

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 1-20-15
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on February 3, 2015

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 8:04 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher and David Preusch were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Four residents were present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on December 2, 2014 were approved as submitted with Council Member Preusch abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of December 2014. Total income for the month of December was \$2,171 with \$1,161 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$563 was received from Highway Income. Major expenses for December 2014 were \$1,896 for Furnishings, (blinds for the Town Hall), \$2,458, for Payroll Expenses, \$3,070 for Land Planning, \$1,065 for Grounds Maintenance, \$2,886 for Waste Collection and \$2,750 for Donations. The Total Expenses for the month of December 2014 were \$17,733. General Net Income for the month of December was \$-15,561. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of December 2014, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,010,451, for the CIP account, the balance was \$196,259 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for December 2014 was \$1,891,062.

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

Committees and Reports

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that drainage pipes are being installed in Phase 3 at Laytonsville Preserve. Large vibrations were reported in homes on Brink Road due to equipment that was used to level the land in the area where the sales trailer had been. The use of the equipment has ceased and Mayor Prats informed the construction company that this type of equipment cannot be used in or near the historic district.

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Town Survey: Mayor Prats stated that the results of the survey that was distributed to the residents last month was as follows: there were a total of 30 responses, 25 were for upgrading the liquor license from Class H to Class B and 5 responses were against.

Update on Montgomery County Legislative Delegation Hearing: Mayor Prats spoke in front of the Montgomery County Legislative Delegation in Rockville regarding the allowance of games and alcohol in establishments in the Laytonsville.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Planning Commission Chair, Eric Wenger addressed the Council and reported that there had been no reply from the state to Consultant, Doug Lohmeyer's response to previous comments from the state regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Santa Visit to Laytonsville: Mayor Prats stated the Montgomery County police stopped at Laytonsville Town Hall on their annual Santa visit to NIH to spend time with Arabelle Gemmell who had lost her mother and brothers when a plane crashed into her home in Montgomery Village in early December.

Pedestrian Safety along Route 108: Mayor Prats mentioned that he continues to work on this issue.

Tree Lighting: Mayor Prats stated that the annual tree lighting at the Town Hall on December 5 went very well.

1st Quarter Safety Inspection: Council Member Preusch will conduct the 1st quarter safety inspection.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

New Business:

New Model Home Introduction: Mayor Prats reported that NV Homes has two new model homes they want to introduce in the Laytons Preserve development. He stated that there will be a hearing and a vote on these models at the next Town Council meeting.

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Parks and Trails Ordinance: Mayor Prats stated that he would continue to discuss the Parks and Trails Ordinance at the next Town Council Meeting. He went on to say that there has been a lot of feedback on it.

Vote on Council Vacancy: Mayor Prats noted that there have been three nominations from three different parts of Town. He went on to say that each person has different skills to offer to the Town.

The first nominee was Jennifer Sizemore who was nominated by Council Member Jim Ruspi. Council Member Ruspi stated that he worked with her over the summer and thought she would be a good candidate. She has lived in Laytonsville for 10 years, resides on Montgomery Street and is willing to serve.

The second nominee was Jim O'Hair who was nominated by Council Member Dave Preusch. Jim was the picnic chair for 10 years. He has been a resident for over 20 years and lives on Mobley Farm Drive.

The third nominee was Larry Halvorson who was nominated by Charles Bradsher. Larry has done community service projects with the Boy Scouts and has served with the National Guard. He has been a resident for 10 years and resides on Laytonsville Road.

Shree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Dr. stated that she felt that the nominees were all good choices but felt that there needs to be a reaching out further in the town to make it a more broader Council.

Mayor Prats opened up the voting to the Council and asked for a motion on each candidate. Council Member Bradsher made a motion to nominate Larry Halvorson to fill the vacant seat on the Town Council left by former Council Member Josh Pomeroy who recently resigned. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. Council Member Preusch abstained. *Unanimously approved.*

Larry Halvorson is approved as temporary replacement for the vacant Town Council seat.

Office Furniture Donation: Mayor Prats publically thanked Mr. Dana Rawlings for his donation of the conference table and credenza to the Town Hall.

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Council: Council Member Jim Ruspi inquired as to the status of the Compensation for the Mayor policy. Mayor Prats stated that the policy has been forwarded to the attorney for review and that he would check on it.

Mayor Prats stated that he is aware that the dead tree on Mobley Farm Dr. has not been removed yet.

Council Member Bradsher inquired about the use of the beacon on the cell tower due to the resent plane crash in Montgomery Village. Mayor Prats responded by saying that although not required to have it, it was previously working and he will check on it.

Residents:

Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road spoke to the Council about the Town of Hyattsville authorizing 16 year olds to vote in Municipal Elections. He felt it was a good idea because it would get younger people interested in government. He wondered if the Town of Laytonsville would be interested in implementing such a process. Mayor Prats said that the idea would have to be explored further. Council Member Ruspi stated that he is opposed to the idea. He cited a situation in the past when youth were allowed to vote in his church for a new minister and the process did not go very well.

Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Dr. addressed the Council regarding lights that have not been working for six months on Maple Knoll Dr. Also, he reported that there is no crosswalk on the east side of Maple Knoll Dr., parallel to Route 108. Mayor Prats said that it is timed in with construction in that area and he also stated that there should be a crosswalk on Maple Knoll Dr. and on Howard St.

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington

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Assistant Clerk
January 20, 2015

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 2015:

For Monday, February 16, President's Day – Pick up will be Feb. 17

For Monday, May 25, Memorial Day – Pick up will be May 26

For Sept. 7, Labor Day – Pick up will be Sept. 8

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.

Anyone interested in helping to deliver the minutes, please contact the Town. Students who volunteer to deliver minutes receive SSL hours.

If you are interested in serving as parade coordinator or helping on the committee, please contact the Town.