

Town of Riverdale Park
Legislative Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023
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 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

Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4

Call to Order

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 7:30 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 Mayers.
Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
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.

Presentations

North County Composting Project: David (Dave) Brosch, Composting Municipalities Organizing Now (CMON)

Mr. David Brosch provided an overview of Composting Municipalities Organizing Now and the need for a moderate sized composting facility, to augment the County's current facility, for municipalities in the area. Mr. Brosch discussed the proposed program and how it would help to implement the County's recently adopted Climate Action Plan.

CM Lingua asked about the needs for a potential site location and Mr. Brosch discussed the features needed for a site for the composting facility.

Mayor Thompson discussed the yard waste composting facility in College Park and Mr. Brosch stated that College Park was interested in another site that would handle materials other than leaves.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was space available at the Beltsville Agricultural facility and Mr. Brosch discussed his outreach and feedback regarding potential sites.

CM Lingua asked if there was a cost estimate available. Mr. Brosch stated that there was no cost estimate at this time, but he would come back to the Council when there was more information. Mr. Brosch discussed potential cost share and staffing options.

Mayor Thompson stated that the Mayor and Council would like to be informed as the project progressed.

Economic Update: Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services

Deputy Director of Finance Services Gentry Jones discussed the economy from a macro standpoint to include federal interest rates, U.S. inflation, U.S. retail sales, U.S. jobless claims, and State of Maryland revenue. Deputy Director Jones discussed the overall impact of federal interest rates, U.S. inflation, U.S. retail sales, U.S. jobless claims, State of Maryland revenue, and the potential impact on the Town's budget.

CM Lingua thanked Deputy Director Jones for the presentation and discussed the impact of slower real estate sales.

CM Faulx thanked Deputy Director Jones and CM Lingua for the presentation.

Mayor Thompson asked about the personal income graph and Deputy Director Jones stated that the graph showed the change year over year.

Mayor Thompson discussed Comptroller Franchot's estimate for state income and the potential impact of revenue related to the legalization of marijuana. Deputy Director Jones stated that he was unsure if the revenue related to the legalization of marijuana was included in the Comptroller's estimates.

Budget Assumptions and Budget Priorities, Guidelines, Challenges, and Opportunities: Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services

Deputy Director Jones discussed the Budget Assumptions for the preparation of the FY2024 proposed budget. Deputy Director Jones discussed the eight building blocks that provide structure for the creation of the proposed budget to include 5-year projections, Riverdale Park values, a conservative approach, the Town vision and commitment statements, guiding principles, debt service goals, fund balance goals, and best practices.

Deputy Director Jones discussed the key components of the budget assumptions to include operating revenue, operating expenditures, capital improvement, as well as the variables for each component.

Deputy Director Jones discussed the budget priorities, guidelines, challenges, and opportunities for the FY2024 proposed budget.

CM Smith thanked Deputy Director Jones for the presentation and asked if the Town's approach to debt would change if the interest rates dropped. Deputy Director Jones provided a response. CM Smith stated that he would like to be more involved in the budget preparation process. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the budget process as it related to the Town Charter.

CM Faulx stated that he was interested in examples of public-private partnerships.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- Happy new year
- Discussion regarding recent hit and run death on Kenilworth Avenue
- Overview of major gas outage at multifamily building in Town and staff efforts
- COVID-19/Flu/RSV update: cases down, new variant, safety reminders
- The Lofts will be at the February LMUTC meeting.
- Seeking update on Riverdale Park Station infrastructure transfer
- New business in Town Center: Manifest Bread opens tomorrow.
- Town Manager's performance evaluation reminder to Council
- Special Work Session on redistricting

Town Manager Report

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Manifest Bakery: ribbon cutting scheduled for Thursday at 2 pm
- Town Hall and Department of Public Works (DPW) operations closed on January 16th in observance of MLK Day
- Special Work Session on January 17th to discuss redistricting.
- Town Seal Design Committee: meeting on January 19th, will review proposal from Neighborhood Design Center (NDC)
- Upcoming Community Conversation on FY2024 Budget
- Cybersecurity training: details coming soon.
- Item on Correspondence Summary: kudos for holiday decorations; all 147 town-owned streetlights decorated this year. Thank you to DPW team for making it happen.
- National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day: thank you to the Town's police officers for all they do to keep the community safe.

- Riverdale Pak Station Special Enforcement Update: 18 traffic stops, 11 warnings, and 7 citations issues.
- Update on road transfer status: now waiting for the County to complete their review. Mayor Thompson asked if there was any way to expedite the County's review, perhaps a letter from the Mayor and Council. CM Smith stated that he had the same question.

Monthly Finance Report

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

December

Revenue: \$275,009

Expenditures: \$842,333

Year-to-Date

Revenue: \$5,395,073

Expenditures: \$3,795,354

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

There were no questions or comments from the Mayor, Council, or public.

