

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 9-6-11  
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on October 4, 2011

Mayor Prats called the regular Town Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Jim Ruspi and Josh Pomeroy were present. Council Member David Preusch was absent. The Clerk and Treasurer were present. There were four citizens present.

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting on August 2, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chris Wilkinson reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of August; 2011. Total income for the month was \$14,163 with \$11,625 coming from municipal taxes. Major expenses for August, 2011 were \$1,730 for Grounds Maintenance, \$4,176 for Accounting, \$1,752 for Legal, and \$2,886 for Waste Collection with total expenses being \$15,398. The total General Fund net income for the month of August, 2011 was -\$1,223. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of August, 2011 the fund balance for the general fund is \$591,019; for the CIP account, the balance is \$175,026. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for August, 2011 is \$1,271,542.

Council Member Josh Pomeroy moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of August, 2011 subject to audit. Council Member Charles Bradsher seconded.  
**Unanimously approved.**

Discussion/Action Items:

WSSC Update: Construction has started and is now past Laytonsville Elementary school as planned. The goal was to get past the school prior to the start of the school year. Work will continue on Rt. 108 towards Brink Road. During holidays and inclement weather, construction is prohibited by the SHA on Rt. 108, so construction crews will work on Howard Ave. on these days. The roads will be resurfaced after the project is completed. Weekly meetings are held with WSSC and the construction crew to track progress and discuss issues. Residents should call Town Hall if they encounter issues so that we can resolve them with the construction team.

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Post Office Closure: Mayor Prats stated that the post office closure appears to be a two part issue. One part is the relocation of the sorting facility. The second is a lease issue with the front office that houses the service window and post office boxes. Mayor Prats commented that he will continue work on the issue.

Town Picnic: The Town Picnic will be held on September 17 from 5-9 pm. This year's band, The Pocket Band, will play reggae/jazz type music. Island themed dress is encouraged and there will be a costume contest for the best island attire.

Plen Air Olney painters: A local artist group called Plen Air Olney was scheduled to come to the Laytonsville area on the day of the hurricane to create paintings of the area. They will now come on their own time. Their work may be on display in the Town Hall and available for purchase at the Town Picnic.

Off-road vehicles: Mayor Prats reminded all residents that the Town has previously adopted Montgomery County Code Chapter 7A that prohibits off road vehicles on all town roads, property and sidewalks. These vehicles may be operated on private property with the permission of the owner. Violation of this law could result in stiff fines and the vehicle being confiscated and impounded. Pete Stadler stated that non-licensed vehicles are also prohibited in Stadler's Nursery property. Golf carts are exempted from the regulation but parents should be mindful of under aged drivers. For further information you can read more information at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltempl.asp?url=/content/pol/districts/FSB/sod/offroadvehs.asp>

Intern: Mayor Prats commented that our summer intern, Therese Campagnone, had been a tremendous asset to the Town for the past two summers. Therese worked last summer to earn Student Service Learning Hours. She worked this summer without pay, so the Town presented her with a scholarship to be applied to her college education. Therese started at Towson University this fall.

Town sign graffiti: Initial attempts to remove the graffiti for the Town sign were unsuccessful. Sterico Signs has indicated that we cannot fix the sign but would need to replace it at a cost of \$800. The original cost for the sign was \$1800. Mayor Prats stated that he will have the sign replaced.

Storm Damage: Mayor Prats stated that there was not much damage from the recent storms. There were a few limbs down and the shutter on the back of the Town Hall lost a hinge.

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Seismic Surveys: All scheduled survey work had been completed before the earthquake. Seismic Surveys will have to go back and double-check all properties to see if any damage occurred as a result of the earthquake. They will be comparing notes and photos. Monitors being placed near properties where WSSC construction is in progress will flash red and call a switchboard if vibration levels get too high. Work will stop at that point. All residents are encouraged to follow through on re-inspection of their property.

Upcoming events/conferences/meetings:

MML Conferece – Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 Cambridge, MD

Water tank: Boy Scout Colin Headrick has made progress on the water tank. It was found to have lead paint on it, so a containment vessel was used by the contractor who sandblasted it, and all contaminated material was disposed of properly. It was then primed by Colin and some other Boy Scouts.

Communication Issues: Mayor Prats announced that the Town Hall experienced some communication issues this month due to a prolonged telephone line outage. The fax machine is also experiencing problems and it looks as if we need to replace the fax machine.

Ethics Law Exemption: Mayor Prats announced that the town's legal counsel has advised the town to seek an exemption from part of a new state Ethics Law requiring all municipalities to create independent Ethics Commissions and mandating detailed personal and family financial disclosures from all elected and appointed officials. The state created an exemption process for small towns like ours who are volunteer based, because it would be an impediment to getting volunteers to serve on boards and commissions. The exemption would keep the town from having to seat another 5 member commission to go through the finances of other volunteers. This, in no way, exempts public officials from acting ethically. Mayor Prats asked if there were any objections to seeking this exemption. There were no objections.

Master Plan Update: As Dave Preusch was not present, there was no update.

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Work Session: There will not be a work session on 9/20/11.

Actions:

Snow Contract: Mayor Prats announced that the snow plowing contract is up for renewal with J.B. Kline. Council Member Josh Pomeroy moved to take under consideration the J.B. Kline snow removal contract for approval. Council Member Charles Bradsher seconded the motion. **Unanimously approved.**

Council:

Council Member Josh Pomeroy stated that the Gaithersburg library construction would begin in the fall for an 18 month project.

Council Member Pomeroy also asked about off site back-up and storage of Town documents. Mayor Prats responded that this was something that was being worked on.

Council members unanimously stated that the new meeting agenda seemed to work well.

Residents:

Sheree Wenger stated that a tree fell on a transformer at 6705 Maple Knoll Road. The limbs are still lying on the power lines.

Jill Ruspi commented that she would like to know when the Mid-County Corridor Study meeting will be rescheduled.

Adjournment:

Council member Josh Pomeroy moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Council member Jim Ruspi seconded the motion.. **Unanimously approved.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham  
Clerk  
September 6, 2011

**Note: While County Law exempts golf carts as off road vehicles, they are regulated by State Motor Vehicle Laws (Maryland Transportation Code Annotated Section 13-402) and are not allowed on public highways. We encourage all golf cart operators to familiarize themselves with all appropriate laws and regulations.**

**311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services. For emergency calls, residents should continue to call 911. A new website is available at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311).**