



Meeting minutes of Town Council on 8-1-2023

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on September 5, 2023

There being a quorum, Mayor Charles Hendricks called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held using video conferencing. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, Amy Koval and Christina Pellegrino were present. The Town Clerk, Assistant Clerks, Planning Commission Chair, Historic District Commission Chair, Parks and Trails Task Force Chair, and three other residents were also present.

Minutes

The minutes from the Town Council Meeting held July 11, 2023, were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Hendricks summarized the Treasurer's report from June 2023. The General Fund numbers were very close to the preliminary figures that Treasurer Angela Hoffman provided at the July 11 meeting. The Capital Improvement income went up from \$17,800 to \$22,700.

Council Member Koval made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for June subject to audit. Council Member Burke seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Planning Commission Report

Eric Wenger, Planning Commission Chair, reported that the town had appealed a determination that only 10,000 square feet of septic reserve area, rather than 17,000 square feet, would be required for the development of the Hope Builders lot at 6641 Maple Knoll Drive. He stated that a letter from Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) has been received denying the appeal. The letter also stated that the permit has not been approved and is still being reviewed by DPS.

Historic District Commission Report

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Jennifer Sizemore Historic District Commission (HDC) Chair, said the commission welcomed its newest member, Rebecca Saah, who was elected Vice Chair of the HDC. The HDC is still in need of an additional member.

New Business

Resolution 03-23 Action against Antisemitism

Mayor Hendricks stated that this resolution has been adopted by thirteen cities and towns in Montgomery County. This resolution has been posted to the Laytonsville website for members of the community to review. Council Member Burke said he thinks the resolution should be approved and brought to the attention of the entire town. Mayor Hendricks replied that Chevy Chase is preparing actions to follow up the resolution calling for activities to educate the public. Council Member Koval stated her support for the resolution.

Mayor Hendricks asked for a vote to adopt Resolution 03-23 Action against Antisemitism. ***Unanimously adopted.***

Resolution 04-23 Consolidated Guidelines for the Historic District Commission

Mayor Hendricks stated the resolution is to assist the Historic District Commission (HDC) and residents when applying for work permits within the town's historic district. He said that Chair Sizemore recommended removing the landscaping session in order to move the process forward. Mayor Hendricks explained the guidelines contain all the information from the previous two documents, but the new document is grouped together in a more usable format. Council Member Burke said that it makes sense to have one consolidated document. Council Member Pellegrino said that she liked the consolidated guidelines and feels they will be easy to use.

Mayor Hendricks made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-23 Consolidated Guidelines for the Historic District. Council Member Pellegrino seconded the motion. ***Unanimously adopted.***

Old Business

Council Member Burke discussed the need to address the maintenance and possible repairs to Jones Farm Pond. He said that Steve Crum's report stated the pond is losing water faster than is needed to sustain it. To remedy this, the repairs and maintenance costs may be more than anticipated. Council Member Burke said that he was willing to take the lead on this item.

Council Member Pellegrino reminded everyone that the town picnic is scheduled for September 16, 2023. She said that in terms of planning, everything is coming together, and invited all to join the next planning meeting.

Resident's Forum

Jill Ruspi, Parks and Trails Task Force Chair asked Council Member Pellegrino to talk about the current situation on the trail leading from Birdie Lane to Sundown Road Park. Council Member Pellegrino described the effect that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) water pump and water releases are having on the woodchip trail. Mayor Hendricks said that WSSC put the water outflow on the uphill side of the trail and described a possible solution to this issue. Eric Wenger said the issue sounds like a violation of the Maryland Sediment Control Act.

Vote to Close Public Meeting

Mayor Hendricks said the plan to move into closed session was announced publicly. He said he would like to read into the record a closing statement that is available for public inspection.

“The Mayor and Council will not reconvene in open session after the closed session. The Mayor and Council will meet in closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding a zoning matter and potential litigation, as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation regarding a zoning matter, as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(8) of the Open Meetings Act.”

“ I make a motion that the Mayor and Council meet in closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding a zoning matter and potential litigation, as authorized by the General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act; and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation regarding a zoning matter, as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(8) of the Open Meetings Act.”

Council Member Koval seconded the motion.

Mayor Hendricks asked if there was any further discussion about the motion. There being none, he asked the Clerk to conduct a roll call vote.

- Council Member Bradsher voted aye.
- Council Member Burke voted aye.
- Mayor Hendricks voted aye.
- Council Member Koval voted aye.
- Council Member Pellegrino voted aye.

Mayor Hendricks asked if there were any objections from the public regarding closing the Open Meeting and having the Council move into a Closed Session. There being none, Mayor Hendricks closed the Open Meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Schneider
Assistant Clerk
August 1, 2023