Meeting minutes of Town Council on 01-17-2023

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on February 7, 2023

There being a quorum, Mayor Ruspi called the special meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30p.m. The meeting was held using video conferencing. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, and Amy Koval were present. Council Member Preusch was absent. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Charles Hendricks, Historic District Commission Chair, Eric Wenger, Planning Commission Chair and three residents were also present.

Mayor Ruspi opened the meeting by explaining that an updated list of proposed projects for funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are listed on Spreadsheet Six. This spreadsheet was previously emailed to the Council and the “A” in column two on the represents projects the Council has already approved.

Mayor Ruspi explained that additional bids were received for the removal and replacement of the walkway, patio, steps and ramp behind the Town Hall. After a thorough review of the proposals, with Council Member Koval and Clerk Burke, Mayor Ruspi is recommending the proposal from Divine Landscaping be accepted to replace the patio and walkway with clay brick pavers and the proposal from Jim Jordy be accepted to replace the steps and ramp. Chair Hendricks suggested that having the ramp point towards the parking lot would be easier to use. Chair Wenger said the contracts for such work should include ADA specificity. Mayor Ruspi said he will follow up with the contractors.

Council Member Koval made a motion to approve up to $40,000 to proceed with the project to replace the patio, ramp and stairs behind the Town Hall. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Mayor Ruspi explained the survey of the current location of the wood chip trail from Miller Park to Barberry Lane is in progress. This work is necessary as the location of the wood chip trail on the current plat is incorrect. Chair Wenger explained the trail was moved primarily due to concerns with storm water management. The new survey is necessary in order to determine if the path is in forest conservation easement areas.

Mayor Ruspi said he had begun a conversation regarding the possibility of subscribing to the Greater Olney Newspaper but nothing else has been done on that item. He also said the item to improve the town website has not been started.

Mayor Rupsi said he met with representatives of the Laytonsville Lions Club today regarding the proposed community center. He said he explained that the amount of funds the town may donate to the project has not been determined and that they understood this.

Earlier today, Mayor Ruspi had a phone call with Monica Marquina, Government Relations Manager from WSSC regarding some of the locations in the town of Laytonsville that have reported water quality issues. The representative from WSSC said she will follow up at a staff meeting. Mayor Ruspi would like to discuss this item further when Council Member Preusch is present.

Mayor Ruspi stated that Council Member Preusch has contacted Macris, Hendricks, and Glascock to look at Jones Farm Pond and report their findings.

Mayor Ruspi explained that the town is considered a non-entitlement unit and the next ARPA report is due by April 30, 2023, and that he would love to see that Laytonsville is done with allocating all ARPA funds by this date. He said the first report was difficult and time consuming and that he and Council Member Koval and Jill Ruspi spent approximately eleven hours completing the report. He said any Council Member that wants to help on the next report is welcome. ARPA regulations require that all funds are assigned by December 31, 2024, and that all projects are completed, and contractors are paid by December 31, 2026. There was discussion about remaining funds being granted to the Laytonsville Lions Club for the community center and the town will not be responsible for overseeing the project. Council Member Koval said it may be possible to donate the funds to the Laytonsville Lions Club without connecting the money to the proposed community center.

Adjournment: Council Member Burke made a motion to adjourn at 8:17p.m. Council Member Koval seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Jackson
Assistant Clerk
January 17, 2023