

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 9-6-16
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on October 4, 2016

There being a quorum, Interim Mayor Jim Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Members David Preusch, Charles Bradsher and Larry Halvorson were present. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were also present as were six residents.

Minutes: The minutes of the Town Council meeting on August 2, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Appointment of New Mayor: The Town Council voted unanimously to appoint Jim Ruspi as Mayor of the Town of Laytonville.

Oath of Office: Karen Bushel from the Clerk of the Courts Office gave the oath of office to Mayor, Jim Ruspi. Mayor Ruspi thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to serve as the Mayor. He also thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and stated that he appreciates all the hard work that they do.

Agenda Format Change: Mayor Ruspi noted that he changed the agenda format in that the Council will not have a separate time in which to comment but will be able make comments as the meeting progresses.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report this month.

During the meeting Council Member Dave Preusch read the agenda items for Mayor Ruspi.

Committees and Board Reports

Old Business:

Mobley Farm Lights: Infrastructure Advisor, Wayne Keeler appeared before the Council and stated that he would have a second proposal for the installation of new light fixtures on Mobley Farm Drive by the end of the week. Delay is due to the change in recommended wattage of the LED lights countywide. Installation is still slated for October. Mayor Ruspi asked the Council to give him the authority to proceed with the contract if the amount is less than previous bids. The Council agreed for Mayor Ruspi to proceed. Council Member Preusch inquired as to whether the poles could be painted at

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the same time. Wayne Keeler said that he would ask that a price for painting of the poles be separate from the installation of the lights.

Sidewalks on Rt. 108: Wayne Keeler reported on the status of the bulging sidewalk on Route 108. He stated that an inspector from State Highway looked at it and directed a contractor to fix it. Mr. Keeler stated that he is in contact with State Highway on a weekly basis. The hole in the sidewalk in front of the Town Hall will be repaired by PEPCO.

Sundown Road Repair: Council Member Preusch reported that he sent an email to County Council President Nancy Floreen and to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. The response from MCDOT was that the contractor had to be reassigned but work would resume in October. Council Member Preusch said that he would follow-up and report what had been done.

Miller Park: After a resident complained about the overgrowth of vegetation, Mayor Ruspi, with permission from the Council, signed a contract with Goshen Enterprises. After the area was cleaned up, it was found that fifty azaleas were alive and growing. The next phase is to have Mike White relocate the azaleas into a smaller area in the fall. Mayor Ruspi then reported the progress that was done to the resident.

Eagle Scout Project: Cole Schneider from Troop 1323 addressed the Council regarding his Eagle Scout Project. The planning phase of the Little Free Library which will be constructed on Town property is coming to an end. He stated that he has received approval from the Historic District Commission. It will be made out of plywood with a metal roof and located on one side of the Mayor White Memorial Bench. He will be getting donations from Home Depot and also was contacted by a resident who will partially fund it. Maintenance of it was discussed. Council Member Halvorson made a motion to approve the Little Free Library scout project and allocate \$100 from the Town for it. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

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New Business:

Town Hall Shed Clean Out: Planning Commission Member Brendon Deyo's son did a rank advancement scout project in which he cleaned out the shed closest to the Town Hall and washed down the tables in the gazebo.

Town Hall Shed: There was discussion of the possibility of rebuilding the larger shed on Town Hall property. Council Member Preusch stated that it is in good condition on the inside. The outside would need to be painted and repaired. Sheree Wenger, Chairman of the Historic District Commission, stated that the features inside the shed should be preserved. She encouraged the Lions Club to get in contact with Historic Architect, Mike Seebold as to materials to restore it. The Lions Club want to use the shed as their medical locker.

Parks Task Force: Mayor Ruspi stated that over two years ago the Council voted to form a Parks and Trails Task Force to look at all of the parks and trails in town. The Mayor contacted five people who had expressed interest in being a part of this task force. He met with two of those people. Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road addressed the Council regarding the meeting that was held. She brought those in attendance up to date and introduced aspects of taking care of parks and trails. Another meeting was not scheduled at this time. An ordinance was passed by the Council and both the ordinance and resolution regarding parks and trails are available on line.

MML Fall Conference: Mayor Ruspi and Historic Commission Member Jill Ruspi will attend the MML Fall Conference in Solomons Island. The conference will be held on October 13 – 15. Mayor Ruspi stated that he has attended the MML summer conference over the years. He also mentioned that he is working on getting Laytonsville to be a Banner City again. The town had received that award in 2015.

Montgomery County Proposed Bill 33-16: Mayor Ruspi received notification from Montgomery County regarding a hearing for proposed bill 33-16. The proposed bill 33-16 requires organizations who serve food to have staff trained in allergy food reactions. Mayor Ruspi visited three food establishments in town and found that they were unaware

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of the proposed bill. With the Council feeling that this is not a wide spread problem, Mayor Ruspi said that he would write a letter to the County stating that the Town does not support this bill.

Picnic Update: The Town Picnic is set for September 10 from 5 to 9 pm rain or shine. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs and BBQ. The cost per family is \$20, children are \$5. The band City Slickers will perform. There will be face painting, a moon bounce and the Dottie Tessier Memorial Cake Walk. The theme this year is Supporting Laytonsville Volunteers. Proceeds will go to the restoration of the large shed on Town Hall property which is to be used as the Lions Medical Locker.

Vacant Council Seat: Nominations to fill the Town Council seat that was vacated when Jim Ruspi became Mayor will be taken at the next meeting.

Residents Forum:

Mr. Bill Harvey of 7102 Brink Road addressed the Council regarding a storm water issue he has been having on his property. He stated that there is a very large sink hole caused by run off and his property has been damaged. He stated that he has been in contact with the Laytonsville Preserve developer many times. Mayor Ruspi and Council Member Preusch agreed to visit Mr. Harvey's property in order to try to help resolve the issue.

Adjournment: Council Member Bradsher made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
September 6, 2016

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Trash/Recycling Update

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.