

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 8-6-13

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on September 3, 2013

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Josh Pomeroy and Charles Bradsher were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Mr. Bob Leggeri and four residents were also present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on June 4, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of July 2013. Total income for the month of July was \$12,140 with \$10,973 coming from Income Tax. Major expenses for July 2013 were \$6,063 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of July 2013 were \$9,033. General Net Income for the month of July was \$3,106. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of July 2013, the fund balance for the general fund was \$889,103, for the CIP account, the balance was \$171,221 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for July 2013 was \$1,744,676.

Council Member Pomeroy made the motion to approve the July Treasurer's report subject to audit. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Fulks South Update: Matt Hornacki, the Sales Representative and Chuck Hart, the Vice President and Division Manager for NV Homes, introduced themselves to the Council. Mr. Hornacki stated that he would like to start the process of setting up a sales trailer and signs for the new subdivision. Known as Laytonsville Preserve, at this time, it will consist of 51, one acre lot homes, between 3,000 and 4,000 square feet.

Historic District Commissioner Jill Ruspi inquired as to whether there had been contact with Laytonsville Elementary School concerning the future increase in enrollment. Mr. Hornacki stated that he had not been to the school. Mr. Hart stated that the projection is to sell 20 homes per year. Mayor Prats reported that the principal at Laytonsville Elementary is doing projections.

Council Member Pomeroy inquired as to when the first requests for building permits would occur. Mr. Hornacki stated that pre-selling would be in October of 2013 depending on when the pavement is down.

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Council Member Ruspi thanked Bob Leggeri for the work he is doing on the right away on Brink Road.

Mayor Prats thanked Mr. Hornacki and Mr. Hart for coming in to address the council and said he is looking forward to working with them during this process.

Council Member Ruspi stated that Laytonsville is a historic town with deep roots and he would encourage future home buyers to come to the town hall.

Committees and Reports:

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, Mayor Prats stated that he was hoping to have a finished product which can be presented to the Council at the September meeting. He also stated that Planning Commission Chair Eric Wenger had done a good job in getting the edits to the clerk for updating.

Mayor's Update and Reports:

WSSC Update: Mayor Prats stated that the anticipated date for the pumping station completion is October 15.

Fulks South Update: The dirt is being moved in the area. Regular meetings with the construction company will take place according to Mayor Prats. Council Member Pomeroy reported that there has been no disruption of traffic on Warfield Road at this time. Infrastructure Advisor, Wayne Keeler will work with any problems concerning traffic flow.

M83 Hearing: The hearing for the M83 plan is August 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Prats cautioned Council Members to be careful what they say if they attend because the Town has already taken a specific position in this matter. That position being that the Town of Laytonsville supports the original master plan alignment, Alternate 9. Council Member Ruspi and his wife Jill have attended the meetings.

Town Picnic: The date for the town picnic is September 21, 2013. It will be held from 5 to 9 p.m.

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Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Old Business:

New Business:

Park Planning Advisory Board: Mayor Prats stated that he has MML information about setting up Park and Planning Advisory Boards. The purpose, composition and amount of people and how long a person would serve on the committee has to be determined. Mayor Prats also mentioned that any commission or council member can be a member of the Park Planning Advisory Board. The committee will only be an advisory board, they will not vote on anything. Council Member Ruspi stated that he felt his wife, Jill Ruspi would express interest in serving on the board.

Mrs. Jill Ruspi, a member of the Historic Commission mentioned that at the Maryland Municipal League Meeting, (MML), in June, there was a presentation concerning parks and how they become part of the overall plan of the town. She also mentioned how the community can get involved. Mayor Prats stated that he can draw up parameters to present at the next council meeting.

Mrs. Sheree Wenger, Historic Commission Chair, inquired as to whether non-residents could participate. Mayor Prats said they can be only advisors, not members.

Both Council Members Pomeroy and Bradsher thought the idea of a Park Planning Advisory Board was a good idea. Mayor Prats suggested that a trailer be added to the minutes to encourage residents to serve on the board.

Mayor Prats stated that a memorial bench will be installed on the Town Hall grounds in memory of former Mayor Charles White. The bench is being donated by the Lions Club. Mr. Kevin Kern is the contact for this project. Mayor Prats thought this was a great idea.

Council:

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Council Member Ruspi stated that at the MML, (Maryland Municipal League) meeting in June, he attended a session about security in town halls. The Police Chief of Greenbelt moderated the session and offered to come to the Town Hall and evaluate the space and provide advice regarding meeting safety. There was discussion as to when would be the best time for the Police Chief to come, whether it be a Town Council Meeting or a Special Meeting. Council Member Pomeroy stated that he would want all Council Members to be available to ask questions. Mayor Prats said it would be a volunteer meeting, not a mandatory one.

Council Member Ruspi mentioned that there is an overgrowth of foliage on Brink Road on the property that is for sale. It was recommended that a trailer be put on the minutes to remind residents to keep their sidewalks and shrubs cut back from sidewalks.

Council Member Ruspi stated that people like seeing the flags in town.

Mayor Prats mentioned that town flags,(size 3' x 5'), garden size flags and mugs will be ordered.

Council Member Pomeroy expressed concern regarding the impacts of adjacent properties to the historic districts. It was noted that the Mayor and Council granted preview over the lots in the past.

Residents: Mrs. Jill Ruspi mentioned that the Lions Club sign in town is not in good shape. Mayor Prats reported that the Lions Club is going to put up a new sign. She also stated that she has concerns about where the mailboxes on Brink Road will be located when the new development is started in that area. Right now she explained, it is dangerous for three residents to cross Brink Road to retrieve their mail. Mayor Prats stated that he would talk to the developer to see how the situation will be managed.

Mayor Prats stated that the Fire Department will be breaking ground in a few weeks for the new station.

Adjournment: Council Member Pomeroy made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 pm. Council member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
August 6, 2013

In its third year as an Arbor Day Foundation partner, Pepco is providing free trees to customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia through the Energy-Saving Trees program. Launched as a pilot initiative in 2011, the Energy-Saving Trees program conserves energy and reduces household electricity bills through strategic tree planting. Pepco customers can reserve their free trees today at www.arborday.org/pepco.

Within seconds of accessing the website, an online tool helps Pepco customers find the most strategic location for planting and estimates the annual savings that will result from the tree. Customers can reserve up to two trees per household and the program will continue until all trees are reserved. In exchange for the free trees, customers are expected to care for the trees and plant them in the location provided by the online tool. The two-to-four-foot trees will be delivered directly to the customer at an ideal time for planting.

Trash/Recycling Update

When trash and recycling pick-up occur on Monday holidays, the following day, Tuesday, will be the designated pick-up day. The designated holidays follow the county transfer station schedule and will be as follows for 2013:

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For Monday, Sept. 2, Labor Day, pick-up will be Sept. 3

For Monday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, pick-up will be Nov. 12

Please continue to separate recycling materials.

Please do not put yard waste or mulch out for the regular trash pick-up.

Yard waste should be placed in brown bags.