

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Work Session Minutes**  
**October 25, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

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

**Absent**

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Agenda Approval**

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

Mayor Thompson stated that there would not be a Report of a Closed Meeting as a Closed Meeting had not been held.

**Presentation**

Capital Bikeshare Update: Erv T. Beckert, Prince George's County DPW&T  
Development Services Director Ryan Chelton introduced Erv T. Beckert of Prince George's County DPW&T and provided an overview the Capital Bikeshare locations in Town as well as the proposed location at Tanglewood Drive and Riverdale Road.

Mr. Beckert discussed the Capital Bikeshare site at Tanglewood Drive and Riverdale Road and reported that it was a good site with regard to connectivity.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the considerations with regard to selecting a Capital Bikeshare location: connectivity; investment east of the river; location near a population center; micro mobility; and consistency with Town's vision and commitment statements and goals of the Mayor and Council.

CM Lingua stated that he was glad to see a location east of the Anacostia River and hoped that the location would do well. CM Lingua asked if the location was a good fit related to metrics and location. Mr. Beckert replied in the affirmative and discussed the environmental and connectivity considerations.

CM Sadiq asked if 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Riverdale Road been considered as a location. Mr. Beckert replied that the County was very open to suggestions on location. Town Manager Lestitian noted that it was easier to install a Capital Bikeshare station on public property versus private property. Town Manager Lestitian stated that a pocket park was planned for 54<sup>th</sup> Place and may be a consideration in the future.

CM Sadiq asked if there were plans to make Riverdale Road more bike friendly. Mr. Beckert discussed multi-use paths as an option for cyclists and noted that there was very limited space for a multi-use path along Riverdale Road.

Resident Dan Behrend asked, via chat message, if the initial site located at Queensbury Road and Taylor Road was included in the TAP 8 Grant. Mr. Beckert replied in the affirmative and stated that the County wanted to work with the Town to find the best location.

Mr. Behrend asked, via chat message, if the reconstruction of the Riverdale Road bridge would impact the timing and placement of the new station at the proposed location. Mr. Beckert stated that he doubted that there would be significant impact and the County would be able to work around it.

Mr. Behrend stated, via chat message, that he was excited about the expansion of Capital Bikeshare and the location proposed by the Town seemed good, especially if there would be another station coming to the Purple Line.

CM Lingua stated that he thought that the proposed site made sense and would support the Town's Walk, Bike, Drive Initiative.

Mayor Thompson stated that the Council could take an official position at the Legislative Meeting next week. Mayor Thompson stated that the proposed location was a fantastic option.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- COVID-19 update: numbers are decreasing nicely, but still not done; still encourages everyone to get vaccinated, mask, wash your hands, and maintain social distance
- Received questions regarding Halloween holiday: Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the Town's statement regarding Halloween
- Mayor Thompson encouraged those who plan to participate in trick-or-treating to do so as safely as possible

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager John Lestitian reported:

- COVID-19 reminders: wear masks, social distance, wash hands, get vaccinated
- COVID-19 vaccination clinic to be held at the Farmer's Market on October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Trolley Trail Lighting project will start in early December

- Town Hall and DPW will be closed on Veterans Day; wreath placement on 11/11; Mayor's comments will be via video and include photo montage
- Budget season has arrived, and staff will be sharing the Budget calendar soon; will start a bit earlier this year

## **Council Committee & Ward Reports**

### **CM Richard Smith, Ward 1**

CM Richard Smith Ward 1:

- Great opportunity to meet with Riverdale Park Business Association; encouraged them to take all steps possible to end the pandemic (vaccine mandates, masks, etc.)
- Will be attending Riverdale Park Station HOA meeting this week
- Halloween: did not trick-or-treat last year but plan to do so safely this year; respect those who will not be participating again this year

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

CM David Lingua reported:

- CKAR CDC updates: County DPW&T has cleared the Edmonston Road Rain Garden site located in front of Fletcher's field in preparation for planting on October 28<sup>th</sup> (20 trees and 44 shrubs to be planted)
- Prior to Halloween: Boos and Bites event at Town Center in partnership with Greater Riverdale Thrives; have fun but please wear a mask and social distance as best you can.

### **CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4**

CM Thomas Sadiq did not have a report.

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

CM Hala Mayers did not have a report.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Discussion Items**

1. Curb Cut Request: 4901 Sheridan Street

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of the permit request and introduced the applicant, Mr. Karl Granzow.

Mayor Thompson asked about the design of the house and Mr. Granzow stated that it would be different from those that were built in other areas of Town.

