

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 2-2-16
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on March 1, 2016

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Members David Preusch, Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher and Larry Halvorson were present. The Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk were also present as were four residents.

The minutes of the Town Council meeting on January 5, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of January 2016. Total Income for the month of January was \$24,510 with \$1015 coming from Permits and Fees, \$1,525 coming from Income Tax and \$20,518 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$12 was received from Interest Income. Major expenses for the month of January 2016 were \$2,374 for Payroll Expenses, \$1,140 for Land Planning and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. Total Expenses for the month of January 2016 were \$8,532. Total Net Income for the month of January 2016 was \$15,978. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of January 2016, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,062,664, for the CIP account, the balance was \$164,176 and the Fixed Assets were \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for January 2016 was \$1,911,192.

Council Member Preusch made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2016 subject to audit. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Committees and Board Reports

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats stated that the snow storm had stopped some of the construction. Work has begun for Section C which is off of Brink Rd.

Snowstorm cleanup issues: After receiving around 30 inches of snow, no one lost power. All roads had one lane open for emergency purposes. A loader was brought in to clear the snow. Mayor Prats felt that the cleanup went well and thanked J.B. Kline as did Council Member Preusch. If there are any issues, let the Mayor know.

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Local income tax allocation: The Comptroller is conducting an audit to determine the accuracy of allocations of local income tax in the County.

District 14 Changes: State Senator Karen Montgomery has retired. Delegate, Craig Zucker had put his name in for nomination to replace Senator Montgomery. His nomination has been approved.

Mennonite Church Cleans Town Hall: The youth from the Mennonite Church came on January 16 to clean the Town Hall as their community service project which they do every year. Mayor Prats stated that they did a great job. The Ruspi's attended and Mayor Prats said he would like more Town Council Members in attendance next year for the event. Council Member Ruspi stated that some of the youth traveled from Michigan and other states and they were very pleasant and cheerful while working so hard. He played a recording he had made of the youth singing and encouraged more people to come. Mayor Prats thanked Jim and Jill Ruspi for cleaning up.

Work session: None scheduled.

Election Notice and Judges: Mayor Prats stated that the election for 2 Council Members is coming up. It will be held on May 2 from 3 to 8 pm. The filing period for anyone interested in running for Council is March 4, 2016 to March 18, 2016 by 1 pm. Citizens who have resided in Laytonsville for a period of 30 days are eligible to vote. If anyone is interested in being an election judge, let the Clerk know.

Old Business:

Mobley Farm Drive Lighting: The new street lights were installed. There have been mostly good and only a few bad comments. The Mayor stated that he would consult with Boyland Electric about specs for municipal lighting.

New Business:

Grading and Seeding around Town Hall Parking Lot: Mayor Prats received an estimate from Goshen Enterprises for the restoration and grading around the newly paved Town Hall parking lot. According to the estimate, it will be filled with topsoil and transitioned

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to the existing lawn areas. The existing handicap sign will be moved to the center of the new spot and an additional sign will be installed for the other spot. (The sign is not included in the estimate). The areas will then be seeded and a crylex erodin control mat will be installed over the areas. Soil will be compacted prior to seeding. The total cost is \$4,890.00. Council Member Preusch made a motion to approve the estimate from Goshen Enterprises for restoration and grading around the Town Hall parking lot. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Grading and Seeding Mobley Farm Dr. Mayor Prats received an estimate from Goshen Enterprises for grade corrections along both sides of Mobley Farm Drive to create a smooth transition from the top of the paved area to the turf area. A screened topsoil will be installed from the newly paved area extending 12-16 inches into the turf area which is necessary to create a smooth transition. Once the topsoil is installed it will be compacted and raked to create a viable base for seed to set properly. Once completed all topsoil areas will be hydro seeded. The total cost is \$4,375.00. Council Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the estimate from Goshen Enterprises for grade corrections and seeding on Mobley Farm Drive. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Council Forum:

Residents Forum: Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road expressed concern about the difficulty of turning off Route 108 into the Town Hall parking lot at night due to it being very dark. She inquired as to whether reflective tape could be placed on the nearby fire hydrant. Mayor Prats stated that he is waiting for an estimate for a light and sign at the end of the driveway.

Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive addressed the Council and stated that the tree trimming that PEPCO did over the summer prevented the residents from losing power during the storm. He also mentioned that County Bill 52-14 goes into effect in January 2018. Municipalities will have to decide whether to adopt it or not. He recommends that Laytonsville not adopt it. Regarding the storm, he plowed Maple Knoll Drive because it hadn't been plowed. He asked if there is a separate contract for the plowing of Maple Knoll Drive. Mayor Prats asked he be contacted in the future if there is a problem with his street not being plowed.

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Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive stated that she was concerned about plowing that was done after the storm in the triangle area at Warfield Road. She wanted to know who does the plowing in that area because it had not been cleared very well and motorists were having difficulty driving through there. Mayor Prats responded by saying that the state is responsible for plowing that area. She also expressed concerns regarding the Town Website and whether it is updated regularly. Some of the information, she said was outdated.. The Clerk responded by stating that she would check into her concerns.

Adjournment: Council Member Halvorson made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
February 2, 2016

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 2016:

For Monday, February 15, Presidents' Day – Pick up will be February 16

For Monday, May 30, Memorial Day – Pick up will be May 31

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For Monday, July 4, Independence Day – Pick up will be July 5

For Monday, September 5, Labor Day – Pick up will be September 6

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.

ATTN HISTORIC DISTRICT RESIDENTS: Exterior home repairs may qualify for Montgomery County tax credits. For more information contact the Historic District Commission.