Correspondence Summary

The Correspondence Summary was 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 their work.
- Happy new year!
- The Lofts: disappointed to have not received any additional information from the developer and no community outreach.
- Discussion regarding road transfer; plans to introduce new business item to send a letter requested expedited service.
- Manifest Bread opening
- Excited Wes Moore will be sworn in as Governor.

- Anniversary of death of Hyattsville Mayor Ward, new suicide hotline number 988

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Discussion regarding mental health; please seek help if you need it.
- Manifest Bread- excited about their opening
- Pedestrian fatality in Ward 6; State highways in Town need to be addressed; need to continue to advocate for safe passage through Riverdale Park

CM David Lingua, Ward 3

CM David Lingua reported:

- January 16th: CKAR CDC Day of Service events, visit ckarcdc.org for more information.
- CKAR CDC has reached out to SHA in the past regarding improvements on Kenilworth Avenue, specifically the median ways and crosswalks.
- Discussion regarding different variants of COVID-19, “Stay positive and test negative”, still need to stay vigilant, get vaccinated, consider wearing masks in areas that are not well ventilated, recovery from COVID-19 can be a long process with long lasting effects; important to stay persistent and patient.
- Happy birthday to Novella Sargusingh, former CM and community member.

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. Minutes: November 21, 2022, Special Legislative Minutes; November 21, 2022, Work Session Minutes

CM Lingua made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. CM Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0-1 (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: Absent
 CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent
 CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Absent

Legislative Action Items

1. Introduction of Ordinance 2023-OR-01 regarding 2023 Town Election

CM Smith introduced Ordinance 2023-OR-01 regarding 2023 Town Election.

CM Lingua clarified the items covered by the ordinance.

2. Introduction of 2023-OR-02 regarding Ward Boundaries

CM Lingua introduced Ordinance 2023-OR-02 regarding Ward Boundaries and provided an overview of the ordinance.

3. Introduction of 2023-OR-03 regarding Ward Boundaries

CM Faulx introduced Ordinance 2023-OR-02 regarding Ward Boundaries.

Mayor Thompson noted that the Ward numbers could be changed and were added to the maps at the request of the Town Attorney.

4. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-07 regarding Property Maintenance Code Modifications

CM Smith made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-07 regarding Property Maintenance Code Modifications. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

Director Chelton stated that the only amendment to the ordinance, since introduction, was the change to the effective date of the ordinance.

5. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-08 regarding Vacant Property Registration

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-08 regarding Vacant Property Registration. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

Director Chelton discussed the amendments made to the ordinance, since introduction, to include the correction of a typo and the change to the effective date of the ordinance.

CM Lingua thanked staff for their work on the legislation.

6. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-09 regarding Micromobility Standards

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-09 regarding Micromobility Standards. The motion was seconded by CM Mayers. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

Director Chelton discussed the amendment made to the ordinance to change the effective date of the ordinance to July 1st.

CM Lingua stated that he was thankful that the Town had addressed micromobility in a definitive way through the ordinance.

Mayor Thompson stated that he was excited to have the legislation in place and was looking forward to the implementation.

Unfinished Business

1. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-11 regarding Permit Parking

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-OR-11. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

CM Lingua stated that the legislation was the result of significant public input and thanked staff for their work.

CM Faulx thanked staff for their work and stated that it was appreciated.

Mayor Thompson stated that it was a difficult topic, but the process for public input was great.

2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-01 regarding Permit Parking Zones

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-01 regarding Permit Parking Zones. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

New Business

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-02 regarding appointment of Board of Code Appeals Members

CM Faulx made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-R-02 regarding the appointment of Board of Code Appeals (BOCA) members. The motion was seconded by CM Lingua. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

Mayor Thompson provided an overview of the resolution and requested action.

CM Lingua thanked the BOCA members for their willingness to serve again.

2. CM Smith made a motion to direct the Mayor to send a letter to County Council representatives with carbon copies to the other members of the County Council requesting that they take any actions that can be taken to expedite the review of the changes and plats that are currently with the County to address pressing public safety issues. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

CM Smith discussed the need for urgent action for the Riverdale Park Station community.

3. CM Smith made a motion to direct the Mayor to send a letter to the District 22 State delegation and the Governor of Maryland, to be sent no sooner than January 20, 2023, requesting additional MARC train service to the Riverdale Park train station. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

Discussion:

CM Smith discussed the need for additional trains to support the transit-oriented development in and around Town. CM Smith noted that there were limited-service trains that could stop at the Riverdale Park train station.

CM Lingua agreed that the limited-service trains could stop at the Riverdale Park train station.

Mayor Thompson disclosed that he owned 50 shares in CSX which were inherited from his grandmother.

Adjournment

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 4-0-1 (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: Absent

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye