

Meeting minutes of Town Council on 5-1-18

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on June 5, 2018

There being a quorum, Mayor Jim Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:43 p.m. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, Jim O’Hair and Paul Simonetti were present. The Treasurer and Clerk were also present. Mayor Ruspi introduced Joy Jackson who was recently hired to be Assistant Clerk. Four residents were also present.

Minutes: The minutes from the Budget Hearing and Town Council Meeting that were held on April 10, 2018 were approved as submitted. The minutes from the Miller Park hearing that was held on April 17, 2018 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Report for the month of April 2018. Total Income for the month of April was \$2,176 with \$1,205 coming from Interest Income and \$721 coming from Real Property Taxes. In the CIP fund, \$10,000 was transferred in from the General Fund making the total income for both funds \$12,830. Major Expenses for the month of April were \$1,008 for Accounting and \$3,033 for Waste Collection. There was \$10,000 transferred out of the general fund to the CIP fund, bringing the total expenses for both funds for the month of April 2018 to be \$16,294. General Net Income for the month of April was -\$3,464. Looking at the Balance Sheet for the month of April 2018, the fund balance for the general fund was \$1,125,240 for the CIP account, the balance was \$157,548 and the fixed assets were \$903,054. The total fund balance for the Town of Laytonsville for April 2018 was \$2,185,842.

Council Member O’Hair made a motion to approve the April Treasurer’s report subject to audit. Council Member Burke seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Committee/Board Reports

None

Old Business

Close Record on Budget Hearing : Council Member O’Hair made a motion to close the record on the Budget Hearing of April 10, 2018. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Town Of Laytonsville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
5-1-18

Close Record on Miller Park Hearing : Council Member Burke made a motion to close the record on the Budget Hearing of April 16, 2018. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

FY 19 Budget and Ad Valorem Tax: Council Member Simonetti reported that he and Mayor Ruspi had discussed his concerns about the budget with regards to town growth and staffing. He felt that as the town grew, that more staff should be hired to support the volunteers who held positions on the town government and keep them informed. Mayor Ruspi stated that he and Council Member Simonetti had different concepts on how the town should be managed. He felt that that the paid staff; the clerk, assistant clerk and treasurer adequately supported the government and part of the charm of the town was in its volunteers who were willing to give of their time. He felt the budget was in good shape. Council Member Bradsher remarked that he was happy with the current staffing. Council Member Burke stated that future needs were more in line at reviewing zoning and regulation. Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive stated that she had been talking to new residents and she felt it was important to get out and talk to them to get them involved in the town. Council Member O’Hair commented that there a number of opportunities to get involved in the government, events or clubs. A number of ways to reach out to engage residents were discussed. Eric Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive commented that he had heard a lot of good points. He remarked to the Council that they choose to be elected to their positions and he wasn’t sure that it was fair to ask the Town to pay for additional staff to support them. It was agreed to revisit this topic at a future time and to consider the budget with the current staffing allocations. The Treasurer commented that there was money in the budget to hire additional staff if the need arises.

Council Member O’Hair made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 01-18, an ordinance adopting the town budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and levying an ad valorem tax on all assessable property within the Town of Laytonsville, Maryland. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

In considering Resolution R-01-18, Resoution for Employee Compensation, Council Member Simonetti had questions about how much money was allocated for salaries. The Treasurer responded that the amounts were based on prior year amounts. Mayor Ruspi

Town Of Laytonsville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
5-1-18

stated that extra money had been added this year for a temporary to work on digitizing the old minutes.

Council Member O'Hair made a motion to approve Resolution R-01-18, a resolution to establish compensation for employees for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Council Member Burke seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Donations:

Greater Olney News - Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road stated that the Greater Olney News had been extremely gracious in covering Laytonsville. She felt that this was important in keeping the town informed and a \$100 donation couldn't buy the coverage that was being provided. There was suggestion about taking out an ad to support the newspaper in lieu of the donation. Mayor Ruspi stated that he would table this item for now and contact the newspaper to request a media kit to get pricing information on advertising.

Laura Turner – Council Member O'Hair made the motion to donate \$200 to the memorial for Laura Turner. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

St. Paul's Methodist Church – Council Member Bradsher made the motion to donate \$200 to the church for the use of the social hall to host the MML meeting. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Miller Park: There was a public hearing on April 17 to discuss the proposed plans for Miller Park. A number of suggestions and recommendations came out of that hearing. Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road, a member of the Parks and Trails task force, remarked that they had not had a chance to price out the park elements yet. Council member Bradsher made a motion to permit the Parks and Trails Task Force to proceed to work with the developer, Lennar, on the Miler Park plan with the \$50, 000 budget and bring it back to the Council for approval. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Town Of Laytonsville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
5-1-18

Parade: Council Member O’Hair stated that the parade is May 19. The Council will serve as parade judges.

Election: The two candidates running for the two Town Council positions are Jim O’Hair and Charles Bradsher. The election will be May 7, 2018 from 3-8 pm.

New Business:

Work session: There will be no work session in May.

Commission and Board Changes: As reappointments to Boards and Commissions are coming due, Mayor Ruspi requested chairs to notify him of any changes to membership.

Play area at St. Paul’s Methodist Church: The Parks and Trails task force has been approached about considering a park or play area on land north of St. Paul’s Methodist Church. The land would be leased from the church. The Town attorney knows of no prohibition against this. This would work with the walkable community concept within the Comprehensive Plan and provide an access point to Jones Farm pond. The Council agreed that the Parks and Trails task force should get more details about this possibility.

Residents:

Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive reported that in spite of the speed bumps, drivers continue to drive at high speeds on Maple Knoll Drive.

Charles Hendricks of 7011 Brink Road commented that he appreciated the comments from the Council regarding the land at St. Paul’s Methodist Church.

Adjournment: Council Member O’Hair made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Council Member Simonetti seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.*

Town Of Laytonsville
Town Council Meeting Minutes
5-1-18

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham
Clerk
May 1, 2018

Trash/Recycling Update

When trash and recycling pick-up occur on Monday or Thursday holidays, the following day, Tuesday or Friday, will be the designated pick-up day. The designated holidays follow the county transfer station schedule and will be as follows for 2018:

For Monday, September 3, 2018 Labor Day – Pick up will be September 4

For Thursday, November 22, 2018 Thanksgiving – Pick up will be November 23

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.

ATTN HISTORIC DISTRICT RESIDENTS: Exterior home repairs may qualify for Montgomery County tax credits. For more information contact the Historic District Commission.