

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Legislative Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5, 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 Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager  
Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services/Town Clerk  
Ryan Chelton, Development Services Director  
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  
Marissa Davis, Community Safety Programs Coordinator

**Absent**

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote:  
5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

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

## **Presentation**

### Walk, Bike, Drive, Safety Initiative Update

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the Walk, Bike, Drive Safety Initiative to include the four Es: Education, Environmental Enhancement, Engineering, and Enforcement.

Ms. Marissa Davis, Community Safety Programs Manager, provided an overview of the education and outreach efforts.

Town Manager Lestitian discussed the recent roadway repairs in Town Center as well as the 13 planned roadway improvement projects for FY2023. Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the preferred design, continental, for crosswalks. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the options related to improved signage, and the upcoming request for increased funding. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the concept of reconfiguration of Lafayette Avenue and Natoli Place. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the strategic use of raised sidewalk.

Ms. Davis discussed the results of special enforcement operations in Riverdale Park Station. Ms. Davis discussed some of the speeds that had been captured by the speed cameras. Ms. Davis provided an update on accident and enforcement data.

CM Smith asked when the maintenance in Town Center had been done and Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the work that was completed. CM Smith requested that staff continue to monitor the repairs to determine if they were effective.

CM Smith asked if there was a cost difference between the two designs for crosswalks and Town Manager Lestitian replied that there was not a cost difference. CM Smith stated that he supported the continental design if that was the most effective design.

CM Smith thanked staff for their work and asked if there would be signage for cyclists as well. Town Manager Lestitian stated that he would check with Director Lewis and ensure that signage for cyclists was included.

With regard to enforcement, CM Smith asked if there were any patterns or correlations related to the DUIs, and Chief Guixens noted that the majority of DUIs were along Baltimore Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue but there were no specific correlations.

CM Faulx thanked staff for the presentation and information shared. CM Faulx discussed a recent article related to an accident in Montgomery County where a cyclist was killed and stated that he was glad that the Town was taking action to make Town streets safer.

CM Faulx stated that he favored the crosswalk design that was supported by experts in their field.

CM Lingua thanked staff and their efforts to provide more information. CM Lingua stated that he was not opposed to the continental style of crosswalk. CM Lingua discussed cut through traffic and the impact of speed cameras. CM Lingua discussed the desire for speed humps along a portion of Taylor Road to address speeding.

CM Lingua asked if the police department was prepared to handle field sobriety tests for driving under the influence of cannabis. Chief Guixens stated that drug recognition officers were trained

to determine those who were under the influence of drugs. Ms. Davis provided more information.

CM Lingua discussed changing the culture related to driving in Town and the importance of emphasizing safe driving.

CM Smith asked for more information about the field tests related to driving under the influence. Town Manager Lestitian stated that staff would provide more information following the meeting.

Mayor Thompson stated that he supported the crosswalk design that worked the best and noted that there was likely research to show which was the most effective. Mayor Thompson stated that engineering controls were better than administrative controls.

Resident Lora Katz stated that it was important to have consistency throughout Town but she liked the continental design.

Mr. Byron White of Mead & Hunt discussed the differences between speed bumps, speed humps, and speed tables as well as their typical use.

Ms. Katz asked about other technology such as 3D art. Mr. White discussed the requirement of arrows for speed humps/bumps. Mr. White stated that 3D art was only effective at certain angles and, in his experience, were more of a short-term educational effort and not necessarily a serious application.

Ms. Katz asked if a speed bump could be installed at an intersection and if it was more effective to focus on intersections. Mr. White stated that he had seen speed humps at stop signs in the Town of Somerset, but it was hard to see the need for speed reduction if drivers were already stopping at a stop sign.

CM Lingua discussed visual consistency and suggested that the Town look at installing double yellow lines.

CM Smith thanked Mr. White for his presentation. CM Smith asked that the double yellow lines be added to Woodberry Street and Mr. White stated that they were included in the planned improvements to the street.

Mayor Thompson asked about speed bumps at intersections and stop signs. Mr. White stated that the Town of Somerset had a vertical traffic device approximately every 350 feet.

Mayor Thompson noted that the speed hump with an integrated crosswalk may be a possibility near Mabel Munch Park.

Ms. Katz reminded the Mayor and Council and staff about the impact of speed humps and bumps on cyclists.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving; enjoyed a brisket from 250 BBQ.
- Represented the Town at the inauguration for County Executive and County Council.
- Met with County CM Olson.

