



Town Council Workshop Minutes

March 7, 2022

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Mike Walker, Todd Over and Kathleen Walker; Town Manager Karen Ruff and Chief Robert Liberati. Councilmember Rommel Pazmino arrived after the meeting started.

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the Town Council Workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. He then provided an update to the Council regarding the Maryland Court of Appeals' ruling in *Prince George's County v. Robert E. Thurston, et al.*, which is the challenge County residents made to the County Council's redistricting resolution. The Court ruled in favor of the residents, which means the Redistricting Commission's proposed map will go into effect for the 2022 election and District 3 will largely remain intact. The Court essentially found that the County Council failed to enact its redistricting plan properly.

Mayor Schomisch also advised the Council of an addition to Super Suds laundromat located at 6704 Annapolis Road, noting that the business is not located in Town. He also announced that County Executive Alsobrooks is seeking applicants for the vacant Board of Education District Six position after the resignation of a Board of Education member advising, however, that the Town is not located in District Six.

Investment Policy

Mayor Schomisch introduced the next item and turned it over to Ms. Ruff to address. Ms. Ruff explained that the Council had previously been provided information about the need for a Town investment policy and the consultant, Dan Baden's, recommendation regarding the policy. Ms. Ruff referred to the document distributed to Council and advised that it was based on University Park's and that it would be added to the Town Code. If acceptable to Council, a Resolution stating the Town's investment policy will be presented to the Council on March 21. There was consensus of Council to move forward with the policy.

FY23 Budget; Anticipated FY23 Acquisition

Mayor Schomisch asked that Ms. Ruff present this item to Council. Referring to the document distributed to Council that contained the FY22 Budget figures, the FY22 Expenses to date and Proposed FY23 Budget figures, Ms. Ruff reviewed the Town's current position relative to the FY22 adopted budget and advised how staff arrived at the proposed FY23 budget figures. Council

requested the following changes: Misc. Revenue, Scholarships, add \$250 to the proposed FY23 Budget; Police Grants, Retention Grant and Vest Grant figures in proposed FY23 Budget, move to FY22 Budget – also confirm State Police Protection and County Police Protection numbers for FY23; money for scholarships should come from ARPA, if possible; add overtime entries for Public Works and Administration; why is Workmen's Comp so high on page 5; General Office, IT Services should not be 0; why is snow removal salaries 0? Ms. Ruff advised that the changes will be made and questions answered.

Variable Message Sign

Staff presented a quote from All Traffic Solutions for a variable message sign (VMS) in the amount of \$15,835. Ms. Ruff and Chief Liberati explained that the Town has two VMSs from All Traffic Solutions and that this one will be compatible with the VMSs that the Town already has and the text will be changed using the Town's existing software. The concept of acquiring another VMS was presented to Council previously. Staff recommends that the Town purchase one VMS from All Traffic Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$15,835 as set forth in Quote Q-65324. Council agreed. Accordingly, a resolution approving it will come before Council on March 21.

Sale of LHPD Surplus Handguns

Mayor Schomisch introduced this item and turned it over to Chief Liberati. Chief Liberati explained that there are eight handguns that were purchased by the Town for police officers approximately 15 years ago that are no longer used and are in storage. They have been in storage for about five to seven years. All the handguns are Beretta 92 FS 9MM (black). These handguns have experienced significant wear and tear. He further explained a Maryland State Police program through which police agencies can sell used handguns to police officers. Chief Liberati said that Town police officers, retired Chief Henry Norris and two former officers are interested in purchasing these handguns. He recommended offering these handguns to the officers for \$150 each. After questioning by Vice Mayor Ripley as to the value of the firearms and discussion by Council, it was determined that the firearms should not be sold for less than \$250 each. Since the Council approved moving forward with the sale of the handguns, a resolution declaring the handguns surplus property and authorizing their sale for \$250 each will be presented at the March 21 meeting.

MML Sumer Conference

Mayor Schomisch reminded the Council of the upcoming MML Summer Conference June 12-15, 2022.

Public

Mayor Schomisch, noticing that there were two people in the audience and recognizing that there is not an opportunity for public comment, asked the people if they wanted to address the Council. One person declined. Mr. Shaffner questioned various situation that he believed were violations of the Town Code. Both Chief Liberati and Mayor Schomisch responded.

Closed session

Motion to go Into Closed Session

Motion: I move that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Landover Hills go into a Closed Meeting in accordance with General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305 (b) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) a personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The Motion to adjourn the Town Council Workshop of Monday March 7, 2022, into closed session, as stated above, was made by Councilman Mike Walker and was seconded by Councilwoman Kathy Walker.

The vote to go into closed session was as follows:

Vice Mayor Ripley – Yes	Councilman Over – Yes
Councilman Williams – Yes	Councilman Pazmino – Yes
Councilwoman Walker – Yes	Mayor Schomisch – Yes
Councilman Walker – Yes	

No one voted against the motion. No abstentions. The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m. at which time the Closed Meeting began in the meeting room at Town Hall.

The following staff members were in attendance: Town Manager Karen Ruff and Chief Robert Liberati (who was present for the first item involving a police officer). No other individuals were in attendance.

The Mayor and Council were briefed on personnel issues. The Closed Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Adjournment

The Mayor and Council did not return to open session after the closed session.