

Town of Riverdale park
Monday, April 3, 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	Absent
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: We need to delete approval of March 6th minutes
Motion made to Approve Agenda with the above-proposed changes
CM Kiernan made Motion
CM Taylor Second
Approved

Mayor's Report

Last Friday we signed a contract with Ms. Kennedy-Smith to use her services for Economic Development. Ms. Kennedy-Smith has 13 years experience as Main Street Projects and is a strong advocate. We are looking forward to having this project. We will have an internal first phase of the budget complete and it will be presented by May 1, 2006. There is a strong value on property and strong growth income: two key factors. We will have a comprehensive infrastructure street and sidewalk plan and Economic Development with Kennedy-Smith. Wednesday at 7:30 is the MUTC meeting we have two proposals- 1 from the Patriot Group and the other from Potomac Development. Everyone should try to come out and attend the meeting. I am also going to ask Council to consider permit use for the field of dreams.
This concludes the Mayors report.

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

Mr. Prangley, the Town Administrator stated copies of the report 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 Taylor Second
Approved subject to audit

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CM Oppenheim asked if there is a surplus this year

Patrick Prangley stated that that report is not ready and it would be premature for him to comment until he has seen and reviewed the report. Mr. Prangley stated that staff is working on the budget and he is concerned that the county may decrease municipality's piggyback tax, which is currently at 17%. Mr. Prangley stated that bidding has started and been advertised for the CBDG PY31 project the deadline has been extended 2 weeks.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Prangley gave the code report.

This concludes the Town Administrator's report.

Mayor stated that the extension for the CBDG project was approved because we only had one bidder, and that is what I wanted to see us do differently. With only one company we are not saving money- Patrick Prangley stated that when it's a smaller job few respond

Police Department Report

Chief Parker stated that he was informed that Leo Link, who was employed by the town in the late 80's, passed away at the age of 53.

Chief Parker stated that two new Officers were hired Thomas Dougherty formerly with the Sheriffs Department and Walter Bustamunte who is bi-lingual and completing the academy. Chief Parker gave his statistical report for the month stating that there were 1300 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, stated that he did not know that the town was collecting tires for free during spring clean-up and that there has always been a few of \$2.50 per tire. On May 30th, the town wide clean-up Public Works will Not collect any Tires, Metals or Yard waste on that day.

This concludes the Public Works Department Report

Fire Department Report

Representative from the Fire Department gave the Fire Department Report stating 231 total calls. There was a fire at 4705 Tuckerman Street, the cause of the fire is still under investigation

CM Kiernan stated that he wants to commend company 7 for the response and handling of the Apartment fire in Edmonston

CM Donaldson stated that she heard that a lamp was left on and was the cause of the fire On Tuckerman Street.

FD reiterated that the cause of the Tuckerman Fire is still under investigation and he cannot comment at this time. However, at the next legislative meeting the investigation should be complete and released at that time.

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Ward and Committee Reports

Ward 1, CM Oppenheim, Community Affairs

Greetings Riverdale Park, the Ward 1 party will be May 7th at 2:00pm at the S&J Restaurant all are invited. Hope all come out, I encourage all to visit our local restaurants first. The Town wide yard sale is just before Clean-up day. I have received a preliminary proposal from the property owner on Harrison to subdivide his property into three lots, the surrounding residents are fine with this and we will present and discuss when proposed plans are presented for approval.

This concludes Ward 1, CM Oppenheim's Report

Ward 2, CM Donaldson

CM Donaldson stated that she has no report on Finance at this time. CM Donaldson stated that she would be asking for approval of a fence permit for Mr. Kraft who resides on Somerset. The neighbor next to the field of dreams is still having problems with the gatherings there and the public urination and drinking that is transpiring at the field. This resident took pictures and the persons grabbed the camera from her- We should have no alcohol drinking on this property. My thanks to public works for removing the dead trees on Lafayette. We need to discuss with CSX the cleaning up of debris on Lafayette and possibly putting up a fence to act like a buffer.

Mayor Archer commented that this is a very interesting idea and one worth looking into and investigating.

Patrick Prangle stated that CSX has a new train master and we will bring this matter to his attention.

This concludes Ward 2, CM Donaldson's Report

Ward 3, CM Sargus Singh, Public Works

This concludes Ward 3, CM Sargus Singh's Report

Ward 4, CM Taylor, Economic Development

CM Taylor stated that all is quiet- CM Taylor reiterated his concerns of last month that the 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. CM Taylor requested that the Police patrol the area of the park on Silk tree in the Morning before school starts.

This concludes Ward 4 Taylor's Report

Ward 5, CM Kiernan, Public Safety

CM Kiernan stated that we have a local artist whose work will be on display at 629 New York Avenue until June 29th and encouraged all to support this local artist

This concludes Ward5, CM Kiernan's report

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Ward 6, CM Webb

This concludes Ward 6, CM Webb's report

Correspondence Summary

No requests

Public Comment

No comments

Legislative Action

- # 1 Approval of February 7th 2006 Minutes
Small changes discussed

CM Kiernan made motion

CM Taylor second

Approved subject to spell check and discussed changes

- #2 6ft privacy fence along the back only of 4906 Somerset
CM Donaldson gave background stating that this fence would not encompass the entire property but just the rear of the property. Mr. Kraft the property owner spoke with his neighbors and they have no objections.