- Update on (LMUTC) development projects: the Lofts will be back on January 4<sup>th</sup>; no recent information regarding the Chambers property redevelopment.
- Discussion regarding Twitter
- COVID-19 update: cases and hospitalization increasing; up 20% over the last week; infections from Thanksgiving likely reason; get vaccinated, wear a mask; COVID-Flu-RSV: ICUs at 130% in Canada; protect yourself and your family
- Looking forward to the holiday season, will be in Town and spending time with family. Wished everyone a peaceful, happy, and safe holiday season.

## **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Town Hall: open for in-person services on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; COVID safe practices implemented; tracking of volume of people doing business in person.
- Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement: attorneys are working collaboratively to finalize the agreement and related ordinance.
- Holiday events: holiday party bags, holiday lights contest, toy drive and distribution
- Holiday closings: Town Hall and Department of Public Works (DPW) operations closed on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- No trash or yard waste collection on December 26<sup>th</sup> due to closure of County landfills
- Upcoming meeting with Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) regarding the Town Seal Redesign project.
- Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) Legislative Meet and Greet scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>; let Director Barnes know if you plan to attend.
- Next Community Conversation via Zoom to discuss Walk, Bike, and Drive Safety Initiative.
- Update on Municipal Center Project: anticipate permit issued for Town Hall and Police Department within the next 10 days, staff will meet with contractor this week to discuss mobilization.

## **Monthly Finance Report**

Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services, reported, subject to audit:

### November

Revenue \$477,571

Expenditures \$379,484

### Year-to-Date

Revenue \$5,926,770

Expenditures \$2,272,000

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

### Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua stated that he was pleased to see where the Town was at the halfway mark of the fiscal year.

**Correspondence Summary**

There was no correspondence on the Correspondence Summary included in the Meeting Materials.

**Fire Department Report**

There was no Fire Department Report.

**Council Committee & Ward Reports**

**CM Richard Smith, Ward 1**

CM Richard Smith reported:

- Thank you to staff for the presentation.
- Ordered from Texas250 BBQ the day before Thanksgiving.
- Thank you for the update on the Town Seal and upcoming NDC meeting.
- Maryland mobile gaming apps are now online; responsible participation supports education.

**CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Happy holidays.
- Looking forward to quality time off with loved ones.

**CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua reported:

- No notice of CKAR CDC meeting this week, go to [ckarcdc.org](http://ckarcdc.org) for more information.
- Closing of longstanding Town business: 4 Steps Creative Learning Child Care Services on Taylor Road
- Happy holidays to all.

**CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4**

CM Thomas Sadiq reported:

- Merry Christmas, no report.

**CM Hala Mayer, Ward 6**

CM Hala Mayers reported:

- Happy holidays to all.

**Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on non-agenda items or Consent Agenda items.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Request: 6-foot wood fence at 4700 Nicholson Street

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2. Minutes: November 7, 2022, Legislative Meeting; October 31, 2022, Work Session; April 23, 2022, FY2023 Budget Public Hearing

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Lingua seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

**Legislative Action Item**

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-07 regarding Property Maintenance Code Modifications

CM Faulx introduced Ordinance 2022-OR-07 regarding Property Maintenance Code Modifications.

2. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-08 regarding Vacant Property Registration

CM Smith introduced Ordinance 2022-OR-08 regarding Vacant Property Registration.

3. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-09 regarding Micromobility Standards

CM Lingua introduced Ordinance 2022-OR-09 regarding Micromobility Standards

4. Introduction of Ordinance 2022-OR-10 regarding Section O-6 of the Personnel Manual regarding Mandatory Vaccinations

CM Smith introduced Ordinance 2022-OR-10 regarding Section O-6 of the Personnel Manual regarding Mandatory Vaccinations.

5. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-16 to extend the Farmers Market Dollars Program

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-16 to extend the Farmers Market Dollars Program. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of the requested action.

CM Smith asked that staff seek ways to continue the programs after the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds expired.

CM Faulx stated that he was very proud of the Farmers Market Dollars program.

6. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-17 to extend the Small Business Assistance Grant Program

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-17 to extend the Small Business Assistance Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

7. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-19 to extend the amended Emergency Repair Grant Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-19 to extend the amended Emergency Repair Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua thanked staff for extending program.

8. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-20 to extend the Flood Prevention and Damage Mitigation Grant Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-20 to extend the Flood Prevention and Damage Mitigation Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua thanked staff for extending program through next year and stated that he wanted to look for ways to continue the program into the future.

