

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 6-4-13
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on August 6, 2013

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:33 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Josh Pomeroy, Charles Bradsher were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Three residents were also present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on May 7, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Mayor Prats was sworn in to a second term by Ms Barbara Meiklejohn from the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Loretta Knight's office.

Mayor Prats swore in Council Member Josh Pomeroy to a new term.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of May 2013. Total income for the month of May was \$35,974 with \$32,312 coming from Income Tax. Major expenses for May 2013 were \$2,358 for Payroll Expenses, \$2,886 for Waste Collection Expenses. The General Net Income for the month of May was \$20,624. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of May 2013, the fund balance for the general fund was \$876,584, for the CIP account, the balance was \$170,683 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for May 2013 was \$1,731,911.

Council Member Pomeroy moved to approve the May Treasurer's report subject to audit. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Committees and Reports:

Eagle Scout Project: Mayor Prats read a list submitted to the Council by Council Member Ruspi of proposed Eagle Scout Projects that could be selected for a scout to do for his Eagle Award. Council Member Ruspi stated that any item on the list that the Council didn't approve of could be removed. Mayor Prats said it was a good list and it could be added to in the future, however, the fishing pier should be removed from the list since the Mayor and Council did not agree with the project.

Mayor's Update and Reports:

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WSSC Update: Mayor Prats stated that the water tower is full but work on the pumping station is behind schedule.

Mayor Prats presented to the Council the idea of the Town of Laytonsville making one donation to the Laytonsville Volunteer Department for their new building.

Mayor Prats stated that he was closing the record on the hearing for the Comprehensive Plan. With all of the edits complete, the Planning Commission will then come back to the Council with the revised Comprehensive Plan. It will then be voted on by the Council and sent on to the state for approval.

Mayor Prats shared a letter with the Council he received from Comptroller Peter Franchot thanking him for the invitation to the reception prior to the parade.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Old Business:

Mayor Prats discussed the maintenance of the swales on Brink Rd. They need mowing and upkeep on a regular basis. After some discussion, Mayor Prats stated that he would get estimates and bring them back to the Council. Mrs. Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road addressed the Council to report on information that she received concerning a project that is sponsored by the County in which specialists are sent to problem areas to help set up drainage systems. She said she would forward the information to the Mayor.

Regarding the welcome sign in the town, Mayor Prats received two proposals from Goshen Enterprises to either relocated the sign or straighten it. Council Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the fixing or relocating of the welcome sign by Goshen Enterprises based on the need to move it to avoid gas lines in the vicinity. Council Member Pomeroy seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

New Business:

Mayor Prats read a list of appointments for the fiscal year 2014. Council Member Pomeroy moved to approve the appointments as presented by the Mayor. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

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A list of end of the year amendments to the 2013 budget were read by Mayor Prats. Council Member Pomeroy moved to approve these amendments to the 2013 budget. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Mayor Prats proposed to amend the Employee Compensation for 2013 and 2014 to include temporary help during the summer as needed for \$12 per hour.

Council Member Ruspi made the motion to amend the Employee Compensation Resolution for fiscal year 2013 to include temporary part time help at \$12 per hour. Council Member Pomeroy seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Council Member Pomeroy made the motion to amend the Employee Compensation Resolution for fiscal year 2014 to include temporary part time help at \$12 per hour. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Mayor Prats received an estimate from Goshen Enterprises regarding signs for the Rolling Ridge Pond area. The signs would read no swimming, boating or skating. Also in the estimate is a proposed dollard (collapsible post) to prevent vehicular access to the pond. Mr. Matthew Pallithanam of 21736 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the Council regarding traffic at night in the pond area and a lot of garbage left. Mr. Beraq Azeem of 21723 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the council with the same concerns. Council Member Pomeroy moved to approve the dollard. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

It was reported by Mayor Prats that the holes where the stumps were in Miller Park have been filled by wood chips. The estimate received to remove the wood chips was considered too high. Mayor Prats said he would see if the price could be lowered.

Council:

Council Member Bradsher noted that the house behind the Laytonsville Elementary School is showing signs of neglect. The grass hasn't been cut and there are high weeds growing.

Council Member Pomeroy stated that there are frog ponds that are not being taken care of which are producing a lot of mosquitos.

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Mayor Prats said that he would look into both of these issues.

Council Member Pomeroy reviewed air safety studies through the FAA website to determine as to whether a beacon is necessary on the cell tower. A beacon is not required when the tower is under construction. Upon completion it must be reevaluated. Concerning the water tower, no beacon is required. Council Member Pomeroy is still seeking clarification.

Council Member Ruspi stated that he received a compliment about the flags lining the town from friends who were passing through.

Residents: Mr. Matthew Pallithanam of 21736 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the Council concerning vehicular traffic and access to the pond by people who leave trash behind during the night or early morning hours. Council Member Ruspi discussed the possibility of putting up signs alerting the public that the trail area is closed at sunset or installing lights.

Mr Beraq Azeem of 21723 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the Council concerning the problem of trash being thrown in the front of his yard by people frequenting the pond area after dark. He also expressed concerns about the Home Owner's Association and what their responsibility is in this matter. Mr. Azeem was given Council Member Preusch's name to discuss the responsibility of the Home Owner's Association in Mobley Farm.

Mayor Prats encouraged both residents on Rolling Ridge Lane to call 911 with any concerns about people in the pond area after dark. The mayor stated he will explore ways to deter motorized and nighttime activity and that the town will have to establish park rules for them to be enforceable.

Adjournment: Council Member Pomeroy moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Council member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
June 4, 2013

In its third year as an Arbor Day Foundation partner, Pepco is providing free trees to customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia through the Energy-Saving Trees program. Launched as a pilot initiative in 2011, the Energy-Saving Trees program conserves energy and reduces household electricity bills through strategic tree planting. Pepco customers can reserve their free trees today at www.arborday.org/pepco.

Within seconds of accessing the website, an online tool helps Pepco customers find the most strategic location for planting and estimates the annual savings that will result from the tree. Customers can reserve up to two trees per household and the program will continue until all trees are reserved. In exchange for the free trees, customers are expected to care for the trees and plant them in the location provided by the online tool. The two-to-four-foot trees will be delivered directly to the customer at an ideal time for planting.

“Residents – please be aware that Verizon has started construction to bring FIOS service to Town. This involves stringing of wires and digging in the utility right of ways to lay

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underground wire. We are in the process of trying to obtain the construction schedule.”

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 2013:

For Monday, Sept. 2, Labor Day, pick-up will be Sept. 3

For Monday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, pick-up will be Nov. 12

Please make sure you keep all bushes and shrubs cut back from sidewalks.