

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 10-7-14
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on November 18, 2014

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:32 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Josh Pomeroy, Charles Bradsher and David Preusch were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Four residents were also present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on September 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 September 2014. Total income for the month of September was \$37,076 with \$3,400 coming from picnic Funds, \$23,428 coming from Income Tax and \$1,804 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$8,036 was received from Highway Income. Major expenses for September 2014 were \$2,328 for Grounds Maintenance for the Town Hall, \$2,047, for Accounting, \$2,369, for Payroll Expenses and \$4,521 for Grounds Maintenance and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of September 2014 were \$20,537. General Net Income for the month of September was \$16,539. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of September 2014, the fund balance for the general fund was \$930,409, for the CIP account, the balance was \$187,231 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for September 2014 was \$1,801,992.

Council Member Ruspi made the motion to approve the September Treasurer's report subject to audit. Council Member Pomeroy seconded the motion with Council Member Preusch abstaining. *Unanimously approved.*

Committees and Reports

Eagle Scout Project: Skylar Manteuffel from Troop 433 addressed the Council regarding his proposed Eagle Scout Project. His proposed project consists of planting flowers and adding a flagstone patio to the bench dedicated to Mayor Charles White which is located on Town Hall property. He is seeking donations and approval from the Council. Mayor Prats encouraged him to try to do some fundraising from some of the businesses in the area. Skylar stated that he would like to start the project in the spring and complete it by July of next year. Council Member Pomeroy made a motion to approve Skylar

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Manteuffel's Eagle Scout project without funding. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Mayor's Update and Reports:

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that a sidewalk and fence have been installed on Warfield Road. The soil is being spread and the retention pile is gone. Mayor Prats asked the developer to save as many trees as possible and also reported that there hasn't been much dust due to the decrease in dump truck traffic.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Town Picnic Update: Mayor Prats stated that the Town Picnic was a success. Close to \$3,000 has been raised for the charity, Baby's Bounty.

Mayor's Compensation Report: Mayor Prats reported that a lawyer is looking at the report and will provide options regarding a resolution.

Safety Inspection: The Fourth Quarter Safety Inspection will be done by Council Member Bradsher.

Upcoming MML legislative initiatives: Mayor Prats stated that the MML is trying to restore highway user revenue that was cut by 90%. The Department of Planning will help with the process to approve a Comprehensive Plan. The legislature is trying to get the state to follow one set of rules.

Old Business:

Parks and Trails Policies: Mayor Prats reported that he will discuss the Parks and Trails Policy at the next Town Council Meeting.

New Business:

Inclement Weather Policy: Mayor Prats presented and read to the Council an Inclement Weather Policy regarding the opening and closing of the Town Hall when the weather is forecasted to be bad or in the event of bad weather that has already occurred. Due to

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weather issues last winter, it was decided to have an inclement weather policy in place. Council Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the inclement weather policy presented to the Council by Mayor Prats. Council Member Pomeroy seconded the motion.

Unanimously approved.

State Delegation Letter regarding games at establishments: Mayor Prats stated that current liquor laws do not allow establishments with liquor licenses to have games. In the past Laytonsville residents were surveyed and voted with District 1 to allow beer and wine to be served in restaurants. Additional stipulations were added for Laytonsville to prohibit games, billiards, etc. from establishments serving beer and wine. Discussion followed regarding the language in the legislation that restricts games. Council Member Pomeroy made a motion to strike the language in the legislation regarding games. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. Council Member Ruspi offered an amendment to strike the playing of darts from the legislation. Council Member Ruspi's amendment was not seconded. Council Member Bradsher agreed with Council Member Pomeroy's motion. ***Unanimously approved*** with Council Member Ruspi abstaining.

Town Alcohol Restrictions: Mr. Larry Swenson, proprietor of the Office Café and Lounge at 6860 Olney-Laytonsville Road addressed the Council regarding his establishment having a Class B liquor license instead of the Class H he currently has. He stated that since the Office Café and Lounge has been in business, he has had no problems with clientele. Mayor Prats read newspaper articles in which previous Laytonsville Mayors had either expressed concerns or support regarding the issue of alcohol being served in restaurants in the Town. Mr. Swenson stated that he cannot expand the restaurant due to septic issues so he felt by changing his liquor license he can increase his revenue. Mr. Bill Duvall of 21612 Second Avenue addressed the Council and inquired as to whether there is any advertising outside for the Office Café and Lounge. Mr. Swenson reported that the restaurant is currently open from 4pm to 11 pm.

Council Member Ruspi made a motion to ask the State Legislature to amend state law to allow a Class B license in the Town of Laytonsville. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion but felt an amendment should be added allowing 2 Class B licenses for the two restaurants in Town. He also felt that the Town residents should be polled as to how they feel about allowing liquor to be served in restaurants. The polling should be done, he felt, prior to January 1 so any changes can be withdrawn before the legislature meets. Council Member Ruspi made a motion to add Council Member Preusch's amendment. The vote to amend the motion was passed. The Council voted on the amended motion.

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Council Members Bradsher and Pomeroy voted against Council Member Preusch and Ruspi along with Mayor Prats voted in favor. The motion passed.

Council: Council Member Ruspi reported that he and his wife, Jill conducted the safety inspection. He stated that he found the Town facilities in good condition with some encroachment on the sidewalks and the bump sign on Brink Road in need of repair. He encouraged residents to trim their foliage.

Council Member Preusch reported that there have been complaints regarding the Pollock House on Route 108. Mayor Prats responded by stating that a letter was written to the current owner.

Council Member Preusch inquired about the status of Verizon TV. Mayor Prats did not have anything to report after contacting Verizon in the past.

Regarding Mobley Farm Drive, cracks will be filled and resealed.

Mayor Prats asked that residents of Mobley Farm Drive to maintain their lawns to Route 108. The grass was not being cut and was becoming very high.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Council Member Pomeroy offered his resignation to Mayor Prats since he will no longer be a resident of Laytonsville. Mayor Prats thanked Council Member Pomeroy for his service to the Town over the years and for his work on the Parks and Trails Policy.

Adjournment: Council Member Ruspi made a motion to adjourn at 9:48 pm. Council member Preusch seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
October 7, 2014

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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.