Meeting minutes of Town Council on 5-03-2022

As reviewed, approved, and accepted by the Town Council on June 7, 2022

There being a quorum, Mayor James Ruspi called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:32p.m. The meeting was held using video conferencing. Council Members Charles Bradsher, Tom Burke, Amy Koval and David Preusch were present. The Treasurer, Assistant Clerk, and Assistant Staff Member were also present as were three residents and one guest.

Minutes: The minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on April 5, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Mayor Ruspi explained the bank statements were not available to prepare the April Treasurer’s report for this meeting. The April and May Treasurer’s reports will be provided at the June Town Council meeting.

Committee/Board Reports

**Charles Hendricks, Historic District Commission Chair, said the Historic District Commission met by videoconference on April 19, 2022. Commission Member McDonald served as Acting Chair for a portion of the meeting while considering an Historic District Work Permit submitted by Charles Hendricks. The Commission will meet via videoconference on May 16, 2022, to review a Historic District Work Permit from St. Bartholomew’s Church to paint the rectory.**

**New Business**

**Election Results: Mayor Ruspi said there were no issues at the town election held on May 2, 2022, other than a disappointing number of voters. Council Members Charles Bradsher and David Preusch ran uncontested and were reelected.**

**Introduce FY 2022-23 Budget: Mayor Ruspi stated the proposed budget was sent to the Council and was posted for public review on the town website. The record will remain open for comments until June 7, 2022. Treasurer Hoffman said the only major change is that all the ARPA funds were all recognized in the current fiscal year end and that has been changed. Mayor Ruspi encouraged the Council Members to contact him or the Treasurer if they have any comments or questions.**

**Highway User Revenue: Mayor Ruspi explained that with advocacy from the Maryland Municipal League the Maryland legislature approved increasing Highway User Revenue (HUR) funds to municipalities. Laytonsville will receive an increase of approximately 3.8 percent annually until the amount reaches a level similar to the funding levels of a few years ago.**

**Use of Town Hall: A draft message regarding proposed usage of the Town Hall was sent to the Council Members for their review. Council Member Preusch recommended phasing in any changes and to consider limiting the number of people who can access the Town Hall at one time. Council Member Burke recommended continuing to hold the Town Council meetings on Zoom and to ask groups if they have a pressing need to meet at the Town Hall. Council Member Koval agreed with continuing to hold the Council meetings on Zoom and to limit the number of people that have access to the Town Hall at one time. Council Member Bradsher agreed with holding the Council meetings on Zoom and asked if more residents might attend Council meetings if they were held in person. Mayor Ruspi said he would allow the boards and commissions to decide if they would like to meet in person or continue meeting remotely. The Council agreed to reconsider use of the Town Hall in next month.**

**Annual Contract from Goshen Enterprises: The annual contract from Goshen Enterprises was previously provided to the Council for review. Mayor Ruspi said the rates in the new contract are the same as in the current contract although Goshen Enterprises will be maintaining some additional areas including the roundabout and the fence areas at the entrance to Rolling Ridge Lane.**

**Council Member Preusch made a motion to accept the contract from Goshen Enterprises for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. *Unanimously approved.***

**Old Business**

**Update on Jones Farm Pond: Council Member Preusch said the inspection that was completed last month found leaking through the riser structure and at the first two feet of the pipe that goes through the dam embankment. The company is recommending replacing the riser structure and the first two feet of the exit pipe. Council Member Preusch recommends getting an estimate for the repairs and replacing the riser with a concrete riser. There was discussion that the pond may need to be drained to complete the repairs and how long it might take for the pond to fill up again. Council Member Preusch agreed to follow up with the company regarding an estimate on the repairs and what warranty they provide.**

