

Town of Riverdale park  
Monday, March 6, 2006  
Regular Legislative Meeting Minutes

**Attendance**

Vernon S. Archer	Mayor	
CM Rob Oppenheim	Ward 1	
CM Mary Donaldson	Ward 2	
CM Novella Sargusingh	Ward 3	
CM Lawrence Taylor	Ward 4	
CM Gerard Kiernan	Ward 5	
CM Kenneth Webb	Ward 6	Absent

Town Administrator- Patrick J Prangley  
Chief of Police- E. Thomas Parker  
Director Public Works- Jim Houser

The Legislative Meeting for the Town of Riverdale Park began at 8:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of reflection directed by Mayor Archer.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Archer: Before we approve agenda, we need to add: Action item 6, Sole source for light poles on Queensbury, under New Business: we received two sealed bids for the 1989 Pick-up and we will open these at the end of meeting

CM Kiernan: We need to discuss a waiver for Residency for the following positions in the Fire Department: Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Marshall. We can add this as item 7. Item #8 Painting of the curb on Beale Circle.

Motion made to Approve Agenda with the above-proposed changes

CM Donaldson made Motion

CM Kiernan Seconded

Approved

**Mayor's Report**

The Mayor welcomed Rob Oppenheim as Ward 1 Councilmember stating that it is good to have the seat filled and the Council at six members. Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele visited the town today and brought cabinet members. Town staff did a fabulous job. Riverdale Park is a wonderful place and has a wonderful future. We walked away with many good ideas today. I am most proud of staff and very proud to be associated with people who make up this town government. Cafritz property, North Riverdale Park on Route 1, Jayne Cafritz and Ralph Bennett came in early with ideas for developing the property; there is no real proposal, just ideas. The Cafritz property is zoned R-55 Single-Family and would entertain 27-28 acres. The University of Maryland property, known as the old NOAA building, was possibly going to be the new home of the bus maintenance yard, the University of Maryland is looking for other uses for that property---maybe housing/condo-s Plans keep rolling in.

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Mayor's appreciation to Public Works for clearing the snow so efficiently and promptly. Gas Company meeting we are trying to get 43<sup>rd</sup>, Somerset and Sheridan taken care of, meeting went well; they should get to those areas by this summer.

*This concludes the Mayors report.*

**Town Treasurer's/ Town Administrator's Report/ Code Enforcement Report**

Mr. Prangley, the Town Administrator stated that the special visit from the lieutenant governor and his cabinet was a very proud moment. This visit fell on founder's day and this was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Maryland.

The meeting very well with the Gas company representatives.

Mr. Prangley gave the Treasurers report and copies are available

CM Donaldson made motion to approve Treasurers report subject to audit.

Motion made to approve the Treasures report, subject to audit,

CM Donaldson	Made Motion
CM Sargusingh	Second
<i>Approved</i>	<i>subject to audit</i>

Code Enforcement

Mr. Prangley gave the code report. He stated that he is pleased to see code very proactive and he encourages anyone with code concerns to call.

*This concludes the Town Administrator's report.*

**Police Department Report**

Chief Parker stated that he too was in attendance for the meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and Cabinet members, Chief Parker spoke with Steve O'Dell- Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention- Mr. O'Dell gave tips and pamphlets explaining hoe to keep you and your vehicle safe: a few tips were; lock your vehicle, park in well lighted areas, never leave car running while unattended, do not keep valuable in vehicle, do not keep the registration in the vehicle, Stay Alert and Share tips with the Police Department. March 4<sup>th</sup> Chief and Lieutenant Adams attended a meeting at St. Bernard's in reference to the Day laborer Situation, the meeting was also attended by the County Executives Office, CM Kiernan, and county Officials.

The Chop tank was robbed Officers arrested the alleged suspects the next day. Chief Parker gave his statistical report for the month stating that there were 1118 calls for the month

*This concludes the police Department Report*

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Houser, Director of Public Works, gave the statistics for the month

In addition, gave the dates for the spring clean-up May 30<sup>th</sup> No Tires will be picked up. There is a 2.50 fee per tire- come to Town Hall to schedule pick-up

*This concludes the Public Works Department Report*

**Fire Department Report**

Vice President Gerard Dixon gave the Fire Department Report stating 219 total calls.