CM Smith noted that climate change needed to be considered in all action taken.

Resident Heidi Hertig stated that they were interested in learning more about the program. Director Chelton stated that he would share the link to the program on the Town's website and his contact information in a chat message.

9. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-21 to extend the Neighborhood Safety Improvement Grant Program

CM Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-21 to extend the Neighborhood Safety Improvement Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

Resident Lora Katz discussed best practices related to darksky.org and the Town's new lighting standards.

10. Motion to authorize the waiving of residential permit fees until December 31, 2023

CM Faulx made a motion to authorize the waiving of residential permit fees until December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye



CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

CM Lingua thanked staff for finding a way to continue to waive residential permit fees.

11. Motion to authorize the donation of \$3,750 for shoes for Riverdale Elementary School (RES) students.

CM Faulx made a motion to authorize the donation of \$3,750 for shoes for Riverdale Elementary School (RES) students. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Director Barnes provided more information.

CM Faulx stated that he was happy to support the motion as 91% of RES students received Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs).

CM Smith stated that the number of students receiving FARMs showed that families were having trouble getting enough food to eat. CM Smith suggested submitting a request to the federal and state delegation to ensure that funding was dramatically increased for these types of needs.

**New Business**

1. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a sole source agreement with Axon to renew and consolidate current contracts for Body Worn Cameras and TASER for an amount of \$182,093.35.

CM Lingua made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a sole source agreement with Axon to renew and consolidate current contracts for Body Worn Cameras and TASER for an amount of \$182,093.35. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Chief of Police Guixens provided an overview.

Town Manager Lestitian stated that the Town had body worn cameras for many years and they were a vital tool for transparency. Town Manager Lestitian stated that TASERs were considered to be a less-than-lethal use of force and an important tool for police officers. Town Manager Lestitian noted that the agreement was a sole source agreement with a sole source letter included in the meeting materials.

CM Lingua stated that he remembered working with staff on the body worn camera program and the Town was ahead of the curve on their implementation.

CM Faulx stated that de-escalation in public schools had been problematic and at times physical restraint had to be utilized. CM Faulx stated that body worn cameras benefitted the Town, residents, and the police department.

2. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a Task Order Contract with Pennoni for Engineering Services for FY2023 CIP Road Improvement Projects for an amount not-to-exceed \$89,768.40.

CM Faulx made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a Task Order Contract with Pennoni for Engineering Services for FY2023 CIP Road Improvement Projects for an amount not-to-exceed \$89,768.40. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Town Manager Lestitian provided an overview of the requested action.

CM Lingua stated that the requested action supported the Walk, Bike, Drive Safety Initiative.

3. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-18 to establish the Commercial Appearance Grant Program

CM Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-18 to establish the Commercial Appearance Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

Director Chelton provided an overview of the Commercial Appearance Grant Program.

CM Smith asked that staff make the businesses along Maryland Avenue aware of the program.

4. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-22 to amend the Business Growth Grant Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-22 to amend the Business Growth Grant Program. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

Director Chelton provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the program.

Mayor Thompson stated that the expiration date was 2024 due to the timing of the expiration of other programs.

CM Lingua stated that he appreciated staff's work to make the program available.

5. Motion to extend the expiration date of parking permits through March 1, 2023

CM Lingua made a motion to extend the expiration date of parking permits through March 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Discussion:*

Director Barnes provided an overview of the recommendation to extend the expiration date of parking permits through March 1, 2023.

**Unfinished Business**

1. Ordinance 2022-OR-11 regarding Permit Parking

Director Barnes provided an overview of Ordinance 2022-OR-11 regarding Permit Parking.

2. Redistricting Update

Mayor Thompson presented two draft ward boundary maps that the Redistricting Committee would review at their December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mayor Thompson discussed the direction given by the Redistricting Committee regarding minor changes to the draft maps.

CM Smith discussed some additional considerations for the second draft map.

CM Faulx discussed the map that he favored.

CM Lingua discussed his concerns regarding the division of Oglethorpe Street and Riverside Drive.

3. Appointment for Board of Elections

Mayor Thompson stated that he had received a request from Michael D. Lynch of Oliver Street to serve as the under 18 years old member of the Board of Elections.

CM Faulx made a motion to appoint Michael D. Lynch to serve as the under 18 years old member of the Board of Elections. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

4. Town Manager Performance Review Process

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the Town Manager's performance review process.

**Adjournment**

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye