

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 8-5-14

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on September 2, 2014

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:34 p.m. Council Members Jim Ruspi, Josh Pomeroy and Dave Preusch were present. The Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk were also present. There was one resident in attendance. The meeting minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Nick Cedillo Eagle Scout Project: Council Member Ruspi introduced Nick Cedillo from Troop 1323 who presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the Council. His project consists of constructing 2 benches made of wood or plastic coated metal to be placed near the fire ring on Town Hall property. He also plans on placing flower beds and plants next to the benches. The beds would be 3 to 4 feet in length with plants next to the benches. Bench length would be 5 feet long and seat 5 people. Diameter of the finished project would be 12 feet across. The cost of using wood for the benches would be \$836.00. The cost of using plastic coated metal for the benches would be \$1136.00.

Sheree Wenger, Chair of the Historic District Commission encouraged the use of material that doesn't require maintenance. Nick Cedillo stated that benches would be screwed into concrete slabs and gardening tarp would be used to prevent weed growth. He also stated that he already has the concrete and would use gravel.

Mayor Prats encouraged Nick to seek funds from other businesses such as Ruppert, Goshen Enterprises and Stadler Nursery, to name a few. The project would take a week to a week and a half to complete. Mayor Prats suggested that the town would give up to \$550.00 toward the project and encouraged Nick to do some fundraising. Mayor Prats asked for a motion to approve the project subject to dimension approval. Council Member Ruspi made the motion to approve the funding of Eagle Scout Nick Cedillo's project up to \$550.00 with the understanding that no construction would take place until the size is reviewed by Mayor Prats and Council Member Preusch. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Mayor Prats thanked Eagle Scout Nick Cedillo for presenting his project to the Council.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of July 2014. Total income for the month of July was \$10,831 with \$8,359 coming from Admissions Tax, \$1,497 coming from Income Tax and \$576 for Highway Income in the

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CIP Account. Major Expenses for the month of July 2014 were \$1,239 for Insurance, \$1,737 for Consultants, and \$4,872 for Payroll Expenses. The Total Expenses for the month of July 2014 was \$12,383. Total Net Income for the month of July 2014 was - \$1552. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of July 2014, the Fund Balance for the General Fund was \$920,073 for the CIP account, the balance was \$187,224 and the Fixed Assets were \$684,352. The total Fund Balance for the Town of Laytonsville for July 2014 was \$1,791,650.

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

Mayor's Update and Reports

Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that work on the construction road is complete. The issue with the excessive dust has been addressed.

Breaking ground will begin near Brink Road for earth moving. Dirt is planned to be moved from Brink Road to Warfield Road for septic field construction.

No work session was scheduled.

Summer Interns: Council Member Jim Ruspi's granddaughter, Brianna Hoffman, has been working as a summer intern with the Historic District Commission to update the historic homes in town.

Town Picnic Update: The Town Picnic is September 20, 2014 from 5 to 9 p.m. The charity that was named this year is Baby's Bounty. This charity provides clothing and essentials to newborns in need. Their website is www.babysbounty.org. Mayor Prats said it was a very good choice for a charity this year. The next picnic meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Parks and Trails Update: Regarding the parks policy, Mayor Prats said he hoped to have it by the September Town Council Meeting.

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Comprehensive Plan: Regarding the Comprehensive Plan, the Mayor noted that he received a note from Doug Lohmeyer stating that the updates have been completed and it has been resubmitted to the state for final review.

MML Conference: Mayor Prats mentioned that he will be attending the fall Maryland Municipal Conference in Annapolis from September 9 through September 12.

Old Business

New Business:

Appointment of Sheree Wenger: Council Member Pomeroy made a motion to amend the appointment of Sheree Wenger to the Historic District Commission as a member not as a chair. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Council:

Flash Cam: Council Member Ruspi stated that he had provided information to the Council regarding the placement of a flash cam at Jones Pond. A representative from the company contacted him with a price range. Since there haven't been any complaints lately from residents in that area, Council Member Ruspi recommended that the possibility of putting a flash cam at Jones Pond be dropped. There were no objections.

Scout Project Update: Council Member Ruspi reported that there are 2 projects that scouts want to do that are not on the Eagle Scout Project list. The first one being the project proposed by Eagle Scout Nick Cedillo which was discussed at the beginning of the Town Council Meeting. The second project brought about by Eagle Scout Skylar Manteuffel, who already met with Historic District Commission Chair, Sheree Wenger and Council Member Ruspi, consists of putting flowers and bushes to meet the sidewalk near the Charles T. White Memorial Bench. Council Member Ruspi asked if this project could be added to the Eagle Scout Project list. There were no objections to adding this project to the list.

Restoration of Large Shed: Another project discussed was to do landscaping around the large shed on Town Hall property. Photos were taken of this structure showing that the side of the shed had shifted which is causing a bit gap at the bottom. The foundation

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needs repair. Historic District Commission Chair, Sheree Wenger offered to call Mike Seebold for an evaluation. Mayor Prats noted that the shifting of this structure could have been a result of the earthquake a few years ago. Council Member Ruspi asked that any work on these sheds that was on the Eagle Scout Project list be removed. There were no objections.

Mayor's Compensation Work Group Update: Council Member Ruspi reported that the Mayor's Compensation Work Group met twice. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2014 at the Town Hall.

In his first meeting with the group, general things were discussed. The second meeting had the Mayor in attendance who spoke about the duties, responsibilities of the Mayor and the amount of time it takes to perform these duties.

Council Member Ruspi asked if Mrs. Janice Hewitt could be added as a member of the group. There were no objections.

Council Member Ruspi stated that he would like to conclude the meeting by early September at which time recommendations would be brought to the Council. Mayor Prats thanked Council Member Ruspi and members of the Work Group for doing the study.

Council Member Preusch asked if members of the group would like to meet with Council Members. Council Member Ruspi stated that he would let the Council know.

Town Hall Lighting: Council Member Preusch spoke about lighting for the Town Hall parking lot. It was mentioned that there are posts consisting of 5 globes for possible sale in Georgia.

Council Member Preusch inquired about lighting for the port-a-johns during the town picnic. Mayor Prats stated that lanterns placed on shepherd hooks outside had already been discussed.

Council Member Pomeroy reported that the Brookville By-pass had been approved with construction to begin in 2015.

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Adjournment: Council Member Pomeroy made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm. Council Member Preusch seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
August 5, 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.