

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 3-6-18
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on April 10, 2018

There being a quorum, Mayor Jim Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. Council Members Jim O’Hair, Charles Bradsher and Paul Simonetti were present. Council Member Tom Burke was absent due to illness. The Treasurer and Clerk were also present. Three residents were also present.

Minutes: The minutes from the Town Council Meeting that was held on February 6, 2018 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of February 2018. Total Income for the month of February was \$32,509 with \$21,256 coming from Income Tax and \$8,936 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP fund, \$128 was Interest Income. Major Expenses for the month of February were \$2,845 for Payroll Expenses, \$4,173 for Legal, \$2,845 for Snow Removal and \$3,133 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of February 2018 were \$13,749. General Net Income for the month of February was \$18,760. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of February 2018, the fund balances for the general fund was \$1,151,694 for the CIP account, the balance was \$146,220 and the fixed assets were \$903,054. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for February 2018 was \$2,200,968.

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

Committee/Board Reports

Montgomery Chapter MML Meeting: Councilman Jim O’Hair and Planning Commission Chair Eric Wenger represented Mayor Jim Ruspi at the February Montgomery County Chapter of the MML. This meeting was held in Rockville, Maryland and included a Q&A period with the County Executive Ike Leggett. Councilman O’Hair indicated that there were approximately 15 towns, municipalities represented. Issues included School Safety, Response to the Opioid Crisis in the County and the Financial forecast for the County. The County Executive indicated that this will probably be the last time he will meet with the MML of Montgomery County and he thanked all the Mayors and representatives for arranging the meeting. A special plaque was presented to Mr. Leggett. Eric Wenger indicated that Laytonsville was given an opportunity to speak and we address the bypass

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that was taken off the County Inventory and requested that it be placed back. The County Executive directed his staff person responsible for roads, Ms. Bonnie Kirkland, to work with Mr. Wenger to see that this was addressed. Mr. Wenger stated that he and Mr. O’Hair had spoken to Ms. Kirkland both prior to and following the meeting and she was very familiar with the bypass and the problems communicating with the State and said she would address his concern. Both representatives felt that this was a fruitful meeting and thanked the Mayor for allowing them to attend.

Old Business

Election: The Mayor stated that the filing period to run for office in the May election is March 9, 2018 to March 23, 2018. Filing can be in the form of a letter or email addressed to the Clerk.

Budget introduction: Mayor Ruspi introduced the FY19 budget. He stated that the budget hearing will be held in April and the vote would be taken to approve it at the May Council meeting.

A question was asked about whether the property tax list was now accurate and funds were being allocated appropriately. The treasurer stated that she will check to verify the property tax list.

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.

New Business

Work session: There will not be a work session in March.

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Goshen Enterprises proposal for Jones Pond Park: Mayor Ruspi presented a proposal from Goshen Enterprises to do work at Jones Pond Park. The proposal included three items. The first item is to cut back brush at the in fall and dam face of the pond to keep the town in in compliance with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection regulations. The second is to re-seed and area on the side of the pond where no vegetation is growing to stabilize the area and prevent erosion. The third item is for pruning and trimming of the trees within the area that is mowed. He stated that the work was not to be done immediately. Eric Wenger commented that it might be better to trim the trees in the summer in order to see how low the limbs are one they leaf out. There was discussion about whether the proposal had enough details and specifics in it. It was decided to ask for further details and amend the contract and look at it again in April.

Safety Inspector: The safety inspector for the second quarter will be Paul Simonetti. Charles Bradsher will provide the safety inspection for the first quarter.

Residents

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road shared that she had represented the Town at Laytonsville Elementary School during their week of reading. She represented Mayor Ruspi as he was ill at that time. She stated that she was very impressed by the behavior of the children and that she truly enjoyed reading to the students.

Council Member O'Hair stated that long time principal of Laytonsville Elementary School (LES), Laura Turner, had recently passed away. Mr. Douglas, a former teacher, has also recently passed away. Mayor Ruspi added that the current principal of LES, Donna Sagona, has announced that she will be retiring this year.

Council Member O'Hair stated that the parade will be held on May 19 and planning is underway. The parade route is being reviewed to work with the roundabout.

The Treasurer commented that the asphalt trail behind White House Lane had been dug up. It appears that someone had been driving a large vehicle on it.

Eric Wenger of 6715 Mobley Farm Drive asked about the power line work being done on Route 108. There was discussion about what type of work they were doing.

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Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road stated that she had counted 48 signs around the traffic circle. Mayor Ruspi stated that the State Highway Administration determined the number and placement of the signs.

Adjournment: Council Member Simonetti made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham
Clerk
March 6, 2018

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.

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

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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.