



Town Council Meeting Minutes Monday, July 24, 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, and Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson.

Call to Order: Mayor Schomisch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Agenda: Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the agenda as written. Councilman Walker moved to approve the July 24, 2023, agenda as written. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the July 24, 2023, Agenda was approved (7-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Vice Mayor Ripley noted that in the June 20, 2023, Town Council Meeting Minutes, under Correspondence and Announcements, a. "El Rinconcito ..." the word "permit" is used instead of "license." She requested that anywhere in the paragraph where it says "permit" should be changed to "license."

Hearing no further changes to the consent agenda, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Councilwoman Johnson moved to approve the June 20, 2023, June 22, 2023, and July 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the Consent Agenda was approved (7-0).

Correspondence and Announcements:

- a. **Traffic Pattern:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that the traffic pattern will shift on Veterans Parkway and Ellin Road starting on August 4, 2023. This change is due to the Purple Line construction.
- b. **Crown Castle:** Mayor Schomisch explained that Crown Castle will be installing 5G towers at six (6) different locations in Town. Those locations are: 7009 Varnum Street; 3977 72nd Ave; 7005 Taylor Street; 7195 Annapolis Road; 7301 Annapolis Road; and 4167 71st Ave. He does not know when the installation process will begin but he will update the Council once he knows more.

Reports

- a. **Finance Report:** Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar mentioned that the Bank of America account will be closed within the next three weeks. He reviewed the finance report and answered questions from the Mayor and Council.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the police report. He explained the calls for service within Town.
- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Code Enforcer Michael Thompson presented the Code Enforcement Report. He explained that he spoke with the owner of the house that experienced a fire a couple of months ago. The owner stated that he is trying to get permits from the County to repair the damage that was caused by the fire. Mr. Thompson also mentioned that the County does not enforce foreclosures, it is up to the Town Code. He asked the Council to consider adding it to the Town Code for him to enforce it. Mayor Schomisich asked Town Manager Pazmino to contact the former Town manager and examine the issue.
- d. **Public Works Report:** The Public Works report was handed out in advance for all to review. Councilman Walker asked when the trail project is starting. Mayor Schomisich answered that it had already started and that it is a 6-week program.

Public Comment

Stacie Hill: Ms. Hill Requested a speed bump be added on 72nd. Ave. near Buchanan Street. She has concerns about cars driving too fast on that street. Mayor Schomisich requested Public Works set up the speed tracker to 72nd. Ave. near Buchanan Street for data collection. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting once enough data has been collected.

Sandie Kaplanis: Ms. Kaplanis stated that her neighbor's grass is too tall, and she walked around to show a picture of her neighbors' grass to the Council. She said she would like something done about it. Mayor Schomisich directed the Town Code Enforcer to investigate the issue. Ms. Kaplanis then asked Chief Liberati if police were on duty on July 15. She stated that there was a party playing loud music that night. Chief Liberati answered that yes, there was an officer on duty and that the officer went to the house and gave them a warning. Ms. Kaplanis also inquired about the funds the Town received from the Monsanto Lawsuit. Mayor Schomisich noted that the nationwide settlement was in regard to PCB's, which Monsanto and predecessor company produced between 1930's and 1970's. He said that he had spoken to the chief environmental attorney in the Maryland Attorney General's Office at the Summer Maryland Municipal League conference about the use of funds. The attorney asked if the Town contained any bodies of water, such as lakes or rivers, as those were affected by the PCB contamination. Landover Hills does not have any rivers or lakes, so there is no need for testing and the funds can be used any way by the Town. Mayor Schomisich explained that on July 10, 2023, Council Workshop, the Council earmarked the Monsanto funds for future environmental projects.

Unfinished Business

- a. **Ordinance O-02-2023: Garbage and Trash:** Vice Mayor Ripley noted that "burning" was misspelled on the front page. Councilman Williams moved to introduce Ordinance O-02-2023 as amended. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and Ordinance O-02-2023: Garbage and Trash was introduced (7-0).

- b. **Ordinance O-03-2023: Code of Ethics:** Mayor Schomisch requested page numbers be added to the Ordinance. Mayor and Council agreed to change commencing date from June 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. Councilman Williams moved to introduce Ordinance O-03-2023 as amended. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and Ordinance O-03-2023: Code of Ethics was Introduced (7-0).
- c. **Annexation Update:** Mayor Schomisch explained that he and the Town Manager had a meeting with the Town Attorney. There are two properties in the area to be annexed that are now planning to build apartments. He explained that the Town will only annex the commercial properties and exclude the two properties considering apartments from the annexation. The Mayor and Town Manager will ask Meekins to redraw the annexation lines and provide a new survey. Mayor Schomisch explained that Rise Development and Dominion Apartments will attend the August 7 meeting to discuss the plans for one of the apartment buildings.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Walker moved to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Over second the motion. The July 24, 2023, meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.