

**Town of Riverdale Park  
Work Session Minutes  
October 31, 2022  
7:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

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

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Work Session to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Agenda Approval**

The Walk, Bike, Drive Initiative presentation was rescheduled for the November Legislative Meeting.

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

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan Thompson reported:

- Wished everyone a happy Halloween; enjoyed seeing trick-or-treaters
- COVID-19 Update: still in trough between waves but seeing an uptick in cases; reminder to stay safe; Town will be distributing masks in the coming weeks
- Reminder regarding early voting

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager John Lestitian reported:

- Wished everyone a happy Halloween
- Final Walk & Talk of 2022 held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, will resume in the spring of 2023
- First Community Conversations: November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, topic to be discussed- townwide redistricting
- LM-UTC meeting: November 2<sup>nd</sup>; agenda includes proposed development, The Lofts
- Town Seal Redesign Committee will meet again next week
- Veterans Day: wreath laying on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Mayor's comments via video message

- Currently accepting toys for annual toy drive at the Police Department or Town Hall on Wednesdays

## Council Committee & Ward Reports

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

CM Richard Smith reported:

- Discussion regarding Halloween and trick-or-treat
- Reminder to get out to vote as there are a lot of great candidates
- Walk & Talk: good feedback from residents, thank you to staff for coordinating, heard a lot of feedback about the Lofts, will be reviewing proposed development at upcoming M-UTC meeting, more community engagement is needed
- Town Seal Design Committee meeting: great history from Mayor Thompson, will meet again on November 10<sup>th</sup>, will be seeking community input, looking forward to getting started soon
- So proud of staff for mask distribution, thank you for making it happen

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

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Town staff are always available and hardworking
- Discussion regarding unveiling of portrait of Adam Plummer, event already at capacity, thank you to Maya Davis, doing great things at Riversdale
- Town Seal Design Committee meeting: first meeting was great; Mayor Thompson and CM Lingua are excellent resources for Town history; thank you to residents and CMs that participate
- Discussion of first voting experience and benefits of voting by mail

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

CM David Lingua reported:

- Upcoming Community Health Fair: November 12<sup>th</sup> at Parkdale High School, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., free, insurance and ids not required; overview of community stakeholders; contact Jeanette Mitchell with CKAR CDC for details
- Reminder to get out and vote, the best way to be heard
- Calls regarding weekend repairs and work happening without a posted permit: may need to consider an expanded amount of weekend hours for Code Enforcement or more staff

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

CM Thomas Sadiq reported:

- Concerns regarding Parkdale High School students continue
- Recent EMT response and possible access issues related to on street parking

*Discussion:*

Chief of Police Rosa Guixens provided an overview of her recent meeting regarding the fence at Parkdale High School and the need to extend it further.

### **CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5**

CM Karen Mejia wished everyone a happy Halloween and stated that she did not have a report.

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

CM Hala Mayers wished everyone a happy Halloween and stated that she did not have a report.

### **Public Comments**

Donna Holland, a resident of Madison Hill, thanked staff for their efforts to stem the flow of students from Parkdale High School.

### **Discussion Items**

1. Fence Permit Request: 6-foot wood fence at 4707 Sheridan Street

Administrative Services Director Jessica Barnes provided an overview of the fence permit request for 4707 Sheridan Street and introduced the applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Clyne.

CM Faux asked Mr. and Mr. Clyne about their plans to remove the chain link fence and noted that the Town had a grant program to assist with the cost of removal. CM Faulx asked that the fence permit request be added to the Consent Agenda for November 7<sup>th</sup> and that the applicants talk to their neighbors about the fence.

Mayor Thompson asked about the section of fencing along the rear property line and Mr. Clyne discussed his desire to make the fencing uniform.

CM Lingua asked if the applicants had spoken with their neighbors and Ms. Clyne replied that they had talked with some of their neighbors but planned to talk with the other neighbors tomorrow.

2. Permit Parking Program

Director Barnes discussed the Town's current permit parking program and provided an overview of the draft language to revise the program.

CM Smith asked about enforcement and Chief Guixens provided an overview. Town Manager Lestitian discussed revising enforcement procedures and utilizing technology and additional staff. CM Smith suggested using enforcement officers other than police officers.

CM Smith discussed the requirements of his HOA and asked if the Town could revoke parking permits if residents were not using their garage. Town Manager Lestitian replied that his initial thought was no, but he would check with the Town Attorney.

