

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 10-4-11
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on November 1, 2011

Mayor Prats called the regular Town Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Jim Ruspi and Josh Pomeroy were present. Council Member David Preusch was absent. The Clerk was present, the Treasurer was absent. There was one citizen present.

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting on September 6, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Mayor Prats reviewed a partial Profit and Loss Report for the month of September, 2011. Total income for the month was \$10,337 with \$10,199 coming from income taxes. Major expenses for September, 2011 were \$3,468 for Payroll with total expenses being \$4,243. The total General Fund net income for the month of September, 2011 was -\$4,396. Looking at the partial Balance Sheet for the month of September, 2011 the fund balance for the general fund is \$596,046; for the CIP account, the balance is \$175,303. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for September 2011 is \$1,276,846.

Mayor Prats stated that as the Treasurer was out of town, this was a partial month report. The September treasurer's report will be presented and approved at the November meeting.

Discussion/Action Items:

Safety Inspection: Council member Jim Ruspi provided an update on the 3rd quarter safety inspection that he did, along with his wife, Jill Ruspi. He reported that a sidewalk patch across from Frye insurance needs repair. Mayor Prats commented that he would discuss this issue with WSSC. Otherwise, there were not any issues to report. Council member Josh Pomeroy is assigned to do the 4th quarter safety inspection.

WSSC Update: Construction on the water main is moving along. Weekly meetings are held with WSSC and the construction team and continue to facilitate timely communication. The arborist has been out to check on the trees and did not report any issues or concerns. The construction team reports that they have not yet encountered any

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tree roots during this phase of construction. Mayor Prats commented that the patches on Laytonsville Road are bumpy and will discuss this issue with WSSC. To date, all but one survey has been performed by Seismic Surveys. This survey has been scheduled.

Town Picnic: The town picnic was held on September 17 and went very well. It was well attended. A final wrap-up meeting will be held later this month. Mayor Prats thanked co-chairs Dave Preusch and Jim O-Hair for coordinating this event, as well as all of the organizations and individuals who helped make it successful.

Off-road vehicles: Mayor Prats commented further on the September Town Council meeting discussion of laws with regards to off-road vehicles. While County Law exempts golf carts as off road vehicles, they are regulated by State Motor Vehicle Laws (Maryland Transportation Code Annotated Section 13-402) and are not allowed on public highways. He encouraged all golf cart operators to familiarize themselves with all appropriate laws and regulations.

Intern: The amount of the scholarship for Therese Campagnone was not mentioned in the September meeting. Miss Campagnone was an unpaid intern for 2 summers. The amount given was \$750 per year based on what she was able to accomplish for the town and the cost of books and supplies for college. The Mayor suggested and the Council agreed that in the future, a program should be established with guidelines and criteria for intern opportunities with the town.

Eagle Scout Project: Mayor Prats shared that Boy Scout Colin Headrick had successfully managed the sandblasting, priming and painting of the water tank behind Town Hall as his Eagle project. Costs for this project were just under \$2000. Landscaping and a plaque describing the tank's history still need to be added.

Ethics Law Exemption: Mayor Prats stated that a letter was sent to the Ethics Commission requesting exemption for the Town.

Congressional Re-Districting: Mayor Prats shared that the MML is encouraging municipalities to take a stand on the Congressional Re-Districting. Council members felt that due to its potentially partisan nature, the Town should not take a position on the issue.

Work Session: There will not be a work session on 10/18/11.

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Actions:

Council Member Josh Pomeroy moved to amend the June minutes to replace the words ‘co-chair’ with ‘vice-chair’ in the discussion section. This amendment was proposed to ensure the June minutes accurately reflected the seating of the Town Planning Commission. The paragraph was amended as follows:

Before:

Planning Commissions Appointments: The hearing to establish the Planning Commission was held in October. Members will be Eric Wenger, Chair, Charles Oland, Co-Chair, Brendon Deyo, David Preusch and Pete Stadler. Council Member Preusch will not have voting privileges on the Planning Commission. Frank Bennett declined his position on the Commission. Mayor Elect Prats will swear in the Planning Commission after he takes office in July.

After:

Planning Commissions Appointments: The hearing to establish the Planning Commission was held in October. Members will be Eric Wenger, Chair, Charles Oland, Vice-Chair, Brendon Deyo, David Preusch and Pete Stadler. Council Member Preusch will not have voting privileges on the Planning Commission. Frank Bennett declined his position on the Commission. Mayor Elect Prats will swear in the Planning Commission after he takes office in July.

Open Issues:

Master Plan Update: As Dave Preusch was not present, there was no update.

Council:

Council Member Jim Ruspi shared that he had attended a meeting regarding the mid-county corridor study which was known as M83 in the past. Approximately 300 people attended the meeting. The vast majority of the attendees were in opposition to option 4 of the plan to create a 4-lane highway beginning at the intersection of Brink Road and Rt. 27, continuing up Brink Road to Wightman Road and then along Wightman Road to Goshen Road. Council Member Ruspi submitted an information sheet and maps to the town for reference. More information is available at:

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<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dotmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/des/Corridor/content-mcsAlternatives.asp>

Council Member Ruspi also shared that when performing the safety inspection, he noted that the back on the Town Hall property needed to be cleaned up.

Council Member Josh Pomeroy represented Laytonville at the Municipal Elected Officials meeting at the U.S. Capitol. He reported that about 80 officials attended with 7 out of 10 of the Maryland Congressional delegation present. Major topics discussed were jobs, energy independence, and transportation.

Council Member Pomeroy inquired about the additional striping on Rt. 108 in front of the school. Council Member Bradsher commented that this was requested a couple of years ago. Mayor Prats commented that it may be that they are waiting for WSSC work to be completed.

Adjournment:

Council member Josh Pomeroy moved to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Council member Charles Bradsher seconded the motion.. **Unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham
Clerk
October 4, 2011

Note: The Arbor Day Foundation and Pepco have an energy saving program where you can get free trees to plant on your property. The program is good until November 12, 2011. Go to www.arborday.org/pepco to find out more!