

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 2-6-18

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on March 6, 2018

There being a quorum, Mayor Jim Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:40 p.m. Council Members Jim O’Hair, Tom Burke, Charles Bradsher and Paul Simonetti were present. The Treasurer and Clerk were also present. Guest Stan Abrams, Victoria Shearer, Taylor Waterman, Commander Mark Plazinski and four residents were also present.

Mayor Ruspi introduced Taylor Waterman who is working on the David Blair for Montgomery County Executive campaign. She stated that she was visiting to become familiar with Laytonsville and the residents’ concerns.

Minutes: The minutes from the Town Council Meeting that was held on January 9, 2018 and the minutes from the Town Council Work Session held on January 16, 2018 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of January 2018. Total Income for the month of January was \$45,543 with \$9,448 coming from Public Utilities and \$31,396 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP fund, \$726 was Interest Income. Major Expenses for the month of February were \$2,778 for Payroll Expenses, \$3,397 for General Repairs and Maintenance, \$7005 for Snow Removal and \$6,267 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of January 2018 were \$22,857. Expenses in the CIP account for Walkways and Lighting were \$7,585. General Net Income for the month of January was \$15,101. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of January 2018, the fund balances for the general fund was \$1,133,510 for the CIP account, the balance was \$146,105 and the fixed assets were \$903,054. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for January 2018 was \$2,182,669.

Mayor Ruspi commented that he had incorrectly reported snow removal costs as \$20,000 for last winter. They were closer to \$12,000. The Treasurer reported that the snow removal costs for this winter are at \$7,595.

Council Member O’Hair made a motion to approve the January Treasurer’s report subject to audit. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Visit from Police Commander Plazinski - Mayor Ruspi introduced Montgomery County Police Commander Mark Plazinski of the 5th District in Germantown. The Council and

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staff were introduced. Commander Plazinski stated that the 5th District covered 130 square miles and included Laytonsville, Damascus, Germantown and Boyds with the station being in Germantown. There are 140 officers in the 5th district. Commander Plazinski stated that overall Laytonsville is a quiet community. The number one crime issue in the local area is theft from cars. He stated that in most instances it is cars that are left unlocked that are broken into and emphasized that citizens should always lock their cars. He talked about homicides within the county and stated that they are almost always related to domestic issues or the illicit drug trade. Regarding traffic speeding issues within town, Commander Plazinski said to contact the traffic sergeant to identify the areas of concern and they would send officers to patrol for speed offences.

Town attorney resignation - Council Member O’Hair read the resignation letter from town attorney Stan Abrams, Esq. Mr. Abrams then addressed the Council and stated that he had been associated with the town for 15 years and seen the town grow in a measured and controlled way. Council Member Burke read a letter from Mayor Ruspi thanking Mr. Abrams for his service to the town.

New Town attorney – Mayor Ruspi stated that in light of Mr. Abrams impending retirement, the Mayor and Council had begun looking for a new attorney. Mayor Ruspi stated that he had talked to six attorneys and at the Council work session on January 16, 2018 there had been general agreement to select Victoria Shearer. Council Member O’Hair made a motion to hire Victoria Shearer as the town attorney. Council Member Burke seconded the motion adding that Ms. Shearer would fill out Mr. Abrams term ending on June 30, 2018. Reappointments are made for terms beginning July 1, 2018. ***Unanimously approved.***

Committee/Board Reports

Eric Wenger, Chairman of the Planning Commission, reported that he and Doug Lohmeyer of Montgomery Consulting had met with the state regarding the by-pass. He explained that they had met with the state and the county many times over a long period of time. They continue to explain that the western by-pass is necessary to save the Historic District and promote a walkable community. At the most recent meeting they were told that they must get the project on the county priority list. Mr. Wenger suggested that a meeting with personnel from the state and county department of transportation present at the same time was necessary to get all parties on the same page.

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Old Business

Winter Conference: Mayor Ruspi stated that he had spent a very good 2 days at the Mayor's Winter Conference in Annapolis. He shared that there is a big push to get the Highway User Revenue (HUR) restored. In 2009, the Governor cut back the HUR ninety percent. Mayor Ruspi played a public service announcement that was provided at the conference asking people to contact their delegation about restoring the HUR.

MML Chapter Meeting: The MML chapter meeting will be held in Laytonsville on April 19, 2018. Mayor Ruspi has made arrangements to have the meeting at Laytonsville's newest business, The Family Room.

Goshen Mennonite Church: Mayor Ruspi reported that Goshen Mennonite Church and the students from Sharon Mennonite Bible College had cleaned the Town Hall on January 20, 2018. Several council members joined for lunch and enjoyed the students beautiful singing.

New Business

Election: The Clerk read the Notice of Election which is for 2 Council members at the May 7 election. The filing period to run for office is March 9, 2018 to March 23, 2018. Mayor Ruspi asked citizens to consider serving as an election judge as we would like to have five. We currently have one person, Jill Ruspi, who has volunteered. Residents should notify the Town Hall if they are interested.

Shadowing Program at Laytonsville Elementary School: Mayor Ruspi stated that he was going to try a new shadowing program with students from Laytonsville Elementary School to learn about local government. The program would include 4 fourth grade students who would visit Town Hall on April 18th and 25th and give a written or oral report of their experience at the May 1 Council meeting.

Goshen Enterprises Proposal: Mayor Ruspi presented the annual maintenance contract from Goshen Enterprises who provides mowing and landscape services for the Town. . He stated that it added \$90 for addition mulch of street trees, mowing the traffic circle and additional weed control at Town Hall. . Mayor Ruspi stated that although State

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Highway will mow the grass inside the traffic circle, he did not think the frequency that they would mow would provide a nice look for the town. Council Member Bradsher made the motion to approve the contract. Council Member O’Hair seconded the motion. Council Member Simonetti asked about the responsibility for debris removal during mowing. The Clerk pointed out that the contract stated that debris would be removed. Council Member O’Hair asked about plantings in the middle of the traffic circle. Mayor Ruspi stated that the town has been approached by Ruppert Landscape about planting a tree in the circle. Mr. Wenger commented that whatever is planted should be tolerant of salt put on the road in the wintertime. ***The motion was approved with Council Member Burke, O’Hair, and Bradsher voting in favor of the motion and Council Member Simonetti opposed.***

April Council Meeting: Mayor Ruspi asked if the April 3 Council meeting would interfere with spring break plans. Council members agreed that it was not necessary to move the meeting.

Budget update: Mayor Ruspi reported that he and the Treasurer would try to get a draft of the FY 18-19 budget available in March.

Mayor’s recovery: Mayor Ruspi has open heart surgery scheduled for February 22. Council Member O’Hair will step in as needed during Mayor Ruspi’s recovery.

Adjournment: Council Member O’Hair made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 pm. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham
Clerk
February 6, 2018

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Job Opening – Assistant Town Clerk – if you are interested in a part-time position as Assistant Town Clerk, please contact the Town Hall at 301-869-0042.

Election Judges Needed – if you would like to serve as an election judge for the town election on Monday, May 7, 2018 – please contact the Town Hall at 301-869-0042.

Trash/Recycling Update

When trash and recycling pick-up occur on Monday or Thursday holidays, the following day, Tuesday or Friday, will be the designated pick-up day. The designated holidays follow the county transfer station schedule and will be as follows for 2018:

For Monday, May 28, 2018, Memorial Day – Pick-up will be May 29

For Monday, September 3, 2018 Labor Day – Pick up will be September 4

For Thursday, November 22, 2018 Thanksgiving – Pick up will be November 23

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.