3. Redistricting Committee Update

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the current ward boundaries and the 2020 Census counts. Mayor Thompson discussed the inclusion of the population of the Pilot House, not included in the 2020 Census count, following a discussion with the Town Attorney. Mayor Thompson stated that each ward would be approximately 1225 residents and the Pilot House had approximately 300 to 400 people. Mayor Thompson stated that the Redistricting Committee had assigned a value of 350 people for the Pilot House.

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of three draft ward boundary maps and stated that the Redistricting Committee was seeking public input on the draft ward maps at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Community Conversation.

CM Lingua asked for a copy of the draft ward boundary maps. Mayor Thompson stated that the Council would make the final decision on the ward boundaries, and he was happy to share the maps or meet with CMs individually.

CM Smith stated that the draft ward boundary maps looked reasonable and thanked Mayor Thompson and the committee for their hard work.

Mayor Thompson reviewed the legal requirements and geographical requirements of redistricting and discussed the level of detail required to make the draft ward boundary maps work.

CM Faulx thanked Mayor Thompson and the Redistricting Committee for their work and stated that the 350 residents of the Pilot House deserved to be counted.

#### 4. FY2023 Revenue Update

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones provided an overview of the revenue categories in comparison to the previous three fiscal years.

There were no questions or comments.

#### 5. Blighted Property Legislation

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of the proposed legislation to address blighted properties.

CM Smith asked if a broader term could be used to address bamboo and discussed plants that were similar to bamboo.

CM Lingua asked for clarification regarding the definition of bamboo and whether it was invasive. Director Chelton provided clarification. Mayor Thompson stated that the Town Attorney could likely provide a legal definition. Mayor Thompson discussed invasive species, other than bamboo, that could cause damage.

CM Lingua stated that he would have liked to have more time to review the draft ordinance prior to the meeting. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the factors that impact the timing of packet materials.

Mayor Thompson stated that CM Lingua and CM Smith would like to see more options with regard to bamboo.

Mayor Thompson asked that staff also explore with the Town Attorney how to handle existing situations where bamboo had spread.

#### 6. Micromobility Standards

Director Chelton provided an overview of the staff recommendation regarding a new section of the Town Code to establish a permit program and guidelines for micromobility companies.

CM Smith asked about the areas designated for depositing micromobility vehicles and suggested that transit hubs (near the MARC station or future Purple Line stations) be considered. Director Chelton discussed the options available. CM Smith stated that the long-term goal was to get vehicles off the road and to create easier ways for people to travel.

CM Sadiq discussed his experience using Veoride in College Park.

Mayor Thompson stated that the overall structure of the program was good.

CM Lingua stated that the legislation was a good start, and the Town should also look at the ways that other jurisdiction addressed similar issues. CM Lingua suggested focusing on connectivity by designating areas near bus stations or other mass transit options as vehicle deposit locations.

Mayor Thompson suggested creating a process for reviewing vehicle deposit locations. Town Manager Lestitian recommended that the designation of vehicle deposit locations be made by resolution and not necessarily by ordinance. Mayor Thompson stated that the Town would also need to work with vendors to determine vehicle deposit locations.

CM Lingua suggested codifying a review in transition provision. Mayor Thompson suggested that the vendor provide input as well.

#### 7. Section O-6 of the Personnel Manual regarding Mandatory Vaccinations

Finance and Employee Services Director Paul Smith provided an overview of the vaccination policy and recommended amendments to Section O-6 of the Personnel Manual regarding Mandatory Vaccinations.

CM Smith asked about the sunset provision that was included in the recommended amendments. Director Smith discussed the reason for the sunset provision. CM Smith stated that he did not think that the sunset provision was needed. Mayor Thompson stated that if the disease waned enough, it could become a legal issue for the Town to continue requiring vaccinations.

Mayor Thompson stated that there was a third approved vaccination available and suggested adding FDA or CDC approval to the proposed amendments.

Mayor Thompson stated that some of the proposed language needed to be revised as it did not flow properly, and CM Smith agreed.

Mayor Thompson suggested adding language so that the policy did not sunset on the exact anniversary date.

8. Ordinance 2022-OR-06 regarding changes to Ethics Ordinance

Mayor Thompson discussed the changes to the Town's Ethics Ordinance as required by the State Ethics Commission.

9. Minutes

Mayor Thompson asked that the Council make staff aware of any changes needed to be made to the minutes.

**New Business**

There were no items of new business.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.