



Council Workshop Meeting Minutes September 5, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Mike Walker, Glenda Johnson, Kathleen Walker and Todd Over. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino and Chief of Police Robert Liberati.

Call to Order:

Mayor Schomisch called the September 5, 2023, meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Volunteer Compliance Clean Up:

Mayor Schomisch announced that the Dominion Apartments, proposed in the wooded lot behind the Bank of America building near the Purple Line Glenridge station, has requested a Voluntary Clean-up status from the State of Maryland. Under the Voluntary Clean-up designation, the project will test the property's soil to determine whether there are any chemicals of concern. If contamination is found, the project would clean-up the site prior to construction and could be eligible for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding. The State of Maryland will monitor the work done under the Voluntary Clean-up.

Traffic Study (Dominium Apartments): Mayor Schomisch provided a copy of the traffic study from Dominion Apartments. The Mayor and Council reviewed and discussed the traffic study in detail. The Council expressed concerns regarding parking and the flow of traffic.

Mayor Schomisch will draft a letter outlining the Council's concerns and have it ready for Council review at the September 18 Council Meeting. If approved by the Council, the letter will be sent to County and State officials. The letter also will be sent to the four Landover Hills churches, which may be most affected by the increased traffic, asking them to attend the October 2nd Council Workshop.

Night Out Reschedule: Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that Landover Hills Night Out has been rescheduled to Friday, October 6 from 5-7 p.m. Chief Liberati mentioned that after Night Out, there will be a movie starting at 7:30 p.m. Councilwoman Walker asked what movie will be played. Chief Liberti answered that it has not been decided yet. Town Manager Pazmino asked if there were any people being invited to Night Out by the Mayor and Council. Mayor Schomisch answered that he will invite the same people.

Mayor Schomisch then asked if a date for Clean-Up Day had been chosen. Town Manager Pazmino answered no, a date has not been picked yet, but he will be discussing that tomorrow with Public Works.

Entrance Sign Refurbishment: Town Manager Pazmino stated that the Royal Rangers from Iglesia Roca de la Eternidad will be in Town on September 16, at around 11 a.m. to clean up the Town entrance sign on 71st Ave by removing the rust and repainting the white border. Mr. Pazmino explained that he hopes to replace this sign with an LED sign in the upcoming fiscal year. Councilwoman Johnson advised that the matter of signs is one of the topics pending consideration and deliberations by the Arts Committee. Mayor Schomisch pointed out that there are various signs around Town that can also be replaced, and that the Arts Committee should contribute to the decision-making process for those signs as well.

Covid Resolution: Mayor Schomisch read over Resolution R-01-2023: A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Landover Hills, Maryland Rescinding of Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Requirements for Town of Landover Hills Employees.

Mayor Schomisch explained that in 2021, the Council approved Resolution R-10-2021 that requires Town employees to be vaccinated and tested for Covid-19. The reason this resolution is being rescinded is due to the fact that the original was based on Prince George's County Order No. 22-2021, which has since been rescinded by the County Executive.

Councilman Walker moved to introduce Resolution R-01-2023: Rescinding of Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Requirements. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the Resolution was introduced (7-0). Mayor Schomisch explained that the Resolution will be considered for adoption at the September 18, 2023, Council Meeting.

MML: Mayor Schomisch reminded the Council that the Maryland Municipal League Conference starts on October 15 at the Hotel in College Park. Town Manager Pazmino asked those who wish to attend to please let him know so that he can create one registration.

Resident Complaint re: Dogs at 7118 Varnum Street: Councilwoman Johnson directed the council's attention to the complaint made via email from a resident alleging that: (1) her neighbor has 11 dogs that have created nuisance, noise, and bad odors, which has diminished her quality of life for 13 years; (2) the noise emanates from, among other times, when the neighbor lets the dogs out at 5 a.m. each morning. She states that the ruckus disturbs her family's sleep, etc.; and (3) the resident made additional complaints later alleging inappropriate conduct on behalf of the neighbor after animal control visited her. After much discussion by the council, it was determined that more information is needed and that the matter should be investigated further. Councilwoman Johnson suggested that the Town Code Chapter 6 be reviewed to discern whether updates are necessary.

Adjournment:

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Over moved to adjourn the September 5, 2023, Council Workshop. Councilwoman Walker seconded. All present voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.