

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**August 31, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager  
Jessica Barnes, Town Clerk/Director of Administrative Services  
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director  
Ivy Lewis, Public Projects and Services Director  
David Morris, Chief of Police  
Paul Smith, Finance and Employee Services Director  
Gentry Jones, Finance Manager

**Absent**

CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4  
CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Agenda Approval**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Thompson reported:

- Update on COVID-19
- Reminder to wash hands frequently, social distance, and wear a mask
- Discussion regarding COVID-19 vaccine and reminder to get flu vaccine as symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 are very similar
- Economic impacts of COVID-19 are still playing out. Encouraged everyone to donate to local food banks and other food security programs
- Looking for feedback from the Council regarding a roll call at the beginning of each meeting to establish why a member of the Council is not present in order to excuse absences at that time

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Lestitian reported:

- Upcoming Labor Day closures on September 7<sup>th</sup>
- Virtual meetings scheduled for September
- Update on Police Department staffing for Labor Day holiday

- Staff Flu Shot Program starts tomorrow
- Overview of grants awarded to the Town and new applications submitted
- Discussion regarding frequent complaints about vacant lot located East of the River. RPPD, Department of Public Works, and Office of Neighborhood Services are all working to address the concerns in that area: ONS addressing property maintenance issues, additional corner cans will be installed and RPPD has deployed one camera as part of a neighborhood camera system.
  - Assistant Chief Guixens provided an overview of the placement of the free, solar powered camera

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua stated that he appreciated staff's efforts to resolve the issues with the vacant lot.

## **Council Committee & Ward Reports**

### **CM Marsha Dixon, Ward 1**

CM Marsha Dixon deferred her report to the September 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting. CM Dixon welcomed everyone back from summer recess.

### **CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx deferred most of his report to the September 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting. CM Faulx reported that he had used the Town website to request a new trash can and it was received in two days.

### **CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua provided an overview of the agenda for the upcoming CKAR CDC meeting. CM Lingua stated that he looked forward to working with everyone during the fall and winter session.

### **CM Christopher Henry, Ward 4**

Town Clerk Barnes reported that CM Henry was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

### **CM Colleen Richardson, Ward 5**

Town Clerk Barnes reported that CM Richardson was unable to attend the meeting as she was preparing to relocate temporarily due to work in her building.

### **CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6**

CM Hala Mayers stated that she did not have a report.

## **Public Comments**

Resident Lora Katz asked about the funding for the Field of Dreams. Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the funding sources.

CM Lingua asked how the Sustainable Maryland recertification was progressing and Ms. Katz provided an update. Ms. Katz also discussed the Sustainable Action Plan and encouraged everyone to attend the Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## Discussion Item

### 1. COVID-19 Update on Town operations

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the Framework for Additional On-site and In-person Services. Town Manager Lestitian reported that the Town would follow the County's lead with regard to opening public buildings.

CM Lingua asked about the differences between the County's plan and the Town's plan. Town Manager Lestitian stated that it was his understanding that the opening of County offices would be staggered with many offices not being open for 40 hours a week.

Mayor Thompson discussed the number of COVID-19 cases in the County.

### 2. FY2021 Revenue Analysis

Finance Manager Gentry Jones provided an update on the Town's revenue sources over the first two months of the fiscal year in comparison to the previous three fiscal years.

Finance Manager Gentry Jones explained that real estate taxes were not due until September and the Town would receive its portion in October.

### 3. VeoRide Update

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton introduced Alex Keating of VeoRide and provided an overview of the company. Mr. Keating discussed their product and provided an overview of the service.

CM Lingua asked how often the vehicles were evaluated. Mr. Keating stated that the vehicles were touched daily to include battery swapping, checks of all safety components, disinfecting, and regular maintenance.

