



Town Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeanette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Glenda Johnson, and Todd Over. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, and Chief of Police Robert Liberati.

Excused Absence: Councilmember Mike Walker and Town Assistant Jackie Villela.

Call to Order: Mayor Schomisch called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Mayor Schomisch requested to amend the agenda under correspondence and announcements to add three items: c. PGMA, d. Smart Shopping Center, and e. Repairs. Mayor Schomisch then entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Walker motioned to approve the agenda and Councilman Williams seconded the motion.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Mayor Schomisch provided time for all to review the meeting minutes. Hearing no corrections to the meeting minutes, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Walker motioned to approve the January 23, 2023, and February 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes as written, and Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion was passed (6-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

- a. Maryland Municipal Association Winter Meeting:** Mayor Schomisch stated that the previous week he attended the Maryland Mayor's Association Meeting in Annapolis. He briefed the Council on the various topics that were discussed at the meeting.
- b. Purple Line Update:** Mayor Schomisch provided a packet that has plans and updates of the Purple Line. He explained the plans for the Glenridge and New Carrollton stations and answered questions from the Council.
- c. PGCMA:** Mayor Schomisch explained that there is some confusion regarding the upcoming Prince George's County Municipal Association Meetings. The February Meeting will be held in Laurel on Thursday, February 23, 2023. He stated that he has another meeting on that day and will most likely not be able to attend, so he asked if one of the Council members can attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom. Councilwoman Walker and Councilman Williams both volunteered to attend the meeting via Zoom. Additionally, the Meeting with the County Executive will be on either March 6 or March 8. He has received emails with both dates as the meeting date, so he does not

know which is the correct one. Mayor Schomisch will find out what the correct date is and will email the Councilmembers.

- d. **Smart Shopping Center:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that he received a letter from Elite Engineering stating that a detailed site plan of the Smart Shopping Center will be submitted for review to the Development Review Division of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The letter states that the current gas station is a one-level structure, and the new proposed building will be a two-level structure with a garage and store area on the first level and retail offices on the second level.
- e. **Repairs:** Town Manager Pazmino explained that the Public Works Department recommended installing two wall heating and cooling units in the police station to maintain an even temperature. Chief Liberati stated that ever since the unit was fixed in the meeting room, the police station and his office have not felt cold. Vice Mayor Ripley stated that she does not think it is necessary to install the units since Chief Liberati feels comfortable. Mayor Schomisch suggested to wait and monitor the police station temperature now that the unit in the meeting room is fixed.

Reports

- a. **Finance:** Town Manager Pazmino presented the new Town Treasurer to the Mayor and Council. The Town Treasurer then proceeded to explain the finance report. Vice Mayor Ripley asked how much longer the Bank of America Account will remain open. Town Treasurer answered that the Town is waiting for a deposit to clear and since there are no service fees, keeping it open is not affecting the Town financially. Town Manager asked for an update on the audit. Town Treasurer explained that the audit has been on-going since last fall and that he is waiting for an answer from Lindsey and Associates to complete a bank reconciliation. Mayor Schomisch asked if Brown & Associates have completed their work. Town Treasurer answered that they have completed their work on the annual audit, but have now proposed a new contract to aid the Town in transitioning to Quickbooks, which the Treasurer does not believe is necessary.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati explained the police report and answered questions from the Council.
- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Town Manager Pazmino stated that there is no report for this month, but there will be a code enforcement report at that next Council meeting. Currently, the former Treasurer/Code Enforcement Officer is focusing on training the new Treasurer. He will transition to code enforcement full-time in March.
- d. **Public Works Report:** Mayor Schomisch asked why public works installed new mulch in the playground if the current playground is going to be replaced. Town Manager Pazmino answered that the playground needed more mulch, and this will not affect the process of the new playground because the new playground is still under way.

Public

No public attended the meeting.

Unfinished Business

- a. **Noise Ordinance O-04-2022:** Mayor Schomisch stated that Ordinance O-04-2022 is ready for introduction and asked the Council if they would like to review it one more time. He stated he has no additional corrections or changes. Hearing no correction, Councilman Williams made a motion to introduce Ordinance 0-04-2022: An Ordinance of the Council of Landover Hills amending the Code of the Town of Landover Hills, Chapter 67 “peace and good order”, § 6701 “disturbing the peace prohibited” to remove language covered by § 6709 “Noise Ordinance,” amending § 6703 “firearms and dangerous weapons” to add knives to the list of dangerous weapons, amending § 6705 “damage or removal of public property prohibited” to clarify prohibited conduct, amending § 6709 “noise ordinance” to clarify the noises from vehicles and other sources that constitute a violation of § 6709, adding definitions of terms used in the Noise Ordinance and removing the fines for the violation of § 6709; and amending the code of the Town of Landover Hills, Chapter 28 “fines and penalties,” § 2802 “penalties” to increase the amount of the fines assessed for violations of Chapter 67 of the Town Code. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Ordinance O-04-2022 was introduced (6-0).
- b. **Town Code Chapter 35: Garbage Ordinance:** Mayor Schomisch reminded Council this was reviewed extensively at the previous meeting. Mayor Schomisch asked if the Council would like to review it and discuss it one more time or are they ready to introduce it. Councilman Williams answered that he does not think there needs to be any more changes. Councilman Williams made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-02-2023 and Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the introduction (6-0).
- c. **Town Code Chapter 24: Code of Ethics:** Mayor and Council decided to wait for Town Attorney Ruff to be present to further discuss the Code of Ethics. They will review it on their own and bring any questions or comments they have at the next Council Workshop.
- d. **Proposed Charter Amendment:** Mayor and Council decided to wait for Town Attorney Ruff to be present to further discuss the Charter Amendment. They will review it on their own and bring any questions or comments they have at the next Council Workshop.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn meeting. Councilman Williams made the motion and Councilman Over seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.