

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 2-3-15
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on March 17, 2015

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:53 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher, David Preusch and Larry Halvorson were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Six residents were present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on January 20, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of January 2015. Total income for the month of January was \$25,840 with \$23,486 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$9 was received from Interest Income. Major expenses for January 2015 were \$4,950 for Payroll Expenses, \$2,945 for Grounds Maintenance, \$3,570 for Snow Removal and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of January 2015 were \$18,282. General Net Income for the month of January was \$7,559. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of January 2015, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,017,340, for the CIP account, the balance was \$196,268 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for January 2015 was \$1,897,960.

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

Committees and Reports

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that work continues with drainage and water in Phase 3 at Laytonsville Preserve.

Town Election: Mayor Prats stated that the election will be May 4, 2015 from 3 to 8 p.m. Residents will be voting for Mayor and 2 Town Council positions. Anyone interested in running for office must file between March 6 and March 20. Mayor Prats discussed the requirements for residents to be eligible to vote. Council Member Ruspi mentioned that the election is on a Monday and perhaps the fliers posted and distributed to residents could emphasize that fact. It was also noted that election judges are needed.

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Minutes Distribution: Mayor Prats mentioned that he was informed there have not been people willing to distribute the minutes. Many students have fulfilled their SSL hours and are no longer interested in volunteering to do this. The Assistant Town Clerk has been delivering the minutes in areas in the Town where no volunteers are distributing them. Discussion followed as to other methods that can be used to deliver minutes. Town Clerk, Charlene Dillingham stated that the minutes are posted on the website. Residents who submit their email could receive minutes via email. Minutes are sent to a few out of town properties owners. New residents in Laytonsville Preserve are currently receiving their minutes by mail. Other options include having copies of minutes available at the Town Hall. Council Member Ruspi inquired as to the number of minutes distributed. Council Member Preusch felt that mass distribution should be curtailed and residents should be notified that after a certain date minutes will no longer be distributed

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road addressed the Council and stated that minutes have been put in her mailbox which is illegal. Also, she went on to say that residents have to wait until volunteers deliver the minutes.

Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive addressed the Council and stated that mass mailing of the minutes to the town residents is costly. It would be better to email the minutes to the residents or make hard copies available.

Council Member Jim Ruspi felt that residents should be notified that the minutes will be emailed after a certain date and if that doesn't work for them, they can notify the town.

DOT Funding Report: Mayor Prats mentioned that the Department of Transportation 2015 Funding Report is going to be available electronically.

Street Lights: All street lights on Mobley Farm Drive, Maple Knoll Drive and Rolling Ridge have been reported so they can be repaired.

Backyard Composting: Information on composting will be looked into by Council Member Preusch. The website is Backyardcomposting .org

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Old Business

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Parks and Trails Ordinance and Resolution: Mayor Prats stated that there will not be a vote on the Parks and Trails Ordinance and Resolution tonight. He asked that if there is any testimony, to please let him know. The record will be kept open for 30 days. The legality of having firearms in Town Parks is being looked into. Additional discussion and a vote will take place at the March Town Council Meeting.

New Business:

Goshen Enterprises Contract: Mayor Prats received the contract from Goshen Enterprises for Annual Maintenance for 2015. He read the contract and stated that it is the same as last year.

Council Member Ruspi asked that weeding inside the 4 exercise stations and the 2 picnic tables be added to the contract.

Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive asked that the “Welcome to Laytonsville” entry signs maintenance also be added to the contract for this year. Mayor Prats said he would add these items under General Services and Terms in the contract.

Council Member Preusch asked Eric Wenger about Montgomery County instituting restrictions on the use of pesticides on private property. Mr. Wenger responded by stating that there is a hearing on the bill on February 12 in which testimony will be taken and then there will be 2 work sessions in March.

Council Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the contract submitted by Goshen Enterprises for 2015 with the suggested additions. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

New Home Model for Phase 1 and 2 in Laytonsville Preserve: There was discussion as to whether the model Regents Park 2, Elevation C had been approved. It was reported that Elevation A and B were approved in March of 2014. There appeared to be no record of Elevation C approval. Council Member Ruspi made the motion to reconsider the minutes for the March 24, 2014 meeting. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

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Council Member Ruspi made a motion to replace Remington Place with Regents Park 2 in Laytonsville Preserve. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Considering home models presented, Council Member Preusch made a motion to approve Regents Park Elevation A, B and C in Phase 1 and 2 only with current restrictions. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Regarding model home, Cavanaugh, Elevations A and B in Phase 1 and 2 was presented. There being no objections, Council Member Halvorson made a motion to approve Elevations A and B in Phase 1 and 2 with previously restrictions. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Council

Council Member Ruspi thanked Assistant Clerk, Lisa Whittington for the work she has done and continues to do on preparing the minutes.

Regarding snow removal in the Town, it was reported that a good job is being done on the sidewalks. Mayor Prats expressed his thanks and reported that Montgomery County is going to require the removal of snow from sidewalks.

Montgomery County Bill 52-14 banning the use of pesticides on private property was revisited. Eric Wenger reported that there are 7 banned pesticides on the list, but use on vegetable gardens is exempt. He went on to explain that what the bill does is ban pesticides classified as non-essential for use on lawns, schools and county property. It does not ban the sale or possession of these pesticides, just their use. It was noted that perhaps the Town should take a position on this issue by writing a letter stating opposition to this bill.

Council Member Halvorson reported that Nick Cedillo's 18th birthday is approaching and he was confused as to whether he was allowed to proceed with his Eagle Project. Council Member Ruspi responded by saying he sent an email to Nick and told him to proceed with his project, his drawings have been approved by the Council.

Residents:

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Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road stated he was happy to hear concerns regarding Bill 52-14. He sees County Council Member George Leventhal's Bill as protecting the bay being more important than having nice lawns. These chemicals are harmful to marine life and watermen. He hopes the town doesn't get too politically divided. Some sacrifice of lawns is worth it if it preserves the bay. The town should look at both sides of the issue to evaluate it. Mayor Prats said he would look into it.

Treasurer, Chris Wilkinson inquired about the status of the tree removal in Town by PEPCO. Mayor Prats responded by saying that PEPCO presented a list to the Town and it was forwarded to the tree committee for approval. Mayor Prats stated that the Town should be notified in the event that any trees are being removed.

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
February 3, 2015

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

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

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For 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.

If you are interested in serving as an election judge, please contact the Town.

ATTN HISTORIC DISTRICT RESIDENTS: Exterior home repairs may qualify for Montgomery County tax credits. For more information:
[http://www.3montgomerycountymd.gov/311\(X\(1\)S\(t3oqlavcfmjl555gvdohtzyw\)\)/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-346U1P](http://www.3montgomerycountymd.gov/311(X(1)S(t3oqlavcfmjl555gvdohtzyw))/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-346U1P)

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/instructions/documents/PDFTaxCreditApplication.pdf>