

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 11-5-19

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on December 3, 2019

There being a quorum, Mayor James Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, Amy Koval and James O’Hair were present. The Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk were also present as were four residents and four guests.

Guest Mark Lautman, Nine Districts for Montgomery County: Mayor Ruspi introduced Mark Lautman, a representative of the organization Nine Districts for MoCo. Mr. Lautman explained the group, Nine Districts for MoCo, is a bipartisan/nonpartisan group that is concerned about the lack of representation in the Montgomery County government for residents in the northern part of the county. Mr. Lautman said there are currently four at-large council members all of whom live in the down county region and Nine Districts for MoCo is advocating these at-large seats be abolished and replaced with nine districts which would allow for one council seat per approximately 122,000 residents. Mr. Lautman explained the process to get this on the ballot and referred those interested to the organization’s Facebook page, @ninedistrictsformoco.

Guest Chris Alleva – Presentation on Gas Station Concept: Mayor Ruspi introduced Chris Alleva who requested an opportunity to present a concept for the gas station in Laytonsville. Mr. Alleva said he is a zoning consultant and introduced Mr. Shawn Mamood and Mr. Art Hoppa, partners who may be interested in purchasing the gas station. Mr. Alleva described the concept of designing a building that would be compatible with the historic district, putting in a store that would draw customers, moving the tanks to the back, using a berm to screen the pumps and lights and reorienting the store to Sundown Road. Mr. Mamood stated a one-stop location for gas and a store almost doubles the traffic and he spoke about the possibility of bringing in a brand name such as 7-11 which would operate 24-hours a day. There was discussion about traffic, the Town of Laytonsville’s zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.

Minutes: The minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on October 1, 2019 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of October 2019. Total Income for the month of October was \$72,182 including \$206 from the CIP. The major source of income was \$21,526 from Income Tax and \$44,945 from Real Property Taxes. Major Expenses for the month of October were \$3,514 for Repairs and Maintenance, \$4,351 for Payroll Expenses and \$3,355 for Waste Collection. Total

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Expenses for the month of October were \$22,920. Total Net Income for the month of October was \$48,437. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of October 2019, the fund balances for the General Fund was \$1,223,749 and \$195,943 for the CIP account. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for October 2019 was \$2,322,747 including \$903,054 from Fixed Assets.

Council Member O'Hair made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's report subject to audit. Council Member Koval seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Committee/Board Reports

Charles Hendricks, Historic District Commission Chair, said the Historic District Commission met on October 21, 2019. Chair Hendricks said Tyler Smith, a Senior Planner, from the Prince George's County office of the M-NCPPC attended the meeting to review the current design guidelines, Commissioner Ruspi is developing a brochure for the Historic District Commission and the Commission reviewed an application which highlighted the importance of the Town's zoning boundaries.

Old Business

None

New Business

Roads Turned Over to Town 10/17/19: Mayor Ruspi stated the streets and sidewalks in Laytonsville Preserve were officially turned over to the Town on October 17, 2019. Mayor Ruspi explained the Town now has responsibility for maintenance and snow removal and J.B. Kline Lawn Maintenance, Landscaping & Snow Plowing Services has been notified in writing.

Proclamation for Municipal Government Works Month: Mayor Ruspi shared information about ways the Town of Laytonsville is promoting Maryland Municipal League's Municipal Government Works Month. Council Member Burke read a *Proclamation Recognizing November 2019 As Municipal Government Works Month In The Town Of Laytonsville.*

MML Dinner – December 5, Radisson, 6:15pm: Mayor Ruspi said the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Dinner is scheduled for December 5, 2019. Mayor Ruspi said the Town is inviting Senator Zucker and Delegate Pam Queen and extended an invitation to the Council Members to attend.

Town Hall Tree Replaced: Mayor Ruspi said the diseased blue spruce has been removed and replaced with a Norway spruce. Mayor Ruspi said Goshen Enterprises provided the

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Norway Spruce and the removal and planting was provided by Kelly Landscaping. Mayor Ruspi expressed appreciation to both companies for donating their time, labor and materials.

Residents Forum:

Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road said he believes that the 7-11 seems to be doing a good business and he would rather have an empty gas station than an empty store front.

Adjournment: Council Member O’Hair made a motion to adjourn at 9:07pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Jackson
Assistant Clerk
November 5, 2019

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Trash/Recycling Update

When trash and recycling collection are scheduled on a Monday or Thursday holiday, the pick-up will occur on Tuesday or the following Monday. The designated holidays follow the county transfer station schedule and will be as follows for 2019:

For Thursday, November 28, 2019 Thanksgiving Day – Pick up will be on December 2

In order to be picked up, mixed paper recyclable materials must be separated from other recyclable materials. Please do not put yard waste or mulch out for the regular trash pick-up. Yard waste should be placed in brown bags. Place all trash and recycling materials at the curb no later than 7:00am.

ATTN HISTORIC DISTRICT RESIDENTS: Exterior home repairs may qualify for Montgomery County tax credits. For more information contact the Historic District Commission.

The Town is always looking for volunteers for our commissions, committees and event planning. If interested, please contact the Town Hall.

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