CM Kiernan stated that the Council is in receipt of the letter President Steve lamphier dropped off however, the council will have to waive the residence requirement.

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**Ward and Committee Reports**

**Ward 1, CM Oppenheim**

Thank you Mayor, it has been 4 months since a Ward 1 report has been given. There will be a Ward 1 party- All residents in the town are invited as honorary Ward 1 residents, party will be sometime at the end of April or the beginning of May. The party will serve for us to get to know each other, the party will be held at the S&J Restaurant- we can help promote a local business too- We need to take care of our own. There are 25 street lights out Debbie has the report. There was a misunderstanding that I will clear up in reference to code enforcement, Colleen does a wonderful job, they did not publish the whole quote in the gazette, and I just wanted to clear that up. Clean-up day is May 30<sup>th</sup> did we want to have a yard sale as we did last year. \*Mayor stated we could advertise in the crier. Oppenheim stated that advertising in the gazette last year was very successful. There is a list of stumps that are going to be removed, if you have a stump let us know so that you can be put on the list. This is the first time that the MUTC Committee does not include a Ward 1 representative, However, I will attend all meetings, schedule permitting. I thank and appreciate all residents that came out to vote. I admire and respect Bruce Warnick and Roland Walker and look forward to working with them and all Ward 1 residents as well as all residents in moving the Town forward. I will be evaluating and looking into proposing that we eliminate any future run-offs. It costs the Town time and money.

*This concludes Ward 1, CM Oppenheim's Report*

**Ward 2, CM Donaldson**

CM Donaldson stated that she attended the meeting with the Gas Company and is happy to report that the projected time to start the project is within two months. This is good news for us. CM Donaldson attended the safety committee meeting. There is a tree issue on Taylor road and it has been turned over to Mr. Houser. All residents are encouraged to get the number off the street light pole and call pepco- with the pole number pepco can resolve the problem quickly. CM Donaldson stated that she has spoken with Mr. Prangley about publishing senior information in the Crier, the town does not offer shuttle service for shopping trips yet, but this service is available with Prince Georges' County, for a minimal fee. CM Donaldson complimented Geppetos stating that they put on a fantastic spread this morning and it was very complementary.

*This concludes Ward 2, CM Donaldson's Report*

**Ward 3, CM Sargusingh**

CM Sargusingh stated that the presentation today was excellent. The set-up was elegant and food was excellent, it really made the town shine. Lafayette parking is an issue CM Sargusingh went out, talked to the owners, and will have follow-up. A resident spoke with CM Sargusingh in reference to a new trashcan that was purchased and is now destroyed; resident explained that our trash collectors destroyed it. CM Sargusingh asked if there was anything, we can do and asked Mr. Houser to speak with her after the meeting.

*This concludes Ward 3, CM Sargusingh's Report*

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**Ward 4, CM Taylor**

CM Taylor stated that Mr. Prangley and staff put on a great presentation today and that the town is certain to reap the benefits from today's presentation, CM Taylor asked code enforcement to look into the Sing Ordinance in reference to 6210 Kenilworth Avenue- they have a tax sign on the building. CM Taylor stated that the town is always the envy of all who travel through our town after a storm. Public Works Department diligence is complimentary. CM Taylor explained to the Police Chief that kids are still hanging at the park on Silk tree-during school hours and are being dropped off and picked-up by others, which is alarming and requested that the Police patrol the area before school starts.

*This concludes Ward 4 Taylor's Report*

**Ward 5, CM Kiernan,**

CM Kiernan explained that the work being done at the Mansion grounds consists of planting, Trees and Shrubs. Last Tuesday CM Kiernan attended a meeting at St. Bernard's- representatives from St. Johns and Refreshing Springs attended to discuss the crime wave of stolen vehicles. A suggestion was for the Church to post the property, which would give the police a little more authority over the parking lot- acting as an agent of the parish. The meeting in reference to the Day Laborers, looking for work on Kenilworth Avenue, was about how they are treated by the Police. It was explained that we do not do anything until a property owner calls and requests they be moved on. There is a process if anyone wants to file a compliant with the Police Department. CM Kiernan also attended a meeting at Dematha in reference to Crime Prevention- Chief High with Prince Georges County was in attendance, there was also a lot of youth in attendance, that was good to see. CM Kiernan explained that even though an elected official on the MUTC committee does not represent Ward 1, Alice Ewen-Walker, ward 1 resident, is committee chair and there will be representation for ward 1.