CM Lingua asked why VeoRide had a written agreement with University Park, College Park, and the University of Maryland but not Riverdale Park. Mr. Keating stated that it was their understanding that the agreement had been coordinated by the municipalities and the Town had been consulted. Town Manager Lestitian clarified that there was no agreement between the Town and VeoRide.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns about VeoRide and the maintenance of their bikes and scooters.

Mayor Thompson asked if the Council was interested in entering into agreement with VeoRide and perhaps discussing a higher level of service. CM Lingua stated that the Council needed to discuss it further and be very clear on expectations.

Resident Lora Katz stated that she was curious about the speed of the vehicles in relation to speed limits. Mr. Keating discussed how geofencing could create zones for different speed limits. Ms. Katz stated that she would not want the Trolley Trail to become a speedway and a resident focus group may be needed.

Mayor Thompson discussed geofencing at the at University of Texas.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the agreement that was negotiated with the Town's neighbors.

Mr. Keating discussed how the timeframe of operations could be adjusted and how local regulations were incorporated into the service.

4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding reimbursement for mowing on 410

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding reimbursement for mowing on 410. Director Lewis reported that the Town Attorney had reviewed the MOU.

Resident Lora Katz asked if the choice of vegetation could change within the 5 years of the agreement. Ms. Katz asked if the grass could be changed to wildflowers (similar to what had been done along some highways) to reduce maintenance costs. Director Lewis stated that she would follow up with SHA. CM Lingua stated that he was open to having something more sustainable and easier to maintain.

5. Update on Municipal Center Project

Public Projects and Services Director Ivy Lewis provided an update on the Municipal Center Project.

CM Lingua asked how much money would remain at Phase 5 of the project and Director Lewis stated that she would provide estimates at a future meeting.

Town Manager Lestitian thanked Director Lewis for moving the project along and making visible and impactful progress. Mayor Thompson and CM Faulx also thanked Director Lewis for her work on the Municipal Center Project.

Resident Lora Katz asked if there was any planning for the DPW building roof and if there would be an opportunity in the future to make more of the roof a light color. Ms. Katz reminded staff to check with Community Forklift as a potential source for materials.

6. Consideration of adding Juneteenth as a Town Holiday

Town Manager John Lestitian stated that he and the staff Leadership Team thought that it was appropriate to recognize and celebrate Juneteenth, an important day for the community.

CM Lingua stated that he thought that the Council should consider adding Juneteenth as a Town holiday and the State of Maryland had taken similar action in 2014. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff recommended that the Town offices be closed, and Juneteenth be added as a paid holiday.

CM Faulx stated that he agreed wholeheartedly, and CM Dixon stated that she fully supported adding Juneteenth as a Town holiday.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that if the Council chose to move forward, an amendment to personnel manual would be needed. There were no objections to preparing legislation for introduction at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting.

CM Lingua asked when the holiday would be observed. Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Council could determine when it was observed, and he would check with other jurisdictions to see when they celebrate the holiday. CM Lingua stated that he thought that it should be observed in the same way that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was observed, on the actual day of the holiday.

#### 7. Update on Partners in Economic Recovery Initiatives

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an update on the Partners in Economic Recovery Initiatives. Director Chelton stated that staff recommended extending the Business License fee deadline and residential permit fee waiver until December 31, 2020.

#### 8. Vision and Commitment to Ethical Governance

There were no comments on the resolution prepared for the Vision and Commitment to Ethical Governance.

#### 9. International Property Maintenance Code – next steps

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of the next steps for adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code.

Resident Lora Katz suggested that staff write an article for the next *Town Crier* so that residents had a better understanding of the International Property Maintenance Code.

#### 10. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council provide feedback to the staff of the draft minutes.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

### **New Business**

CM Lingua stated that M-NCPPC was seeking feedback on projects for the upcoming FY2022 budget. CM Lingua suggested that the letter that was sent last year be revised. There were no objections.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had received a call from the attorney for Riverdale Park Station and they had two items to come before the Council in September: a Special Permit for an ATM, and a sign for a new pediatric dentist that would require a revision to the DSP.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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