



Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 10, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeanette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Michael Walker, and Todd Over. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, Town Attorney Karen Ruff and Office Assistant Jackie Villela.

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the January 10, 2023, meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge or allegiance.

Ward 3 Council Seat

Mayor Schomisch introduced Glenda Johnson. She is interested in filling the empty seat for Ward 3. Glenda Johnson briefly spoke about her history in Landover Hills. She asked if there is anything written that describes the duties of a council member. Mayor Schomisch answered that yes, there is something written in the Towns Charter and Code. Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to appoint Glenda Johnson as the Council Member for the empty seat in Ward 3. Councilman Williams made the motion and Councilman Over seconded. All present voted aye and the motion was approved (6-0).

The swearing-in will be at the next Council Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023.

2023 Town Elections

Mayor Schomisch explained that according to the Charter, there will be Town Elections this year. The seats that are up for election are Mayor, and one Council seat in each of the Town's three Wards. The Council discussed all the dates leading up to Election Day May 9, 2023. The declaration of candidacy forms will be available February 8 and must be submitted to the Town Manager by March 24.

Ordinance O-06-2022: Renewal of the Cable Franchise

Mayor Schomisch explained that Ordinance O-06-2022 should look familiar to the Council Members because it is nearly identical to Ordinance O-05-2022, which was adopted on December 5, 2022. However, the new ordinance includes the actual Cable Franchise Agreement, which was inadvertently left out during the introduction of Ordinance O-05-2022. There were no public comments during the public hearing for Ordinance O-06-2022. Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve and adopt ordinance O-06-2022. Councilmember Williams made the motion and Councilwoman Walker seconded. All presented voted aye and Ordinance O-06-2022 was adopted (6-0).

Cable Ordinance O-01-2023

Town Attorney Ruff explained to the Mayor and Council why Ordinance O-01-2023 was created. There was a brief discussion between the Councilmembers. It was decided that there will be a more in-depth discussion at the next Council Meeting.

Noise Ordinance O-04-2022

Town Attorney Ruff explained that after reviewing the Noise Ordinance that was introduced at the November 1, 2022, Council Workshop, she realized there were items in the Ordinance that did not necessarily comply with the laws of Maryland.

The revised Noise Ordinance was reviewed and discussed in detail by the Mayor, Council, and Town Attorney. Mayor and Council directed Town Attorney Ruff to make the changes to the Noise Ordinance that were discussed, with a possibility of introducing it at the January 23, 2023, Council meeting.

Town Code Ch. 24: Code of Ethics

Town Manager Pazmino explained that he wanted to bring the Code of Ethics to the attention of the Council. Town Attorney Ruff suggested reviewing the Code of Ethics in detail at the February Council Workshop Session. Mayor Schomisch asked the Council to review Chapter 24: Code of Ethics and be ready to discuss at the next Council Meeting.

Town Code Ch. 35: Garbage & Trash

Town Manager Pazmino explained that in Chapter 35: Garbage and Trash, there is nothing that mentions mattresses needing plastic covers. Because of recent County requirements, Bates Trucking Company, which collects trash for the Town, will not pick up mattresses without a plastic cover. This is creating a problem for Code Enforcement because residents cannot be ticketed or taken to court for not covering their mattresses, since it is not written in the Town Code. Town Attorney Ruff and Mayor Schomisch stated this could be another discussion for the next Council Meeting.

Proposed Charter Amendment

Town Attorney Ruff explained that there are many inconsistencies with the Town Charter. The previous Town Attorney reviewed the Town Charter that is on the Town website and compared it to the version that is on the Maryland State website and found that there are many sections that do not match up. Therefore, it is the best interest of the Town that the Council review and update the entire Town Charter. This will be discussed more in detail at the February Council Work Session.

Annexation

Mayor Schomisch explained that the boundary survey is under way as the company doing the work has received its first payment from the Town. He asked Town Attorney Ruff to explain what the next steps are in the annexation process. Ms. Ruff also answered questions about the annexation from the Council.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Walker motioned to adjourn and Councilman Over seconded. All presented voted aye and the Council Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m. (6-0).