



Town Council Meeting Minutes Monday, January 23, 2023

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

Vice Mayor Ripley left meeting at 9:19 .p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the Meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

Swearing-in Ceremony: Mayor Schomisch swore in Glenda Johnson as Councilmember for the vacant seat in Ward 3. The Council took a short recess at 7:05 p.m. to celebrate the new Councilmember with some refreshments. The Council reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda. Councilman Walker moved to approve the agenda as written and Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the agenda was approved (7-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda

- **December 19, 2022, Town Council Meeting Minutes:** Councilwoman Walker pointed out that on Page 3, under ARPA Gift Card Program, the word “the” needs to be removed from the sentence. There were no additional comments or corrections.
- **January 10, 2023, Town Council Workshop Minutes:** Mayor Schomisch stated that on page 1, under Ordinance O-06-2022, it says, “Councilmember Walker” and asked if the Council remembers which Councilmember Walker made the motion. It was stated that Councilwoman Kathleen Walker made the motion.

Seeing no further changes, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Over moved to approve the December 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes and January 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes as amended. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the Meeting Minutes were approved (7-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

a. State Attorney’s Meeting: Mayor Schomisch stated that he attended a meeting hosted by Prince George’s County Delegate Nicole Williams with State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy who

discussed a rise of carjacking in the area. Mayor Schomisch explained that she feels carjacking has become a crime of choice since Covid-19. He then provided statistics of several carjacking cases.

b. Transportation Update: Mayor Schomisch provided an update on several transportation issues, such as the Maglev train and the purple line. He stated that Delegate Williams reintroduced her Maglev bill, which will prohibit any state funding for Maglev. Also, he presented two announcements from the Purple Line and explained how the flow of traffic will change along State Roads 410 and 450.

c. PGCMA: Mayor Schomisch updated the Council on the last Prince George's County Municipal Association Meeting, which he attended via Zoom. The next meeting will be taking place at College Park. It will not fall on the third Thursday of February but on the 23rd of February. Mayor Schomisch stated he will not be able to attend because he will be attending the Purple Line Community Advisory Team meeting, so he asked if other councilmembers can join the meeting via zoom or in person.

d. Street Light Update: Mayor Schomisch attended a meeting with Pepco regarding municipal purchase of streetlights. He briefed the Council on what he learned from that meeting. Councilman Over asked who is pushing for municipalities to purchase their streetlights, Mayor Schomisch answered several municipalities want specific types of lights in their town, especially in historic districts.

e. Repairs: Town Manager Pazmino explained that the Town Hall furnace was finally repaired. Upon repairing the furnace, they discovered that the entire circuit needs to be replaced. He is still waiting to receive the full invoice for that.

Reports

- a. Finance:** Town Manager Pazmino presented the Finance Report. He began by explaining that the PNC Cable Account number was wrong in the last finance report. The treasurer has corrected the error. Town Manager Pazmino also explained to the Council that the Town Treasurer is retiring on February 28, 2023. A new person has been hired but there is no start date yet. Town Manager Pazmino and Town Treasurer will meet with the new hire this week to discuss a start date and training.
- b. Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the Police Report in detail. He stated that the major crime for the month was theft from auto. He also answered several questions from the Council.
- c. Code Enforcement Report:** There was no code enforcement report for this meeting.
- d. Public Works Report:** The Public Works report was presented, and the Council was provided time to review. Councilwoman Walker asked if Public Works is still driving around cleaning the gutters in Town. Town Manager Pazmino explained that Jorge from Professional Landscaping will be going through Town again cleaning the gutters.

Public

No public attended the meeting.

Unfinished Business

- a. Cable Ordinance O-01-2023:** Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance O-01-2023. Councilman Over moved to introduce Ordinance O-01-2023 as presented. Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All presented voted aye and the Ordinance was passed (7-0).
- b. Noise Ordinance O-04-2022:** At the previous Council Meeting, the Council made several changes to the Noise Ordinance. The revised Noise Ordinance was presented. 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 discussed, with a possibility of introducing the Noise Ordinance at the February Council meeting.
- c. Town Code, Chapter 24 Code of Ethics:** Mayor Schomisch reminded Council that Chapter 24: Code of Ethics was presented at the previous Council meeting. He has looked through it and believes everything looks fine. Councilman Over asked Mayor Schomisch why he thinks it is necessary to have an Ethics Code. Mayor Schomisch answered it is good to have for transparency. Mayor Schomisch suggested this be set in place for the next Council, after the May Town election. Town Attorney Ruff will make changes to the current Code of Ethics and send it to Mayor Schomisch for review.
- d. Proposed Charter Amendments:** The Council decided that the proposed Charter Amendments will be discussed at the February Council Workshop.

New Business

- a. Mayor's Scholarship:** Town Manager Pazmino asked what the correct award amount is for the Mayor's Scholarship is because it seems there was a typo in the budget. Councilman Over asked if ARPA Funds can be used for the scholarship. Town Manager Pazmino answered he is not sure, that is something he would have to ask our ARPA Consultant. Town Manager Pazmino also asked if May 6 will remain as the deadline for the scholarship application. Mayor Schomisch asked Council to think about an amount to have in the scholarship fund and a deadline for the application, so that it can be decided at the following meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Williams motioned to adjourn and Councilman Over seconded. All presented voted aye and the Council Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. (7-0).