Mayor Thompson asked if a street tree would be removed, and Mr. Granzow stated that he was unsure but noted if a tree could be planted then they would do so.

CM Lingua asked about the placement of the driveway. Mr. Granzow described the location relative to the site plan provided.

Mayor Thompson stated that he was thankful of steps taken to preserve trees.

CM Lingua stated that he looked forward to seeing the new home.

Mayor Thompson stated that the request may be placed on the Consent Agenda. There were no objections.

## 2. FY2022 Revenue Update

Finance and Employee Services Director Paul Smith provided an overview of the FY2022 revenue sources in comparison to the previous three years.

CM Lingua asked about accounts 4401 and 4402 for the Safe Speed Students program and Director Smith stated that they related to when the tickets were paid (current year and prior year).

Mayor Thompson stated that he appreciated the reports as well as the associated explanations.

## 3. Invitation to Bid No. 2021-004 Roadway Repair Projects

Director of Public Projects and Services Ivy Lewis provided an overview of the procurement process for Invitation to Bid No. 2021-004 Roadway Repair Projects and the project timeline. Director Lewis stated that staff would recommend a contractor and request authorization for the Town Manager to sign a contract at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative Meeting.

Director Lewis reported that twelve (12) bids were received for the project and the amounts of the bids were widespread. Director Lewis stated that seven (7) of the twelve (12) bids were deemed to be unresponsive as they did not provide all of the information required by the ITB and two bids were extremely low, likely necessitating change orders. Director Lewis discussed the remaining bids and bid amounts related to the CIP budget.

CM Smith asked if any of the bids were from contractors located within the Town. Director Lewis stated that she was not aware of any contractors located in Town, but many were located within Prince George's County.

CM Lingua asked how the increased project cost would impact other planned projects. Director Lewis discussed the options available and stated that staff would have a recommendation at the upcoming Legislative Meeting.

There were no public questions or comments.

## 4. Ordinance 2021-OR-09 regarding Town Personnel Manual – Mandatory Vaccinations

Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff seek adoption of Ordinance 2021-OR-09 at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative meeting.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that there was continued outreach to all staff at Monday meetings and very little feedback had been received from staff. Town Manager Lestitian stated that this was the right course of action to create the safest work environment possible.

CM Lingua asked if the ordinance had been reviewed by the Town Attorney and Town Manager Lestitian reported that the ordinance was originally authored by the Town Attorney with staff recommending edits.

Mayor Thompson stated that he recently had an interview with a UMD journalism student on this topic.

There were no public questions or comments.

#### 5. Proposed Creation of Riverdale Park Board of Elections

Director of Administrative Services Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the proposed creation of a Riverdale Park Board of Elections and staff recommendations regarding the role of the Board of Elections. Director Barnes discussed the results of outreach to municipalities in the area.

CM Smith stated that he was very supportive of the concept and asked that there be a focus on registering as many eligible Riverdale Park voters as possible.

CM Lingua asked about the proposed timeline and Director Barnes provided an overview of the anticipated timeline.

Mayor Thompson stated that he recently attended a forum for the Town of Chevy Chase regarding the Town's experience with voters under the age of 18 years old. Mayor Thompson reported that Takoma Park had a Board of Youth Voters.

CM Smith suggested including a youth member on the Board of Elections.

There were no public questions or comments.

#### 6. Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC) Membership

Administrative Services Director Barnes provided an overview of the status of Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee (M-UTC) membership.

Mayor Thompson discussed the timeline for the Planning Board's approval of the Town's recommendation.

CM Smith stated that he would be happy to serve on the M-UTC.

Mayor Thompson stated that this item would be placed on the regular agenda for the upcoming Legislative Meeting.

#### 7. Redistricting Process for Prince George's County

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the recent action taken by the Council in relation to the County's redistricting process. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff requested direction regarding any further action to be taken.

Mayor Thompson reported that PGCMA met and voted to also send a letter expressing displeasure and requesting information about the motivations behind the map. Mayor Thompson reported that the letter was currently being drafted.

Mayor Thompson discussed the timeline for the next steps in the redistricting process and recommended that the topic remain on the Legislative Meeting agenda.

Mayor Thompson asked that staff reach out to County CM Hawkins' office to get a copy of the letter that was sent to residents.

CM Lingua suggested that the Town recommend that an additional public hearing be held so that there were at least two opportunities for residents to weigh in on the map. Mayor Thompson stated that the suggestion seemed reasonable.

#### 8. Minutes

Mayor Thompson requested that the Council make staff aware of any changes needed to the minutes.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.