-16 Supporting Expanded MARC Service.

That the Town Administrator shall prepare a letter to the Secretary of Transportation of the State of Maryland stated the support of the Town of Riverdale Park for at least one additional midday weekday full stop at the Riverdale MARC station, and the addition of weekend service on the Camden line which includes a stop at the Riverdale MARC station, and the conversion of current through trains to flag stops at the Riverdale MARC station; and that the Town Administrator shall seek the support of neighboring municipalities and the University of Maryland in the request to expand MARC service.

Made a motion- CM Walker
Second- CM Sharpe
Approved

#12. Approval of Charter Resolution 2007-CR-O3 Competitive Bids Section 623 Amended.

CM Sharpe moved to approve the proposed charter amendment, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Riverdale Park strives to operate as efficiently as possible, and

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WHEREAS, the competitive bid limit has not been adjusted for inflation over the past tow decades,

BE IT RESOLVED that Section 623 of the Town Charter should be amended to read:

“All expenditures for supplies, materials, equipment, construction of public improvements, of contractual service involving more than \$20,000.00 shall be made on written contract.”

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Henry

Approved

#13. Authorization for additional 5 Street Improvement projects under Street Improvement Project.

CM Sharpe moved to waive the competitive bid process for five additional street improvements:

- Taylor Road from Rt 410 to north terminus
- Patterson Street from 5300 to 5400 block
- Nicholson Street from Kenilworth Avenue to 57th Street
- Taylor Road from Longfellow Street to 50th Avenue
- Taylor Road from East West Highway to Longfellow Street

and add them to our Phase Two street improvement program. I further move to approve the VMP construction estimate and extend our current agreement with VMP to include these five additional streets.

Second- Lingua

Approved

CM Sharpe motion for VMP to award the extended agreement and contract do to Phase I prices.

Second- CM Lingua

Approved

#14. Motion- Resolution to O.K. MOU with State Highway.

Granting the authority to sign a MOU based on the price estimate State Highway.

Made a motion- CM Lingua

Second- CM Walker

Approved

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New Business

Make a motion to close the corner of 48th Ave. & Sheridan St., and one block in each direction. On October 21st, 2007 from 1p.m.-9p.m. for a neighborhood block party.

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Walker

Approved

Make a motion to instruct the Town to draft a letter of request to M-NCPPC and copy County CM Eric Olson requesting that the county budget for the following Town priorities in its upcoming FY 2009 budget, and its FY 2009-2014 capital improvement budget. The Town should submit comments before October 17, 2007.

Made a motion- CM Walker

Second- Sharpe

Approved

Make a motion that the town staff draft a letter stating the Town's position in the Town's policy in infrastructure. To follow and adhere to county specified structure when it comes to roads and that type of improvement.

Made a motion- CM Lingua

Second- CM Henry

CM Walker made a motion to amend the motion to allow CM Lingua the latitude weather fencing in the latitude properties is in the best interest of the Town.

Approved

Make a motion to instruct the Town to draft a letter of support for the Detailed Site Plan for East Village, with the proviso that the mayor of the Town of Riverdale Park consult the forthcoming M-NCPPC staff report and issue a statement of concurrence with the staff report IF the staff report contains advice similar to that attached from the City of Hyattsville.

Made a motion-CM Walker

Second- CM Sharpe

Approved

Make a motion for Ms. Petise at 4900 Madison St. to have a handicap spot in front of the house.

Made a motion- CM Lingua

Second- CM Henry

Approved

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Make a motion to request to suspend the purchase of Hadco Ltd. for six light poles.

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Lingua

Approved

Make a motion to award the sole source to Hadco Ltd. the contractor to provide the street lights.

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Lingua

Approved

Make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made a motion- CM Sharpe

Second- CM Henry

Approved

Meeting adjourned at 11:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ashley Kiernan, October 3, 2007