

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 5-3-16  
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on June 7, 2016

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:33 p.m. Council Members David Preusch, Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher and Larry Halvorson were present. The Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were also present as were three residents.

Laytonsville Woman's Club – Coverlet: Peggy Ols and Nancy Willet from the Laytonsville Woman's Club addressed the Council regarding the introduction of a new coverlet and the reselling of the previous two coverlets. Since there has been interest and new residents are moving into Town, it was decided by the Woman's Club to reintroduce the two previous coverlets. The manufacturer of the red coverlet has already been contacted. With the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Laytonsville in 2017 it was decided that a new coverlet be designed. Local people would be involved in the designing eight to ten images that would be on the coverlet which would need to be completed by the end of this summer. Funding for the project would come from the Laytonsville Lions Club and the Laytonsville Woman's Club. Mayor Prats thanked Peggy Ols and Nancy Willet for bringing these ideas to the Council.

Minutes: The minutes of the Town Council meeting on April 5, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of April 2016. Total income for the month of April was \$2,594 with \$935 coming from Public Utilities. In the CIP Fund \$518 was received from Highway Income and \$48 was received from Interest Income. Major Expenses for the month of April 2016 were \$1074 for Municipal Functions, \$6091 for Payroll Expenses, \$1,666 for General Repairs and Maintenance and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of April 2016 were \$14,159. General Net Income for the month of April 2016 was \$-11,565. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month April 2016, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,101,936 for the CIP account, the balance was \$165,995 and the fixed assets were \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for April 2016 was \$1,952,284.

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

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Committees and Board Reports

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Election Results: Two Council Members, Jim Ruspi and Charles Bradsher were re-elected to the Town Council. Fifteen residents had voted in the election for both Council Members.

Construction Update: Work continues on Brink Road. The gas company had been doing a gas line tie up in the intersection of Rt. 108 and Brink Road. Completion of this work was scheduled to be done by May 4.

MML Conference: The Maryland Municipal League Conference is scheduled for June 26 through June 29. Mayor Prats, Council Member Jim Ruspi and Historic Commission Member Jill Ruspi have already signed up.

Parade: The parade is scheduled for May 21. Route 108 will be closed at 10:30 am.

Mobley Farm Drive Lights: Infrastructure Advisor, Wayne Keeler met with Doug Boyland from Boyland Electric regarding the new street lights to be installed on Mobley Farm Drive. He distributed information on the new street lights that meet County specifications to the Council and will return with a proposal to be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

Work session: None scheduled.

Abandoned Car: The car that was abandoned on Second Street was tagged and should be removed within 24 hours.

Mayor Prats Leaving: Mayor Prats stated that he will be leaving the Town and relocating to Connecticut. He had already sent an email to the members of the Council. A new Mayor will be appointed and voted on by the Council to complete his term. He stated that he will work with the Interim Mayor to provide a smooth transition. He stated that it was a very difficult decision, but it is a good opportunity for his family. Election for a new Mayor will be held next year. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the

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Town. Council Member Ruspi thanked the Mayor personally for his service to the Town and wished him well.

Old Business:

Approval FY 17 Budget and Ad Valorem Taxes: Regarding the 2017 Budget, Mayor Prats stated that he tried to keep it stable and cut where he could. The Capital Budget is \$44,200 for next year. Lighting in the parking lot, pavilion and the sidewalks will need to be taken care of. He stated that he is looking at highway user funds and grants from the state. There are repairs to be done on the Town Hall, i.e. redo shutters, ramps, and front porch. No tax rates will be changing. Council Member Jim Ruspi made a motion to approve the proposed 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance #01-16. Council Member Larry Halvorson seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

New Business:

Introduce Resolution for Compensation to Employees: Mayor Prats stated he will have a hearing next month.

Introduce amendments to FY 16 Budget: Mayor Prats stated that he made adjustments to the Capital Budget and discussed several of those areas. Some mentioned were snow removal, legal, software, payroll, waste collection, Town Hall furnishing, repair and maintenance. Council Member Preusch made a motion to approve stated amendments for FY 2016 in the General Fund and CIP Account as presented. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Council Forum:

There was discussion among the Council Members as to whether it would be a good idea to advertise on the Town website for the position of Mayor. Anyone interested could meet with the current Mayor. Mayor Prats stated that this idea is up to the Council to decide and also noted that there are other vacancies that need to be filled.

Residents Forum: Treasurer Chris Wilkinson inquired as to work being done on the gas station. Historic District Chair, Sheree Wenger reported that she informed the tenant of

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the historic regulations and nothing is changing. Credit Card systems and an environment catch basin were being installed. There are no changes in the hours of operation. Even though the spot light has been turned off the lights still remain bright. There is a possibility that half of the lights could be shut off. No auto repair work is taking place yet.

Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive thanked Mayor Prats for his service to the community and stated that it was a pleasure to work with him when he was on the Historic District Commission.

There was inquiry as to whether the area around the pond could be paved to make it more inviting. Even though parking is still on Brink Road, Mayor Prats stated that he is working on a solution to add more walkable miles.

Regarding the Town Election, inquiries were made as to how to increase voter turnout in Town Elections. Only fifteen residents voted in the last election. Mayor Prats reported that voter turnout has been low for a while especially when there are uncontested elections. He welcomed suggestions as to how to communicate upcoming elections to residents.

William Duvall of 21612 Second Street inquired about the house next to Laytonsville Elementary School and the ongoing renovation that is being done on it. He stated that these renovations have been going on for a while and it is the first house seen when entering the town on Rt. 108. It was stated that the owner has been doing a lot of work on the inside of the house first.

Mr. Duvall also inquired as to why the sirens from the firetruck have to be operated so loudly in the middle of the night when there is not a lot of traffic. Mayor Prats stated he would inquire at the fire department.

Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive stated that she can hear the calls coming in to the fire department at her home. She also wondered if new equipment has been installed that has increased the volume.

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Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive thanked Mayor Prats for his service to the Town. He also mentioned that his business had been burglarized. There was theft and property damage. Mayor Prats stated that the Town has a good relationship with the police and he encouraged citizens to be more aware.

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 9:06 pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington  
Assistant Clerk  
May 3, 2016

**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 2016:**

**For Monday, May 30, Memorial Day – Pick up will be May 31**

**For Monday, July 4, Independence Day – Pick up will be July 5**

**For Monday, September 5, Labor Day – Pick up will be September 6**

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**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.