

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 3-17-15  
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on April 7, 2015

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher, David Preusch and Larry Halvorson were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Five residents were present. Mayor Prats recognized the Boy Scouts from Troop 1323 who were attending the meeting as part of earning their merit badge.

Mayor Prats stated that he will keep the record open on the Parks and Trails Policy until the next Town Council meeting.

The minutes of the Town Council meeting on February 3, 2015 were approved as submitted. The Public Hearing minutes on the Review of Model Homes in Laytonsville Preserve held on February 3, 2015 were approved as submitted. The Public Hearing minutes on the Parks and Trails Policy held on January 20, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Council Member Ruspi thanked the Clerks for helping him sort out the minutes that were scheduled for approval.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of February 2015. Total income for the month of February was \$13,117 with \$10,274 coming from Public Utilities and \$1951 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$7 was received from Interest Income. Major expenses for February 2015 were \$3,832 for Payroll Expenses, \$3,888 for Snow Removal and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of February 2015 were \$13,064. General Net Income for the month of February was \$53. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of February 2015, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,018,314, 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 February 2015 was \$1,898,934.

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

Committees and Reports

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Snow Removal for Residents: Council Member Ruspi stated that he spoke with Brian Kline of J.B. Kline and the company would be interested in offering to clear residents' sidewalks and driveways at a reduced rate. To implement the service, at least 10 residents would have to be interested. Mayor Prats thought this was a good idea and possibly businesses would also be interested.

Old Business

Reconsider minutes re-consideration: Mayor Prats stated that it had come to his attention that he made an error in assuming that the minutes from the Public Hearings on March 4, 2014 and October 15, 2014 were recorded incorrectly. After extensive research, the Clerks discovered that Elevation C in the model home Regents Park 2 had never been approved and the minutes accurately reflected the actions in both hearings.

Montgomery County Bill 52-14: Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive addressed the Council and gave an update on Montgomery County Bill 52-14 which bans the use of pesticides. A lengthy discussion followed in which details of the bill were talked about and whether or not the Town should take a position on the bill was also addressed. It was noted if any residents are interested in providing feedback on the bill, they should go to [montgomerycountymd.gov/council](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/council).

Council Member Ruspi made a motion to oppose the implementation of Montgomery County Bill 52-14 and requested that the Mayor subsequently let the County Council know of the Town's opposition to the bill. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. After more discussion and further thoughts, Council Member Preusch made a motion to table the motion to support or oppose Montgomery County Bill 52-14. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. Council Member Ruspi was opposed.

New Business:

Regents Park II Elevation C: Matt Honacki from NV Homes addressed the Council. It was noted that at a previous meeting Regents Park Elevation C was approved not Regents Park II, Elevation C. Following a brief discussion, Council Member Halvorson made a motion to approve Regents Park II Elevation C. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

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Eagle Scout Project List: Council Member Ruspi has restructured a list of potential projects for Eagle Scouts to do and he was seeking feedback from the Council on some of these projects. Some projects mentioned were additional benches in town and a weather station located in Town.

It was noted that all projects fall under the scout's responsibility and the list is only projects that the Town would like done. Regarding a project, it was felt that the scout master has to agree that the project meets the standards for an Eagle Project.

Mayor Prats thanked Council Member Ruspi for developing the list and his leadership on this issue.

Ownership of 3<sup>rd</sup> party projects on Town Property: An Eagle Scout project that would have involved modifying the Mayor Charles T. White Memorial bench had been proposed to the Council. This bench had been donated to the Town by the Laytonsville Lions Club. The Lions Club had been contacted and responded by notifying the Town that the bench should remain as it is. This raised questions regarding the ownership and rights of memorials donated to the Town. After discussion the Council Members' consensus was that memorial donations would be owned by the Town and agreements should be written up at the time of a donation.

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that drainage elements are being put in on Brink Road. The weather had slowed down the construction.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Eric Wenger, Chairman of the Planning Commission addressed the Council regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that Consultant, Doug Lohmeyer has been working on it but hasn't been able to get a response from the state.

Exercise Stations and Sign Maintenance: Goshen Enterprises has agreed to do the maintenance on the welcome sign and the interior of the exercise stations at an hourly rate.

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Minutes Distribution: The final minutes distribution will be done by the Boy Scouts as part of fulfilling their community service merit badge. Mayor Prats thanked the Clerks for the work they have done on preparing the minutes for distribution month after month.

Tree Damage on Mobley Farm Dr.: Mayor Prats stated that PEPCO cut down the damaged tree but left it there. Goshen Enterprises hauled it away. The root system has not been taken out. The resident will have to decide if they want a replacement tree.

Safety Inspector: The safety inspector for the second quarter is Jim Ruspi.

PEPCO Tree Pruning and Removal: PEPCO has a list of trees throughout town to be removed. Working with the Tree Committee and the residents, permits are then issued. New trees will be planted to replace trees that have been removed. PEPCO has a list of trees for residents to choose from.

MML: The Maryland Municipal League will hold its annual meeting in Ocean City, Maryland from June 28 to July 1, 2015. Mayor Prats stated that if anyone is interested in going to let him know. The Town pays for hotel and registration.

Legislative Update: Mayor Prats reported on legislation that had been discussed such as, the public information act, the process for comprehensive plan approval, and the liquor bill for Laytonsville, (which had passed the house). The Maryland Municipal League website also has updates.

Bulk Trash Pick-up: The bulk trash pick-up is scheduled for April 20. Put everything out early. A flyer was sent out with the last meeting minutes.

Work session: There will be a work session on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7:30 pm to discuss the Parks and Trails Ordinance and Resolution.

Parade: The date for the parade this year is May 16, 2015. The road will close at 11 am. The parade will begin at 11:30 and a VIP reception will be held prior to the parade. Registration for the parade is automated. Go to the Laytonsville website and there is a link to the registration page.

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Town Election: The Town election will be held on May 4 from 3 to 8pm. Filing period ends on Friday, March 20. Two Town Council Member positions and the office of Mayor will be on the ballot. Election judges are needed. They will be approved at the next Town Council Meeting. If anyone is interested, please let the Clerk's office know.

Council

Council Member Ruspi inquired as to whether there was an update regarding the Mayor's Compensation. Mayor Prats stated that the information was sent to the attorney and that he would follow-up on it.

Council Member Preusch stated that he had information regarding the composting of left-over food.

Council Member Bradsher reported that there is a problem with the storm drain close to the school. Mayor Prats said that he would look into it.

Council Member Halvorson asked if the "slow down for school" sign would be repaired. Mayor Prats stated that he has reported it. Also, Council Member Halvorson reported that there is salt damage to the sidewalks.

It was also noted that the drain outside the Simonetti house is blocked.

Residents:

Charles Hendricks stated that he attended a tax credit seminar in Rockville in which the County passed a change to the tax credit authorization in Montgomery County Historic Districts. Residents requiring additional information should visit the website that is listed at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Azeem of 21723 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the flooding of his stairwell during heavy rain. He stated that his sump pump cannot keep up with the amount of water. Mayor Prats encouraged Mr. Azeem to get an estimate for work to be done and then to contact him directly.

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Eric Wenger of 6751 Maple Knoll Drive stated that he wanted to let the Mayor know that the lights are working on Maple Knoll Dr.

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road expressed concern about recycling left-over food due to raccoons and other animals possibly getting into the recycling.

Adjournment: Council Member Ruspi made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington  
Assistant Clerk  
March 17, 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**

**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.**

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**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\(t3oqlavcfmjil555gvdohzyw\)\)/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>