*This concludes Ward5, CM Kiernan's report*

**Ward 6, CM Webb**

*This concludes Ward 6, CM Webb's report*

**Correspondence Summary**

#1 Letter from Edmonston requesting a letter of support for Wal-Mart to be built at Capital Plaza. - Mayor Archer stated that he would like to speak with Mayor Ortiz of Edmonston.

#8 Victim Services Forum- Patrick Prangley read the letter.

**Public Comment**

\*Mayor Archer reminded citizens that they may speak now however, if there is an agenda item they wish to comment on, they may participate in that discussion at that time as well.

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***Alan Tomlinson***  
***Sheridan Street***

Mr. Tomlinson explained that he too attended the Day Laborer meeting on Saturday and that the topic of a site location never came up. If a site is to be built, we need to think seriously about this. We have a growing number of persons in town that are not legal how we determine who provides services this brings us to money.... Prince Georges County is struggling to provide services for legal residents. This situation is not immediately in front of us but we must prepare now. Chief Parker handled the emotions of attendees splendid with firmness and tact. Chief Parker reminded group that the Police Officers are responding to complaints made by citizens and business owners.

**Legislative Action**

Mayor stated that there was a problem pulling up the files for the minutes so removed approval of the minutes as an agenda item.

- # 1     2006-OR-01  
          Building Inspector 15-1  
          Advertised in Crier and Read at last Council Meeting  
          CM Kiernan               made motion  
          CM Oppenheim       second  
          Approved       4-1     Ward 1 Oppenheim abstained from voting

CM Kiernan stated that language added would bring a defined level of expertise to this position.  
CM Oppenheim stated that he has concerns about duplicating and assuming responsibilities that the county offers and what kind of services that fall under code.  
CM Kiernan stated then he could move to remove chapter 15  
Mayor Archer stated that municipalities do duplicate county example Police and Code.  
CM Kiernan stated that the ordinance purpose is to set guidance.  
Mayor Archer stated that we have had concerns in the past where it seems county could have avoided us  
CM Taylor stated that he is appreciative of this process

- #2     2006-OR-02  
          Building Inspector Hourly rate
- CM Kiernan               made motion  
          CM Sargusingh       second  
          Approved       4-1     Ward 1 CM Oppenheim abstained from vote

CM Kiernan explained this is to set an hourly rate for the Building Inspector. The existing code states a percentage of permits and we are replacing with an hourly rate – to be set and reassess from time to time by the Mayor and Council.

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CM Oppenheim stated that this is too open-ended.

CM Kiernan stated the Town Administrator would exercise diligence the same way as he did with the single-family rental inspector . The Town Administrator would take appropriate disciplinary action.

CM Oppenheim asked if we could limit the amount

Patrick Prangley stated that we are having a rapid growth in construction and more oversight this chapter was amended in 1965 and 1989.

CM Oppenheim asked is this position better as a salaried position and what about benefits

Patrick Prangley stated you might want to give yourself additional time to see what an appropriate fee would be and how many hours would be spent inspecting.

CM Kiernan asked what our minimum is for employees where we would not have to offer benefits

Patrick Prangley 999 hours

CM Oppenheim asked Mr. Prangley if he felt this should be a salaried position or does it matter?

Patrick Prangley reiterated that possibly the council should give themselves additional time to do more research into this situation.

CM Oppenheim made a motion to amend original motion adding that there is a limit amount of 1200.00 dollars

Mayor Archer-inaudible

CM Oppenheim No 1200.00 dollars limit for a single project

CM Kiernan 1200.00 dollars for doing nothing

CM Oppenheim that's what I am asking are they doing nothing.

