



Town Council Workshop Minutes August 21, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Mike Walker, Glenda Johnson, Kathleen Walker, and Todd Over. Also in attendance Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, Town Assistant Jackie Villela, Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson, and Public Works Supervisor James Schad.

Call to Order:

Mayor Schomisch called the August 21, 2023, meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mayor Schomisch moved on to the Approval of the Agenda. Hearing no additions or corrections, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilwoman Walker moved to approve the August 21, 2023, Workshop Agenda as written. Councilwoman Johnson seconded. All present voted in favor and the August 21, 2023, Agenda was approved (7-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

Mayor Schomisch noted that in the July 24, 2023, Minutes, under public comment, there was a discussion missing. He provided that to Town Assistant Jackie Villela, so she could make the corrections. There were no additions or corrections for the August 10, 2023, Minutes. Mayor Schomisch then entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. Councilman Williams moved to approve the July 24, 2023, Minutes as amended and to approve the August 10, 2023, Minutes as written. Councilman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the July 24, 2023, Minutes and August 10, 2023, Minutes were approved (7-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

- a. **Donation to Fire Department:** Mayor Schomisch presented a \$10,000 donation on behalf of the Town of Landover Hills to the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication in ensuring the safety of the community. Chief Roberts from the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department accepted the donation on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Department.
- b. **SCA and Composting:** Mayor Schomisch stated that Andrea Crooms, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Environment was in Town last week to see the restoration and improvement work the Student Conservation Association (SCA) has done

on the Town's nature trail and to discuss how to implement similar programs throughout the County. Additionally, the Mayor spoke with the director regarding composting and found out that Bates Trucking, which is the County's trash collector, is not charging the County extra for collection of yard waste and composting on the same day. He thinks the Town can negotiate a contract with Bates to have yard waste and composting collection on the same day at no additional cost. Mayor Schomisch believes the only additional expense for the Town would be purchasing residential composting bins. He stated that the Council can discuss the topic further at a later meeting.

- c. **Maryland Municipal League Conference:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that the Fall MML conference will be October 15 through October 17 in College Park, MD. Mayor Schomisch asked the Council to think about attending and to let Town Manager Pazmino know so that he can register everyone together.

Reports

- a. **Finance Report:** Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar presented the finance report. He explained that after contacting TD Bank, they agreed to waive and refund the service fees for the main checking account and for the corporate card account.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the Police report. He explained the calls for service in Town for the month of July.
- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson explained the code violations he encountered. He explained how this time of year, there are mostly tall grass violations, but he also had a few trashcan violations. Mr. Thompson also explained that he spoke with the Prince George's County Department of Permitting and Inspection regarding the permitting process. The County moved to a new system in the Spring, and this is delaying the permitting application process for many residents. He has encountered many people installing fences without permits and he believes this will be a continuous problem as people want to finish their projects before summer ends.
- d. **Public Works Report:** Public Works Supervisor James Schad explained that the County Animal Control Department has informed him that they are not accepting new dogs at the moment because of an outbreak of canine influenza. He is considering contacting New Carrollton and College Park since they have animal facilities. Mr. Schad also explained that repair of the sink hole on 70th Ave. has started.

Public Comment:

Fredy Aguilar: Mr. Aguilar asked if there is any news regarding mosquito control. He heard that there was a case of malaria recently and asked if anyone knew where the case originated. Town Manager Pazmino explained that the County informed him via email that they would be conducting mosquito control spraying, but he believes they have not done it yet. Chief Liberati explained that the recent malaria case originated in Anne Arundel County.

Claire Fraser: Ms. Fraser explained that she is having problems with her neighbor's yard. She stated that her neighbor has overgrown grass and bushes and a shed that is falling apart. The overgrowth comes into her yard, and she would like something done about it. Michael Thompson explained that he will try to contact the owner of the house and send any violations that he sees.

Unfinished Business

- a. **Adoption of Ordinance O-03-2023, Code of Ethics:** After a brief discussion, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance O-03-2023. Councilman Over moved to adopt Ordinance O-03-2023 as written. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and Ordinance O-03-2023 Code of Ethics was adopted (7-0).
Mayor Schomisch explained that the next step would be to put out a notice looking for an attorney to collect and retain ethics documents and investigate ethics complaints.
- b. **Adoption of Ordinance O-02-2023, Garbage and Trash:** After a brief discussion, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance O-02-2023. Councilman Over moved to adopt Ordinance O-02-2023 as written. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and Ordinance O-02-2023 Garbage and Trash was adopted (7-0).
- c. **Speed Data Collection for 72nd Ave. and Buchanan Street:** Chief Liberati explained the speed and vehicle volume data collected from 72nd Ave and Buchanan St. He explained that the data was collected at the Council's request after resident concerns over speeding. After the Mayor and Council reviewed the data, they discussed potential solutions for reducing speeding. Public Works Supervisor, Jim Schad, recommended placing a three-way stop sign at the intersection, rather than a speed hump. The Council agreed that a stop sign would be more efficient in slowing down traffic.
Vice Mayor Ripley moved to make the intersection of 72nd Ave. and Buchanan St. a three-way stop and for the Public Works Department to install the required signs. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion was passed (7-0).

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the August 21, 2023, meeting. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor (7-0) and the August 21, 2023, Council Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.