**Update on Pocket Wetland on Sunset Drive: Council Member Preusch shared that, although he disagrees, Mr. Crum of Macris, Hendricks and Glascock reviewed their files and found no indication that the pocket wetland was designed as a storm water management pond. Council Member Preusch believes the county was going to take over maintenance for the pond about twenty years ago and thinks the necessary paperwork may not have been completed for this to be accomplished. Mayor Ruspi said he obtained estimates from two companies to remove the old fence, clean out the debris and some of the vegetation, and install a new four-foot fence. The Council Members agreed that Mayor Ruspi should follow up with the contractors to obtain estimates for a five-foot fence.**

**ARPA Update: Council Member Koval said the required report was submitted before April 30, 2022. This report included expenses the town incurred between March 3, 2021, and March 31, 2022, which are eligible for reimbursement. The total on these projects is $44,440.16. Council Member Koval explained the second amount of funding, approximately $140,000 is expected in May or June. Council Member Burke cautioned that the Council needs to hone in on the other projects that have been suggested. Mayor Ruspi stated that a list was compiled after soliciting suggestions from Laytonsville residents, businesses, churches, and volunteer organizations. The list, which has been reviewed by Mayor Ruspi and Council Members Burke and Koval, will be presented to the entire Council to determine projects for the second year. In addition to the work put in by Council Members Burke and Koval, Mayor Ruspi thanked Jill Ruspi and Treasurer Hoffman for all their support in getting the required report submitted.**

**Update on Laytonsville Town Parade and VIP Reception: The Laytonsville Town Parade will be held on May 14, 2022, and the VIP reception will begin at 10:30. Mayor Ruspi asked the Council Members to plan on attending the VIP reception prior to the parade.**

**Update on Capital Grant for Miller Park: Mayor Ruspi attended the April 27, 2022, meeting of the Board of Public Works. The meeting was held virtually and the capital grant for Miller Park, in the amount of $20,000, was approved.**

**Resident’s Forum**

**Council Member Burke said the road conditions on the northern section of Route 108 have caused a large amount of asphalt and gravel to be thrown onto the sidewalk and the driveway to St. Paul Methodist Church. Mayor Ruspi said he will investigate having it cleaned up.**

**Council Member Bradsher expressed his sympathy to Sheree Wenger’s family and inquired about a dedication in her honor. Mayor Ruspi said the family has requested donations to specific charities which are in her obituary.**

**Forrest Perdue, 134 Barberry Lane, inquired about a forest conservation approval letter he has been told he needs to install a pool and a fence. Mayor Ruspi said he is familiar with the request, and he is following up with Laytonsville’s forest conservation consultant on this matter.**

Adjournment: Council Member Koval made a motion to adjourn at 9:00p.m. Council Member Bradsher seconded the motion. ***Unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Jackson  
Assistant Clerk   
May 3, 2022

**Trash and Recycling Service**

Household waste will be picked up twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.  All items must be placed at the curb by 7:00A.M.  There is no back-door service.

Yard waste will be picked up at the curb once a week on Mondays for the period May through November.  Please do not put yard waste out for the regular trash pick-up.  Yard waste goes to the Montgomery County composting center.   Acceptable yard waste will be yard trimmings, leaves and brush.  These items shall be placed in marked containers or brown biodegradable paper bags. Branches are to be cut to three-foot lengths and must not be more than three inches in diameter and tied in bundles.  Yard waste cannot be placed in plastic bags and no root balls, dirt, sod, or rocks and branches larger than three feet long or three inches in diameter will be accepted.

Recyclables (mixed paper, plastic, and glass) will be collected on Thursdays. Recyclables should be separated, or they will not be collected.  Paper should be separated from commingled materials such as plastic and glass.  Please note that our contractor does not have trucks that pick up the large bins on wheels.  The weight of the filled containers can become too hard to lift.  Please refrain from using these containers.

2022 Holiday Schedule

Independence Day, Monday, July 4th - *YARD WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP TUESDAY*

Labor Day, Monday, September 5th - *YARD WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP TUESDAY*

Indigenous Peoples' Day, Monday, October 10th - *YARD WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP TUESDAY*

Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th – *NO CHANGE*

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24th – *RECYCLES WILL BE PICKED UP SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th*