



Town Council Meeting Minutes May 16, 2022

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Mike Walker, and Todd Over, Town Manager Rommel Pazmiño, Chief of Police Robert Liberati and Office Assistant Jackie Villela. Paul Schad from the Public Works Department. There is a vacant seat in Ward 3.

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the May 16, 2022, Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Schomisch asked that all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Schomisch requested that the agenda be amended to add 5.d. "Clean-up Day Wrap-up." Councilman Joe Williams requested that the agenda be amended to add a new item titled "Council Pay." Mayor Schomisch then stated that the new item will go under number New Business as 9.a. "Council Pay." Councilman Williams moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the agenda was approved as amended (6-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mayor Schomisch moved to Approval of the Consent Agenda. He asked that all three Meeting Minutes be approved together. The April 18, 2022 and May 2, 2022 Minutes were previously passed out. There were no corrections. Then, the April 18th Closed Session Minutes were passed out and Mayor Schomisch provided time for all to review. There were no corrections. Councilman Williams moved to approve all Meeting Minutes and Councilman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the April 18, 2022, May 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes and April 18, 2022, Closed Session Minutes were approved (6-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

- a. **CDBG Grant Approval:** Town Manager Rommel Pazmiño informed the Council that the Town has been approved for CDBG PY48 Grant. He also stated that the application process has changed for CDBG PY47 Grant and explained how the process works now.

- b. Arts Committee Semifinalists: Town Manager Rommel Pazmiño briefed the Council on the three semifinalists chosen by the Arts Committee for the Mural Project. Then, Paul Schad explained the next steps for the Arts Committee and Mural Project. Additionally, Councilman Over asked if the tower will be included in the mural. Paul Schad and the Mayor both explained that it is up to the artists to include it in their design. There were no further comments.
- c. State Grants: The Mayor briefed the Council on two state grants that the Town has been awarded. The first is a Playground Grant that will be used to purchase new playground equipment and to add new flooring to the playground area. The second is an Exterior Improvement Grant that will be used to improve the exterior walls of the Town Hall.
- d. Clean-up Day Wrap-up: Mayor Schomisch began by thanking the Councilmembers and Town staff for coming out to help during the Spring Clean-up Day. He said everything went smoothly. Next, the Mayor explained that Bates dropped off the dumpsters on Friday, May 13, 2022, instead of Saturday, May 14, 2022. This caused some concern because people could potentially dump things before the scheduled time. However, Public Works fixed this problem by using their trucks to block off the entrance to the dumpsters overnight. Lastly, the Mayor and Council discussed how many dumpsters will be used for the Fall Clean-Up Day. There was unanimous decision to use four (4) dumpsters for the Fall Clean-Up Day. There were no further comments.

Report

Finance Report: A copy of the finance report was distributed. The Town Treasurer added a Memorandum to the cover of the finance report. The Mayor read over and discussed this with the Council. In the Memorandum there was a topic titled "Signers and Bank Statements," where the Treasurer recommended having someone else who is not involved in the finances open and review the bank statements. Councilman Joe Williams agreed to open and review bank statements going forward. There were no other comments or questions.

Police Report: Chief Liberati presented the police report, a copy of which was distributed to the Mayor and Council. There were no questions.

Code Enforcement Report: The code enforcement report was distributed. There were no questions. Town Manager Rommel Pazmino reported to the Council that the Part-Time Code Enforcement position is still open and there is one new application being reviewed.

Public Works Report: The public works report was distributed. There were no comments or questions.

Public

Sandie Kaplanis, who lives at 7102 Taylor Street, was in the public. She said she came to Town Hall to request a permit for a sewage pipe that was being repaired in her yard. After paying the \$5 fee and receiving the permit, she researched the Town's Code and found that permits are not required for repairs. At which point she requested a refund from our Town Treasurer, and she received her check 10 days after the request. Ms. Kaplanis then asked if the RV that is parked

outside the Town Hall parking belongs to Landover Hills. Chief Liberati answered that it does not belong to the Town. She then went on to discuss that during the winter, certain residents get their sidewalks shoveled, while others do not. She asked who decides which sidewalks get shoveled. The Mayor answered “not I.” Next, she stated that a few years ago, one of her neighbors threw trash in her backyard and after reporting this issue, the code enforcement officer mistakenly gave her a ticket, instead of her neighbor. This ticket appeared on her Maryland Case Search, and she asked the code enforcement officer to clear her record, but he could not, so Chief Liberati did it. Town manager, Rommel Pazmino thanked Sandie Kaplanis for bringing her concerns to the meeting. No further comments were made.

Unfinished Business

- a. An Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Landover Hills: Ordinance O-02-2022 is ready for adoption. Mayor Schomisch called for a vote to adopt the Budget Ordinance O-02-2022 as written. All present voted aye and Budget Ordinance O-02-2022 was adopted (6-0).
- b. Brightview Closing Meeting: Town Manager Rommel Pazmino briefed the Council on the on-going Rain Garden Project. There will be a meeting on May 17, 2022, with the BrightView project manager, the University of Maryland project consultant and Town officials and staff to discuss unfinished work. Paul Schad from the Public Works Department explained how the flowers in the Rain Garden did not survive and had to be re-planted twice. The flowers are an essential part of the garden and serve a function in the Rain Garden. No further comments were made.
- c. Data Collection Report from Allison Street: The Public Works Department proposed that Allison Street become a one-way street. They set up data collection equipment on the street. Paul Schad from the Public Works Department presented their findings of the data collected from Allison Street. Mr. Schad explained that the data collected was on speed, direction of vehicle, and vehicle classification. The data shows that 43 percent of vehicles were going toward 71st Ave and 56 percent were going toward Varnum Street. As far as speed goes, the data collected shows that the average speed of vehicles on that street is between 15-25 mph. Additionally, the data shows that the average vehicle driving through Allison Street is in class 2, which are passenger cars such as sedans. Public Works is proposing that Allison Street become a one-way street due to how narrow it is, which makes it difficult for cars to park on the street and also for larger vehicles, such as trash trucks, pick-up trucks and delivery vans to navigate the street. The Council and Mayor decided that the next step would be to notify residents of the proposal and to hold a public hearing.
- d. Mayor’s Scholarship: Mayor Schomisch reported only one application for the Scholarship was received. The person who applied does live in Town. The Mayor entertained a motion to award the applicant a scholarship of \$250. Councilman Over moved to approve the motion and Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted and the motion was approved (5-1), with Vice Mayor Ripley voting no.

- e. Speed Camera Overtime: Chief Liberati explained how the speed cameras work and explained the process of how they are turned on and off. There were no further comments.

New Business

- a. Council Pay: Councilman Williams requested to add Council Pay to the agenda because he and other Councilmembers had concerns of their pay being wrong. However, after discussing the issue, they found that their pay is actually correct. Mayor Schomisch then brought up the fact that the Council has not had a pay increase in a few years. Councilman Williams proposed to increase the Council salary from \$2,400 to \$3,000 yearly and to increase the Mayor's salary from \$3,000 to \$4,000 yearly. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the salary increase for both the Councilmembers and the Mayor was approved (6-0). This increase will be effective starting July 1st, 2023.

Adjournment

The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. All present voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.