Motion to amend did not receive a second and was dropped as discussion or amendment

Alan Thompson

Sheridan Street

When I received my county permit for a garage, the inspector came out to see the building and then signed off-----inaudible

- |    |                                    |              |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------|
| #4 | Nominations to Council Committees- |              |
|    | Public Safety                      | CM Kiernan   |
|    | Economic Development               | CM Taylor    |
|    | Community Affairs                  | CM Oppenheim |
|    | Finance                            | CM Donaldson |
|    | Legislative                        | CM Webb      |

CM Kiernan made motion

CM Donaldson second

- |     |                                                                      |             |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| # 5 | Motion to remove No Parking Signs 4500blk- 4600blk of Riverdale Road |             |
|     | CM Oppenheim                                                         | made motion |
|     | CM Taylor                                                            | second      |

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CM Oppenheim explained the request for a trial period by covering the No Parking signs on 4500-4600 blks of Riverdale Road and allows parking on both sides of the street

Amended to eliminate trail period by CM Kiernan  
Approved

Mayor Archer stated that taking the bolts off was a more attractive idea then black bags flopping in the wind.

CM Kiernan stated that the street, he believes. Is 24 ft wide and on a two way street if you get heavy parking it will be difficult for two vehicles to get down the road

Mayor Archer stated he thinks that is what the folk's want- it might slow down the traffic speed.

Alan Thompson  
Sheridan Street

Has the traffic committee had a chance to discuss this issue. They might have some thought. I think the Traffic Committee might want to weigh in on this.

Mayor Archer Inaudible

#6 Waive bid requirement for Light Poles

CM Kiernan	made motion
CM Oppenheim	second
Approved	\$8,900.00 for sole source to purchase Light poles

Jim Houser explained that there is only one company that supplies the light poles that are on Queensbury and Riverdale Road, stating that 4 have been replaced and 1 is on hand. Queensbury was done prior to Riverdale Road and the Poles on Queensbury are unique, we need the type that are universal and can be interchangeable and used on both streets.

CM Oppenheim stated that we want the universal poles but only one company has it

#7 Approve Waivers for Residency requirement for Fire Department Officials

CM Kiernan	Made motion
CM Donaldson	second
Approved	

CM Kiernan gave background

#8 Painting of Curb on East Beale Circle

CM Oppenheim	Made motion
CM Taylor	Second
	No motion needed to paint 3 feet

CM Oppenheim gave background requesting 5 feet yellow paint along both sides of driveway at above address due to the curve of the street.

CM Kiernan stated that 64-10b of Town Code states no parking within 3 feet of driveway and that changing that to 5ft would require an Ordinance change.

CM Oppenheim stated that the person living in the home is a tenant.

CM Kiernan stated that the property owner must make the request

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CM Oppenheim stated that this should be considered for the safety of the residents, I am just making a simple request

Mayor Archer stated that according to code we could paint three feet

CM Oppenheim stated that they really need the 5 feet because of the curve

CM Kiernan stated that the property owner has the right to petition for a wider curb cut

CM Donaldson stated that the driveway does not lineup with the curb cut

CM Oppenheim stated that the apron is not in the right spot

CM Donaldson stated that the fence is not lined up right either

Mayor Archer stated that Mr. Houser can scope property out and we may want to discuss this with the contractor- we can paint 3 feet

Conversation inaudible

**Unfinished Business**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

#1 Sealed bids for 1989 Chevy Pick-up

Mayor Archer presented the sealed bids and proceeded to open them

First bid

Cpl. Hayes for \$ 300.00

James Davis for \$ 400.00

Mr. Davis's bid will be accepted

CM Taylor made motion

CM Donaldson Second

Approved

#2 47<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan culvert, barrier

Patrick Prangle stated that we would find out from Prince Georges County

#3 Open Beale Circle

CM Oppenheim stated to open Beale circle and remove barrier

Mayor Archer stated that businesses response was mixed and that there was not a true consensus as for revisiting this I think it would be advantageous for us to wait to see what Wachovia will be doing.

CM Kiernan stated that the barrier was in place because of the intention to divert traffic and build up what's called a jug handle. The town's response was it is our street and the barrier went up.

Inaudible conversation

CM Oppenheim stated that he just wanted additional information as this cut through could be very beneficial

Mayor Archer stated that this idea is open for discussion.

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**Adjournment**

CM Taylor: Motion Made  
CM Kiernan: Second  
Approved

Typed from video tape 03-06-06  
*Colleen M. Ferguson*