



Town Council Meeting Minutes Monday, April 17, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeff Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Mike Walker, Kathy Walker, Glenda Johnson, and Todd Over. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Town Assistant Jackie Villela, Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar, and Code Enforcement Officer Mike Thompson.

Excused Absence: Chief of Police Robert Liberati

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the April 17, 2023, meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Schomisch stated that he does not think anything needs to be changed on the agenda and asked the Council if they had any changes. Hearing no changes Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilman Walker moved to approve the agenda as written and Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All presented voted aye and the April 17, 2023 Meeting Agenda was approved (7-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mayor Schomisch provided time for Council to review the meeting minutes. He stated that he saw no changes and asked the Council if they had any corrections. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Walker moved to approve the March 20, 2023, and April 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes as written. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the Meeting Minutes were approved (7-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

- a. GLW Planning Engineering and Surveying:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that the town had received a letter from GLW Planning Engineering and Surveying, which states that a site development plan application was filed on April 11, 2023, for review by the Department of Permitting, Inspection, and Enforcement (DPIE). The plan is for 3 acres at 2929 Pency Drive, Hyattsville MD. Mayor Schomisch said it appears to be for the renovation of the existing self-storage units.

- b. **PGCMA Meeting:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that the next Prince George's County Municipal Association meeting will be in Colmar Manor on Thursday, April 20, 2023.
- c. **MML:** Mayor Schomisch reminded everyone that the next Maryland Municipal League Conference is coming up in June. He has not seen an agenda yet and he believes the early registration is not open yet. He would like everyone to register at the same time and stated that registration should be open in May. This will be discussed further at the May Workshop.

Reports

Finance: Town Treasurer Aguilar presented the finance report. He explained that there are no significant changes to the Bank of America account, the Town is still awaiting one check to the Town to come through. Town Manager Pazmino explained that the check Mr. Aguilar referred to will now be deposited into the TD Bank Account instead of the Bank of America account. Mayor Schomisch said this means that the Bank of America account now can be closed. Vice Mayor Ripley asked what the \$40 check listed in the Bank of America report is for. Mr. Aguilar said it was a check that was written last year and had just cleared. Mr. Aguilar stated there are no significant changes to the TD Bank account.

Police Report: Mayor Schomisch stated that Chief Liberati is not able to attend tonight's meeting because he is at a conference, but he left the police report for everyone to review and asked to please direct any questions to the Town Manager. Councilwoman Walker asked what the 17 disorderly persons were. Town Manager Pazmino answered that he will ask Chief Liberati and have an answer at the next meeting. There were no further questions.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Thompson presented the Code Enforcement Report. Vice Mayor Ripley asked how soon he will do the two abatements. Mr. Thompson answered that one is already working on moving the vehicle to the street. The second person has until the end of the week to remove all junk/items from their backyard, then 1-800-GOT-Junk will come in and take the rest of the trash. Councilwoman Walker asked about the property at the entrance of Taylor Terrace. Mr. Thompson answered that the property owner has already received a ticket and will be going to court soon. She also asked about the property on 71st Ave. Mr. Thompson answered that he will send another ticket and asked the Council to please support him if the property owner were to come to complain at a council meeting.

Public Works Report: The Council was provided with time to review the Public Works report. Mayor Schomisch asked what the dog bite issue was. Town Manager Pazmino explained that Paul Schad from the Public Works Department was attempting to capture a loose dog and was bitten by the dog in the process. He explained that they purchased a dog crate to keep dogs that are found loose in Town. Mr. Pazmino also explained that on Friday and Today, Public Works captured the same dog. On Friday the owner picked up the dog, but today the dog was turned over to Prince George's County Animal Services because the owner did not pick up the dog.

Public Comment:

John Roberts, Chief of Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department: Chief Roberts explained that the Fire Station has a new email address for people interested in becoming a volunteer. He will send that information to Town Manager Pazmino. He also stated that on Friday, April 28 between 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. is “Be a Firefighter Volunteer and EMT for a Day” at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in College Park. Lastly, Chief Roberts reminded the Council of the petition he and Mark Trader introduced to the Council a couple months ago. They are still working on getting signatures and they are still interested in going door-to-door in Town.

Roberto Martinez from 4200 Block of 71st Ave: Mr. Martinez introduced a speed hump petition to the Mayor and Council, which was passed out. He explained that cars are speeding too much through 71st Ave and several parked cars on his street have gotten hit, including his work vehicle. Mr. Martinez is petitioning a speed hump be added on 71st Ave to decrease vehicles’ speed. Councilwoman Walker asked if he and his neighbors have a driveway and if they use it. Roberto Martinez answered that yes, he has a driveway, but he cannot fit all his cars in the driveway. He has four cars and many of his neighbors have more than two cars as well. Town Manager Pazmino thanked Mr. Martinez for taking the time to create the petition. He then explained that a speed monitoring device was placed on that street for 6 days and the data collected shows that the average speed was around 25 mph. He thinks that speed-calming solutions are necessary because this is affecting the residents. He recommends leaving the speed radar up for longer to collect more data. Vice Mayor Ripley stated that if a speed hump is added, then street parking will be lost. Town Manager Pazmino stated that he understands that, but he is willing to look at other options. Mayor Schomisch stated that they should be looking at all the options, not just a speed hump, such as making it a one-way, reducing the speed limit, etc. Town Manager Pazmino will look at several options and the speed will continue to be monitored on the street. All the new data will be presented at the May regular meeting.

Unfinished Business

Meekins Inc. Update: Town Manager Pazmino explained that Meekins Inc. has completed their survey for the annexation. The paperwork has been sent to the attorney and the Town Manager will be meeting with the Town Attorney later this week to discuss the next steps. Mayor Schomisch explained that they sent out letters again to properties owners requesting they join the annexation. He hopes they will respond soon.

New Business

- a. **Mayoral Debate:** Town Manager Pazmino explained that the idea of having a debate between the incumbent Mayor and the candidate, Sandie Kaplanis, came up. He has already sent an email of interest to Sandie Kaplanis and is awaiting a response. The date is set for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, and the debate would be put on Facebook Live and YouTube. Mayor Schomisch stated another option would be to have a forum instead of a

debate. Town Manager Pazmino explained that Ms. Kaplanis has until Wednesday, April 19 to respond to his email, if she does not respond then unfortunately there will be no debate.

b. Speed Hump Petition: Mayor Schomisch explained this was already discussed.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilmember Joe Williams and seconded by Councilmember Kathy Walker. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.