

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 5-5-15

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on June 2, 2015

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:39 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, David Preusch and Larry Halvorson were present. The Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk were present. Three residents were present.

Mayor Prats announced that former Council Member Frank “Bud” Bennett had passed away a week ago. He had served the town for over 20 years. Mayor Prats asked for a moment of silence. Following, he stated that there is a possibility of doing a memorial for him in the future.

The minutes of the Town Council meeting on April 7, 2015 were approved as submitted. The minutes from the Work Session held on March 31, 2015 were approved as submitted with a correction of the heading on the work session minutes to say, Work Session Minutes instead of Public Hearing Minutes. Mayor Prats closed the record on the parks and trails policy.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of April 2015. Total income for the month of April was \$4,179 with \$1,580 coming from Personal Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$496 was received from Highway Income. Major expenses for April 2015 were \$2,491 for Payroll Expenses and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of April 2015 were \$10,058. General Net Income for the month of April was \$-5,879. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of April 2015, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,028,152, for the CIP account, the balance was \$197,297 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonville for April 2015 was \$1,909,802.

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

Committees and Reports

Mayor’s Update and Reports:

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Election Results: Mayor Prats congratulated Council Member David Presuch on his re-election to the Town Council and newly elected Council Member Halvorson on his election to the Town Council.

Construction Update: Mayor Prats stated that grading has begun again.

WSSC Letter: It was reported that some residents had received an erroneous letter from WSSC regarding costs for water hook up. Council Member Ruspi made numerous calls to WSSC who stated that the letter was sent in error and another letter would be issued.

Maryland Municipal League Chapter Meeting Update: Mayor Prats reported that the meeting went well and was attended by nearly 40 people. Council Member Ruspi sent an update to other members of the Council. Mayor Prats thanked Council Members Ruspi, Halvorson and Commissioner Ruspi for their help in setting and cleaning up.

Maryland Municipal League Conference: The MML annual meeting in Ocean City will be held from June 28, 2015 to July 1, 2015. Mayor Prats, Council Members Larry Halvorson, Jim Ruspi and Historic District Commissioner Jill Ruspi will be attending. Council Member Ruspi feels that it is good for the town to be involved in the MML. Mayor Prats has been on the executive board for 2 years and was nominated to be vice president of the Montgomery Chapter.

Work session: None scheduled.

Parade: The date for the parade is May 16, 2015. Mayor Prats reported that things are starting to come together. Mayor Oland and former Clerk Cathy Buit will be attending. There will be transportation for the Council. There was an article in the Gazette about the parade. The state delegation will be attending the VIP reception at 10 a.m.

Legislative Update: Mayor Prats reported that the alcohol bill was passed and signed. It will be in effect by July 1.

Fire Department Dedication: It was well attended. The Assistant Clerk was present. Mayor Prats stated that the bell and chief's hat were returned.

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Green School: Mayor Prats mentioned that Laytonsville Elementary School has been designated as a green school due to all of the programs they have done over the years. On May 25, 2015 there will be a reception at Sandy Point for schools that have been designated green schools.

Old Business

Parks and Trails Ordinance and Resolution: Mayor Prats and the Council went over and accepted all corrections to the Parks and Trails Ordinance. Council Member Preusch made a motion to approve with amendments Ordinance #01-15, an ordinance 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, Maryland. Council Member Halvorson seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved*** with Council Member Ruspi abstaining.

Council Member Halvorson made the motion to approve Resolution 01-15, a resolution to establish rules and 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, Maryland. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion with the addition of Section 1 letter B.

New Business:

Resolution for Compensation to Employees: Mayor Prats introduced Resolution No. R-02-15 which is a resolution to establish the compensation for employees of the Town of Laytonsville for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

FY 15-16 Budget Ordinance and Ad valorem tax rates: Mayor Prats introduced Ordinance No. 02-15 which is an ordinance adopting the town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and levying an ad valorem tax on all assessable property within the Town of Laytonsville, Maryland. He stated that there are fewer capital projects slated for this year. He thanked Treasurer Chris Wilkinson for her work on the budget.

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Residents:

Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive reported that the speed limit sign was knocked down on the Stadler property. She also stated that having a speed camera in the past was a deterrent to excessive speed.

It was also reported that the signs that are posted near the pond at Jones Farm are seen by residents as being unwelcoming. The sign posted states that it is a private drive and there is no parking. Residents feel that they are not comfortable walking on the pedestrian easement that leads to the pond. The signs were put up by the residents who live in that area. Mayor Prats was encouraged to meet with those residents with no objection by the Council, to remedy the situation.

Town Flags will be put up a week before the parade.

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road stated that if residents park their cars on the circle near the pond at Rolling Ridge and want to have a picnic at the pond area they have difficulty doing so. The Town Council was encouraged to work with the HOA in the Rolling Ridge area regarding the issue of parking.

Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive commended the work done by the Eagle Scout at the fire pit on Town Hall property. Mayor Prats thanked Council Member Ruspi for his continued work with the boy scouts.

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Council Member Halvorson seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington  
Assistant Clerk  
May 5, 2015

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**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 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.**

**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\(t3oqlavcfmjil555gvdohzyw\)\)/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-346U1P](http://www.3montgomerycountymd.gov/311(X(1)S(t3oqlavcfmjil555gvdohzyw))/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-346U1P)

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