

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 12-2-14
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on January 20, 2015

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:32 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi and Charles Bradsher and were present. Council Member Preusch was absent. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Five residents were present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on November 18, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of November 2014. Total income for the month of November was \$81,365 with \$62,702 coming from Income Tax and \$17,407 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$8 was received from Interest Income. Major expenses for November 2014 were \$2,000 for Furnishing, (down payment for new blinds for the Town Hall), \$2,453, for Payroll Expenses, \$1,845 for Grounds Maintenance and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of November 2014 were \$12,545. General Net Income for the month of November was \$68,820. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of November 2014, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,025,902, for the CIP account, the balance was \$195,688 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for November 2014 was \$1,905,943.

Council Member Bradsher made the motion to approve the November Treasurer's report subject to audit. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Town Audit: Council Member Ruspi questioned why the accounting costs are high. Town Treasurer, Chris Wilkinson, replied that she received a bill from the accounting firm, Lindsey and Associates in which she hadn't anticipated.

Committees and Reports

Eric Wenger, Chairman of the Planning Commission reported to the Council that he hadn't heard since the Town had responded to the comments sent back from the state in which the state had said that there is no justification for the by-pass. Mayor Prats had found previous correspondence complementing the Town for planning ahead with the by-pass.

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Chair Wenger also reported that the plats for the Laytonsville Grove development had been reviewed by Town Planner, Stan Benning. Once they are approved, a final site plan can be resubmitted and a hearing conducted.

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that the water main for Phase 3 is being installed. The sales trailer is about to be removed and he will be meeting with the developer regarding a new sign.

MML Montgomery Chapter Legislative Dinner: Mayor Prats announced that the MML Chapter Legislative Dinner will be held on December 18 in Bethesda.

Montgomery County Legislative Delegation Hearing: Mayor Prats reported that he would be testifying at the Montgomery County Legislative Delegation hearing. He will focus on the removal of prohibiting of games at local establishments and also to change from Class H to Class B, which would allow liquor in addition to beer and wine in local establishments. Mayor Prats stated that a survey will go out with the November minutes to get feedback on this issue from Town residents.

Mr. Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road asked about the difference between Class H and Class B and inquired about the Town Survey. Council Member Ruspi stated that if the results of the survey showed that there is no support for this change, Mayor Prats can go back to the legislature and have this removed from the bill. Lengthy discussion on this issue took place at the October Town Council Meeting.

Pedestrian Safety: Regarding pedestrian safety on Route 108, Mayor Prats has contacted the State Highway Administration.

Tree Lighting: Mayor Prats announced that the Annual Tree Lighting will be held on December 5 at 7 p.m.

Town Parade: Mayor Prats said that he is working with the Laytonsville Elementary School Principal to find a coordinator for the Town Parade which is scheduled to be held on May 16, 2015.

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Street Trees: Mayor Prats reported that he will get estimates to remove the dead tree on Mobley Farm Drive and an estimate to plant a new tree in its place.

Town Hall Closed for Holidays: The Town Hall will be closed from December 24 to January 2 for the holidays.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Donated Furniture: Mayor Prats stated that a local businessman, Dana Rawlings has offered to donate furniture to be used in the Town Hall. Eric Wenger offered to pick it up and deliver it to the Town Hall.

New Business:

Nominations for Council Vacancy: Mayor Prats announced that 3 people were nominated to fill the vacant Town Council seat. They are Jim O’Hair from Mobley Farm Drive, Jen Sizemore of South Montgomery Ave., and Larry Halverson of Laytonsville Road. Mayor Prats stated that he would like discussion and a vote to occur at the January Town Council Meeting.

Parks and Trails Ordinance: Mayor Prats stated that he was advised by Legal Council to split the Parks and Trails Ordinance into an ordinance and a resolution. He introduced Ordinance No. 01-15 to define and establish procedures, regulations and to prohibit and regulate certain activities with respect to the protection and preservation of parks, trails, open spaces and other properties owned, controlled or managed by the Town of Laytonsville.

Mayor Prats then introduced Resolution No. 01-15 which is to establish rules, regulations for the preservation, use and authorized activities with respect to parks, trails, open space and properties owned, controlled or maintained by the Town of Laytonsville.

A hearing will be held prior to the January Town Council meeting on January 6. There will be 30 days to get public input and then it will be voted on in February.

Council:

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Council Member Ruspi reported that the swales in from of the Simonetti house are always filled with water. Mayor Prats responded by saying that he will contact the county and he will mention the drainage problem that also exists in front of the Harvey house.

Residents:

Mr. Wayne Duvall of 2161 Second St. addressed the Council regarding drainage issues on his property. With heavy rain, he stated he tries to redirect the water that accumulates in his yard to avoid the flooding of his basement. Mayor Prats responded by saying that he would look into it and see what can be done.

Mr. Duvall also reported that the lawn care company who works on Second Street is not leaving mowed areas tidy. Mayor Prats responded by saying he would discuss this problem with the landscaping company.

Adjournment: Council Member Bradsher made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
December 2, 2014

Trash/Recycling Update

When trash and recycling pick-up occur on Monday holidays, the following day, Tuesday, will be the designated pick-up day. The

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designated holidays follow the county transfer station schedule and will be as follows for 2015:

For Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King – Pick up will be Jan. 20

For Monday, February 16, President’s Day – Pick up will be Feb. 17

For Monday, May 25, Memorial Day – Pick up will be May 26

For Monday, Sept. 7, Labor Day – Pick up will be Sept. 8

Please continue to separate recycling materials.

Please do not put yard waste or mulch out for the regular trash pick-up.

Yard waste should be placed in brown bags.

Anyone interested in helping to deliver the minutes, please contact the Town. Students who volunteer to deliver minutes receive SSL hours.

If you are interested in serving as parade coordinator or helping on the committee, please contact the Town.