



## **Town Council Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023**

**Present:** Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Todd Over, and Glenda Johnson. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, Town Assistant Jackie Villela, Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson.

**Excused Absence:** Councilmembers Mike Walker and Kathleen Walker.

### **Call to Order:**

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

### **Approval of the Agenda:**

Councilman Williams noticed that the Pledge of Allegiance was missing from the agenda. Mayor Schomisch requested to amend the agenda to add Pledge of Allegiance as item number 2. Councilman Williams moved to approve the agenda as amended and Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the September 18, 2023, Agenda was approved as amended.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

**a. August 21, 2023, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes:** Mayor Schomisch had a few corrections on page 3, under "Speed Data Collection." First, on line 8, add the word "department" after public works. Then, on line 9, remove the period after the word "passed." Chief Liberati asked if on page 1, under "Donation to Fire Department," should the amount of the donation be added. The Mayor and Council agreed that the amount of the donation should be added. Seeing as there were no more comments or corrections, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the August 21 Meeting Minutes as amended. Councilman Over moved to approve the August 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes as amended, and Councilwoman Johnson seconded. All present voted in favor and the August 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved (5-0).

**b. September 5, 2023, Town Council Workshop Minutes:** Councilwoman Johnson requested that different wording be used under the section of "Entrance Sign Refurbishment" to represent the involvement of the Arts Committee. Additionally, Councilwoman Johnson noted that there is a discussion missing after "MML" regarding resident complaints. Mayor Schomisch asked Councilwoman Johnson to provide those corrections to the Town Assistant and the Council will review them at the next regular meeting. Mayor Schomisch suggested tabling the

September 5 Meeting Minutes. Councilman Williams moved to table the September 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes and Councilwoman Johnson seconded. All present voted in favor and the September 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes were tabled (5-0).

### **Correspondence and Announcements**

- a. **PGCMA:** Mayor Schomisch reminded the Council that on Thursday, September 21 is the Prince George’s County Municipal Association meeting in Colmar Manor. He asked if those who want to attend could meet him at Town Hall to ride together.
- b. **Town Clean-Up Day:** Town Manager Pazmino stated that Jim Schad from the Public Works Department provided him with two dates for the Town Clean-Up Day – October 21 or 28. Mayor Schomisch asked if either of those dates would conflict with the playground construction. Town Manager Pazmino said that the playground construction has been pushed back again to the end of October and he does not think the construction will pose a problem, but he said he will ask Mr. Schad if either dates conflict with the playground construction. Mr. Pazmino did note that the playground construction company said they will keep the equipment in a small area, not in the parking lot.
- c. **Landover Hills Night Out:** Chief Liberati said the rescheduled Landover Hills Night Out is set for Friday, October 6. After Night Out there will be a Movie Night with either “Coco” or “A Muppets Haunted Mansion” shown.

### **Reports**

- a. **Finance Report: Town Treasurer** Fredy Aguilar presented the finance report. He noted that the Bank of America account is still open due to the audit but after the audit it can be closed. Mayor Schomisch said that at a previous meeting there was discussion of having a quarterly finance report and asked how that was coming along. Mr. Aguilar said he can provide the report to the Council whenever they wish. He can do quarterly or monthly. Mayor Schomisch asked the Council what they prefer. Vice Mayor Ripley said a quarterly report would be better. Mr. Aguilar said he will have the report ready at the following regular council meeting.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the police report. He explained all of the calls for service that occurred in Town for the month of August. Vice Mayor Ripley asked Chief Liberati how many stop sign citations were given out. Chief Liberati answered that there was one stop sign citation. Town Manager Pazmino said he received a complaint from a resident who lives on Parkwood street regarding speeding in her area. Mr. Pazmino said that he told her that the best way to prove speeding was to put a speed tracker in that area. Chief Liberati asked Mr. Pazmino to send him the residents’ address and that he would look into putting a speed tracker there.
- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson presented the Code Enforcement report. He said that with Prince George’s County’s new permitting system, he is not able to look up who has County permits. He called the County Permitting Department to notify them of this problem and they informed him that they are aware of the issue and are working on it, but they do not have an estimated time for resolving the issue. For the time being, the only way he can find

out if a resident has a County permit is by calling the County Permitting Department and asking them to look it up. Additionally, Mr. Thompson said that regarding the ongoing dog complaints, the County Animal Control inspector who was assigned to the case did not find any problems with the house or the dogs and is recommending approval of a hobby license for the owner of the dogs. Councilwoman Johnson asked if the incident could qualify as a nuisance or if the house could be labeled a nuisance house. Michael Thompson explained that nuisance complaints are very hard to prove in court and he would need to present a fair amount of proof. Councilwoman Johnson suggested that the Council look into the animal control code at the October Workshop.

- d. **Public Works Report:** The Public Works Report was handed out ahead of time. There were no questions or comments regarding the public works report.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment during the meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Traffic Report Letter:** Mayor Schomisch provided a draft copy of the traffic letter to the Council; everyone was provided with time to review it. Mayor Schomisch and the Council then read over the letter together and began making corrections and additions, which Mayor Schomisch took note of. Councilman Over suggested making the letter a bulleted list instead so that is easier to read. He said it is a little difficult to follow, especially if you are not familiar with the area. Mayor Schomisch said he is open to all suggestions. Mayor Schomisch suggested another option would be to leave the letter the way it is and attach a bulleted list after the letter. Mayor Schomisch said if there are any more corrections or additions, to please email them to him by Monday October 9. He would like to have a final copy ready to sign at the next Council Meeting.
- b. **Adoption of Resolution R-02-2023:** Mayor Schomisch reminded everyone that Resolution R-02-2023 was discussed and introduced at the September 5, 2023, meeting. It is now open for adoption. Mayor Schomisch asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no discussion, he entertained a motion to adopt resolution R-02-2023. Councilman Over moved to introduce Resolution R-02-2023 as written. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and Resolution R-02-2023 was adopted (5-0).

**New Business**

- a. **Updating Town Code Section 35 for Trash and Debris Regulations:** Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson said that when he was in court in August, there was a resident who said that there is no Town Code saying you cannot cover items in your yard with a tarp. He is requesting the Council to add a section in Chapter 35, Section 3514 that states items in yards cannot be covered with a tarp. Mayor Schomisch asked Mr. Thompson to provide a draft of the change and send it to the Town Attorney.
- b. **Trashcan Complaint:** Councilman Williams brought up issue of a resident who had a Landover Hills trashcan removed from his residence. Mayor Schomisch explained that it

was written in the most recent newsletter that residents who had more than one Landover Hills Trashcan would have the extras removed. Additionally, he explained that on the side of the trashcan, it says “Property of Landover Hills.” Mayor Schomisch said when the trashcans were originally handed out, the rule was only one trashcan per address, however he does agree that there needs to be better communication with residents when something like this happens.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the September 18, 2023, Council Meeting and Councilman Over seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.