



Town Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Todd Over. There is a vacant seat in Ward 3. Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati and Office Assistant Jackie Villela. Volunteer Firefighter Mark Trader.

Excused Absence: Councilmember Mike Walker

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the November 14, 2022, Council Meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Schomisch requested a motion to amend the agenda. Unfinished Business a. UMD Census Project was moved up to become number 4. Additionally, a new item was added under Unfinished Business, f. PGCMA. Councilman Williams moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the amended agenda was approved (5-0).

Unfinished Business

- a. **UMD Census Project:** University of Maryland (UMD) students joined the meeting via Zoom. The students presented their census project results and explained their findings of population and demographics in the Town of Landover Hills. They recommended the Town of Landover Hills hold a census just for its residents to get more accurate results. The Mayor and Council asked questions and then the zoom meeting with the UMD students ended. Mayor Schomisch moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mayor Schomisch provided time for the Council to review the October 17, 2022, and November 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes. No changes were made. Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve all meeting minutes. Councilman Williams motioned to approve the October 18, 2022,

and November 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the motion was approved (5-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

a. Mark Trader: Mark Trader is with the Prince George’s County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, and he is seeking permission from the Council to go door-to-door to get signatures for his petition. Currently, the seats on the Fire Commission are appointed by the County Fire Chief and County Executive. The Volunteer Association wants control of who is elected to the five (5) volunteer seats on the Fire Commission. The petition needs 10,000 signatures to be approved. The Council authorized Mark Trader to go door-to-door to get signatures.

Reports

- a. **Finance Report:** Town Manager Pazmino presented the finance report. There were no comments or questions.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the police report. Councilwoman Walker asked Chief Liberati about a vehicle she saw parked at the shopping center sidewalk. Chief Liberati answered that he did not know why the vehicle was parked there.
- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Town Manager Pazmino presented the code report. He also mentioned to the Council that today was the first day of the new Code Enforcement Officer. Councilwoman Walker asked if he could attend the next Council Meeting so everyone can meet him. Mr. Pazmino responded yes. There were no further comments.
- d. **Public Works Report:** Mayor Schomisch provided time for everyone to review the public works report. There were no questions or comments.

Public

A resident, who lives on Fairfax Street, brought to the Council’s attention that she has seen people raking their leaves into the street. Mr. Pazmino asked if she could call the office the next time she saw someone doing that.

New Business

- a. **Chick-Fil-A:** Mayor Schomisch explained that Chick-Fil-A representatives were supposed to attend tonight’s meeting, but it seems there was a miscommunication. It is expected to open sometime before Christmas.
- b. **FY 23 Budget:** Mayor Schomisch brought to the Council’s attention that it is almost time to start discussing the fiscal year 2023 budget. Evaluations are needed for Town Manager and Chief of Police in January 2023. Vice Mayor Ripley stated that the Town Manager’s six-month probation period has ended, and his evaluation needs to be done. It was

decided to have the Town Manager's probationary evaluation at the December 5, 2022, Council Workshop in closed session.

- c. **Town Hall Security:** Chief Liberati explained that on Veterans Day, a person was able to get into the building from the front door and was in the foyer area. The door was locked, but because of the age of the lock, the person was able to pull the door open. The person thought the building was open. Sergeant Gomez was in the building at the time of the incident and was able to help the person. Mayor Schomisch would like to incorporate changing the front door and adding bullet proof glass in the foyer with the planned building refurbishment. Mr. Pazmino he would like to replace the locks for the back door and side door to ones that automatically lock when door closes. He would also like to repair the glass of the side door and add tinting to the glass. Mr. Pazmino will investigate pricing and get back to the Council later.
- d. **County Permitting:** There are two businesses in Town that are in the process of getting additional county liquor permits. The first is Zack's Liquor Store, located at 6519 Annapolis Road, which has applied to add a delivery service. Mayor Schomisch and Chief Liberati said they have no objection to the request. The second business is El Rinconcito, located at the Community Shopping Center, and they want an entertainment permit to allow karaoke and a DJ six nights a week until 2 a.m. Mayor Schomisch and Chief Liberati appeared before the County Liquor Board in opposition to the permit application because of past problems at the business. Chief Liberati explained that there have been numerous assaults and fights at the establishment. Despite the Town's opposition, the liquor board decided to give them a six-month probationary approval, under which they must always have two off-duty police officers present. Chief Liberati stated that he and his officers will monitor the establishment.
- e. **Ordinance O-05-2022: Renewal of the Cable Franchise:** Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance O-05-2022. Vice Mayor Ripley pointed out that the Ordinance says, "Town Administrator" instead of "Town Manager." Mayor Schomisch stated that they are interchangeable. Councilman Over motioned to introduce Ordinance O-05-2022 and Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the Ordinance was introduced (5-0).
- f. **PGCMA:** Mayor Schomisch stated that the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) November meeting will be held virtually. He asked the Council if they wanted to meet at Town Hall to join the meeting. Everyone agreed to join the meeting from their homes.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilmember Kathy Walker and seconded by Councilmember Todd Over. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.