

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 2-18-14
As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on March 4, 2014

Mayor Prats called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:33 p.m. Council Members Jim Ruspi, Josh Pomeroy, Charles Bradsher and Dave Preusch were present. The Treasurer, Clerk and Assistant Clerk were present. Mr. Steve Crum of Macris, Hendricks & Glascock and three residents were also present. The minutes of the Town Council meeting on January 7, 2014 were approved as submitted with Council Member Ruspi abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of January 2014. Total income for the month of January was \$32,726 with \$11,343 coming from Admissions Tax and \$19,186 coming from Real Property Taxes. Major Expenses for the month of January 2014 were \$4,099 for Payroll Expenses, \$2,950 for Snow Removal and \$2,886 for Waste Collection. The Total Expenses for the month of January 2014 were \$17,278. General Net Income for the month of January 2014 was \$15,448. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of January 2014, the fund balance for the general fund was \$923,391 for the CIP account, the balance was \$183,630 and the Fixed Assets were \$684,352. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for January 2014 was \$1,791,373.

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

Concerning the Audit Review, Council Member Ruspi inquired as to why the town was switched to a cash basis. Treasurer, Chris Wilkinson stated that she would get in touch with the auditors and report back at the next Town Council Meeting.

Committees and Reports

By Pass Study: Mr. Steve Crum from the engineering firm, Macris, Hendricks and Glascock, addressed the Council regarding a wetlands study that he prepared in conjunction with the proposed future bypass. He stated that a portion of the land allocated for the proposed by pass is in a wetlands area.

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Gold Star Program: Mr. Jim O’Hair of 21726 Mobley Farm Dr. addressed the Council with a plan for a veteran’s memorial in town. He presented background on the Gold Star Family Memorial which honors families who lost members in combat. He encouraged the Council to consider having this monument constructed in one of the town’s parks.

Girls Scout Silver Award: Council Member Ruspi stated that he was approached by a Girl Scout who was interested in doing a project in town for her Girl Scout Silver Award which consists of 40 hours of planning a project and completing it. She is interested in making a flower garden.

Council Member Ruspi also presented to the Council a list a suggested Eagle Scout Award Projects. The list contains some additions and changes from the current list.

Mayor’s Update and Reports

WSSC Update: Mayor Prats received a construction update from WSSC. He stated that there is a lot of activity at the pumping station. In a few weeks the hydrants will be opened up and at that time information will be available to residents concerning hook ups.

SHA Sidewalk Update: Mayor Prats stated that work on the sidewalks has been put on hold due to the weather. The State Highway Administration is hoping to resume working at the end of February.

Laytonsville Preserve Construction Update: Mayor Prats reported that the recording of plats continues. Construction meetings at the Town Hall will resume. There are already contracts for homes. NV Homes will be constructing a model home. They will be phasing out some of the previous models and replacing them with new ones. Mayor Prats distributed packets of the new home floor plans to the Council for review. The new floor plans will be considered for approval following the Public Hearing on March 4, 2014.

Town Elections: Mayor Prats announced that there are two Council Member positions on the ballot this year. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the Council should file with the Town Clerk between March 7 and March 21. The election will be held on May 5 from 3 to 8 p.m. If anyone is interested in being an election judge, they should contact the Town Hall.

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Mennonite Church Cleans Town Hall: The Town Hall was cleaned by the youth from the Mennonite Church on January 18. Mayor Prats stated that he met the new pastor and is looking forward to working with him in the future.

Mayor's Association Meeting: Mayor Prats reported that he attended the Mayor's Association Meeting in Annapolis where he learned about a bill proposed by State Delegate Carr which would allow municipalities to purchase street lights on poles from utility companies at a set rate and take control of them. The County Council already approves of the idea. Council Member Ruspi stated he doesn't like the idea because of liability issues.

Mayor Prats announced that the 2015 Budget Hearing will be in April. The budget will be passed in May. Any ideas for capital projects should be sent to the Mayor.

Mayor Prats noted that on Wednesday, February 26 a check for the building fund from the Town of Laytonsville would be presented to the LDVFD at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House.

Work Session: There was no work session scheduled.

Old Business:

New Business:

Resolution Adopting County Hazard Mitigation Plan: Mayor Prats introduced Resolution R-01-14 in which the Town of Laytonsville would adopt the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Discussion on this resolution would be at the next Town Council Meeting.

Signs Request by Rolling Ridge Residents: Mr. Beraq Azeem of 21723 Rolling Ridge Lane addressed the Council with the request of putting up signs at the entrance to the common driveway leading to the path and pond in Rolling Ridge. He stated that he felt that driving should not be allowed because it is not public property. He also expressed concerns about people walking at their own risk in that area. The Mayor was in agreement as to putting up signs prohibiting the driving of vehicles in that area. Council Member Ruspi objected to a sign warning pedestrians about the walking. Discussion continued about the responsibility of the HOA putting up signs and not the Town because

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the residents in that area own the road. Mayor Prats stated that a proposal would be brought up and the Council could vote on it then.

Council:

Parks Policy: Mayor Prats proposed bringing up the Parks Policy that Council Member Pomeroy has been working on at the next Town Council meeting. Council Member Ruspi stated that he felt Attachment A should be a Guideline for the Mayor and that it should not be part of the Twon's policy. The remainder of the draft policy(the first page) be considered as the policy..

Town Hall Driveway Lighting Plan: Council Member Pomeroy shared a plan and proposal from Boyland Electric to install lights in the Town Hall parking lot. He stated that there are three different types of lamp posts in the Town already. The Historic District Commission favors the style in Rolling Ridge. Council Member Ruspi stated that he was in favor of more lighting in the parking lot. There were inquiries as to whether resurfacing the parking lot would interfere with the lights. Council Member Preusch had concerns about the lights affecting the home next to the Town Hall and he was also in favor of paving the parking lot. Council Member Pomeroy stated that timers on a circuit with sensors would be installed on the lamps to enable shut off times to be preset. Mayor Prats said he would talk with the resident next to the Town Hall and stated that perhaps trees could be planted along the perimeter to form a barrier. There was no objection to Council Member Pomeroy going to the Historic District Commission to secure a permit for the project. Mayor Prats thanked Council Member Pomeroy for his work in gathering information and contacting Boyland Electric in regards to this project.

Mayor Prats stated that he was putting various projects that need to be done around the Town Hall in the budget for next year.

Council Member Preusch stated that he was in contact with Mike White concerning the azalea garden in Miller Park. Mr. White said he was ready to begin work in March.

Council Member Preusch also expressed concerns about repairs on the pipe on Montgomery St.

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Residents: Mrs. Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road expressed concerns about residents having their wells filled in when they hook up to the water mains and if information would be provided to them when they are going to hook up with water.

She also inquired as to whether there were alternate ways to get to the Rolling Ridge pond area instead of using the common driveway that was discussed by Mr. Azeem.

Adjournment: Council Member Preusch made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Council Member Ruspi seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Whittington
Assistant Clerk
February 18, 2014

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 2014:

For Monday, May 26, Memorial Day, Pick-up will be May 27

For Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day, Pick-up will be Sept. 2

Please continue to separate recycling materials.

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Please do not put yard waste or mulch out for the regular trash pick-up.

Yard waste should be placed in brown bags.

Bulk Trash Pick-up is April 28, 2014

Volunteers are needed for the Park Planning Advisory Board to begin meeting in March. If interested contact the Town Hall.

Volunteers are needed for election judges. If interested contact the Town Hall.