

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 11-18-14
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on December 2, 2014

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. Council members Jim Ruspi, Charles Bradsher and David Preusch were present. The Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Clerk were present. Five residents were present and members of Cub Scout Troop 1323. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on October 7, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of October 2014. Total income for the month of October was \$41,159 with \$16,371 coming from Income Tax and \$22,903 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP Fund, \$397 was received from Highway Income. Major expenses for October 2014 were \$1,800 for Accounting, \$5,062, for Payroll Expenses and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of October 2014 were \$13,917. General Net Income for the month of October was \$27,639. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of October 2014, the fund balance for the general fund was \$956,460, for the CIP account, the balance was \$195,680 and the Fixed Assets was \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for October 2014 was \$1,778,025.

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

Mayor Prats recognized members of Cub Scout Pack 1323 who were attending the meeting as part of working on their citizenship badge.

Committees and Reports

Eric Wenger, Chairman of the Planning Commission submitted a letter to the Town Council that he received from the state regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission has been waiting for approval of the Comprehensive Plan but it was unclear if the letter was granting approval. Consultant, Doug Lohmeyer is following up with the state.

Mayor's Update and Reports:

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Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that pipes are going in as planned for Phase 3. Foundations were uncovered off of Brink Road that had previously been out buildings for the Layton House.

The model on Warfield Road is now open. He also reported that 2 homes are now occupied so there are 2 new families in town. It was also noted by Mayor Prats, that the home of former Town Council Member Josh Pomeroy is also occupied and he has met the family.

Town Audit: Each Council Member was presented with the audit. Mayor Prats asked that each Council Member review it so he can discuss it at the December Town Council Meeting.

Tree Lighting: Mayor Prats announced that the Annual Tree Lighting will be held on December 5 at 7 p.m.

Each Council Member along with Mayor Prats received an invitation to the County Executive and Council Inaugural Ceremony on December 1 at Richard Montgomery High School.

Laytonsville History Book: Mayor Prats reported that the new history book is sold out and another 500 copies will be printed.

Town Parade: Mayor Prats met with Charles Kearse from the Laytonsville Lions Club who informed him that he would like to meet with anyone interested in working on or being the coordinator for the town parade which will be held in May next year.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Old Business:

Parks and Trails Policies: Regarding the parks and trails policy, Mayor Prats will introduce it at the December meeting, would like to schedule a hearing in January and vote on it in February so that it is in place for next season.

New Business:

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Open Town Council Position: Mayor Prats reported that there have been 3 people nominated for the open Council position. Discussion will take place at the December Town Council Meeting.

Snow Removal Contract: Mayor Prats received the Snow Removal Contract from J.B. Kline. Mayor Prats said he would talk with Brian Kline to make sure he understands what the Town priorities are. Council Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the Snow Removal Contract with J.B.Kline Lawn Maintenance and Landscaping for the removal of snow for the 2014-2015 season. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Power Pole Replacement: Mayor Prats has been notified by PEPCO that they will be replacing power poles throughout town. He will be contacting PEPCO to make sure the old poles will not be left behind. Council Member Ruspi asked Mayor Prats in his conversation with PEPCO's representative to make sure that after work is completed everything is left as it was.

Council: Council Member Preusch inquired as to who is responsible for replacing the dead tree on Mobley Farm Drive. The HOA agreement, Council Member Preusch stated does not mention anything regarding replacement of trees, but he will look at it again and report back at the next Town Council Meeting.

Council Member Ruspi reported that there are some sidewalks that are cracked. Mayor Prats responded by saying that a log will be kept on which sidewalks need repair.

Council Member Ruspi inquired about the possibility of black top being put around Jones Pond. Mayor Prats stated that it is still a possibility that when the trails are paved that maybe the time to do it because the Town can get a better rate.

Residents:

Eric Wenger or 6751 Maple Knoll Drive and owner of Complete Lawn Care and Complete Plant Care addressed the Council regarding concerning Bill 52-14 which was introduced by County Council Member George Leventhal. The bill would ban the use of pesticides by homeowners and professionals throughout the County. He noted that Takoma Park has passed a similar bill in 2014. Mayor Prats stated that he would be at an

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MML meeting with the Takoma Park Mayor and would discuss the bill with him. Mayor Prats will investigate it through the MML.

Chris Bradsher of 2148 Laytonsville Road addressed the Council regarding the issue of safety when children are trying to cross Laytonsville Road in front of the school. She reported that there have been 2 accidents since the school year began in the area. She also stated that there used to be a flashing sign to notify motorist that they were entering a school zone but it is not working anymore. Mayor Prats responded by saying that he would contact State Highway. They previously agreed to try to remedy the situation.

Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road addressed the Council regarding as to when the traffic circle would be built. Mayor Prats stated construction had been scheduled for the summer of 2015 but he is not sure when it will be built because State Highway is reevaluating it. Mr. Hendricks also inquired as to whether there will be sidewalks on Brink Road across from his house. Mayor Prats responded by saying that the lighting, sidewalks and pull outs will be similar to those in Rolling Ridge.

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road addressed the Council regarding the safety of crossing Laytonsville Road. She felt that crossing guards are needed to stop traffic at the school and Brink Road. Mayor Prats stated that there will eventually be crosswalks after the roundabout is constructed.

Sheree Wenger of 6751 Maple Knoll Drive addressed the Council on the same issue of crossing Laytonsville Road. She reported years ago, the Laytonsville Elementary School PTA approached the state regarding the possibility of getting a crossing guard and they were turned down.

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road asked if it was possible for the Town to hire a police officer who would offer safe crossing of Laytonsville Road in that area. Mayor Prats said he would look into it and stated that he tried previously to get cross walks put in by the state at Howard Street and at the lower end of the fire station. When the by-pass is constructed, he went on to say, the problem will be solved.

Eric Wenger of 6751 Maple Knolls Drive stated that the only reason the by-pass and the rotary is being constructed is that there is a plan for future expansion of Route 108.

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Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 pm. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
November 18, 2014

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.

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.