CM Donaldson made motion

CM Taylor second

Approved

- #3 Proclamations in favor to Adopt National Police Week
CM Oppenheim gave the background and read the proclamation
National Police Week- May 14th – 20th

CM Oppenheim made motion

CM Taylor second

Approved

Chief Parker thanked CM Oppenheim, Mayor and Council stating that this was very thoughtful.

- # 4 Motion to Endorse Get Fit Riverdale Park

CM Oppenheim made motion

CM Donaldson second

Approved 3-1 CM Kiernan =No vote

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Resident Marita Norvicky gave the background of this challenge and encouraged all come out, register and walk for good health!

CM Kiernan explained that he is voting against this because if the town endorses this project then there will be another project next month and this will be a continuous cycle.

- #6 Waive fee for Ms. Norvicky for advertising in the Crier Get fit Riverdale Park
CM Taylor made motion
CM Oppenheim second
Approved 3-1 CM Kiernan =No vote

Mayor Archer stated that we do appreciate your stand Mr. Kiernan .

- #7 Letter of Support to Town of Edmonston; reference Wal-mart
CM Donaldson Made motion
CM Taylor second
Wards 2, 4 Yes - Wards 1,5 No TIE = Mayor Breaks tie with a vote of YES
Approved

Mayor gave background explaining that the Mayor of Edmonston Adam Ortiz would like the Town of Riverdale Park to write a letter of support for the proposed Wal-Mart to be built at the Capital Plaza on Rt. 450. Mayor Archer read the letter, the conditions and reasons Edmonston will support the Wal-Mart

Our general rule is not to take action if not in our town., however, this is a countywide issue and we should consider taking a view and consider endorsing. There is heartburn with Wal-Mart but I cannot see opposing Wal-Mart.

Jeanie Lango

If they are trying to preserve small business, it will not happen because Wal-Mart drives them out!

Mayor Archer stated that he did not want to see Wal-Mart come, but appears they are

CM Taylor stated that he cannot see Wal-Mart not agreeing to the terms

CM Kiernan asked if the two Wal-Mart's in the county if either of those sold guns

Yes, but No alcohol

Mayor Archer stated that many Wal-Mart's have grocery stores.

CM Kiernan stated that west Landover hills have a standing because they are in the 1-mile area of the proposed site.

Unfinished Business

CM Oppenheim- stated that the 5ft of yellow no parking on East Beale Circle was not decided or closed at last months meeting- CM Oppenheim stated he disagreed with the argument that chapter 64-10b was addressing this concern and questioned the argument

CM Kiernan stated that there needed to be a request from the property owner, if people are parking so close to that driveway have them put it in writing- you make the proposal-place it in the crier-

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**Mr. Louis King
Queensbury**

Beale Circle backs to my property and the contractor created this problem. Not aligning the curb-cut

CM Kiernan stated we messed up-we should restore

- # CM Oppenheim- No motion last month to remove the signs from 5800 blk of Cleveland
CM Oppenheim made motion- no second
CM Kiernan made motion- To Replace or Repair parking signs on the 5800 blk of Cleveland
CM Donaldson Second
Approved 3-1 CM Oppenheim No vote

Mr. Houser stated he would need at least a week for signs.

Old Business

New Business

- #1 Request Closure of Rhode Island Avenue in front of the S&J on May 7th
CM Oppenheim made motion
CM Kiernan Second
Will confirm at next months meeting

CM Kiernan stated that the Police Department would need to know where to set up cones
Bring details to May's legislative meeting

- #2 Town Clean-up and Yard Sale are town sponsored and Advertised
CM Oppenheim made motion
CM Kiernan Second
Approved

Town will not be picking up tires. We will advertise in the Post, Gazette and the Crier

- #3 CM Kiernan discussed that the Town Crier was hand delivered and requested notification of where and when it was delivered to residents in ward 5. Mr. Houser stated that public works delivered to each single-family residence and that Code Enforcement was assigned to coordinate with the apartment resident managers.

CM Kiernan made a motion the Town Administrator and or including the Mayor in the future authorize the hand delivering of the Town Crier to Single Family Homes that the Town Crier will be mailed or hand delivered to every Apartment Unit in the Town of Riverdale Park.

CM Kiernan explained that he felt that the delivery method exercised unfairness to the tenants of an apartment unit as to no guarantee of the delivery of the Town Crier.

Patrick Prangley explained that the reason for the delivery method is a matter that is under investigation and cannot be discussed at this time, however- the Mayor and CM

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Donaldson are aware and have been aware of the situation. Patrick Prangley stated that the Property managers were cooperative.

CM Kiernan stressed that he required resolution tonight

CM Taylor asked where the property managers dropped the ball.

CM Kiernan stated he wants a policy set, he wants a written and signed explanation we have no guarantee that any resident in ward 5 received a town crier.

Mayor Archer stated that clearly what we wanted to happen did not happen

CM Taylor asked if there is any other remedy

Patrick Prangley stated that there has been an enormous amount of criers returning, this is a bulk mail that has been in place for many decades. We are having a meeting with the Post-Master.

CM Oppenheim suggested that the Town Crier be placed in the Apartment lobby and in the future if we are not able to use regular postal service, then we hand deliver and/or first-class mail to each single family home and apartment

CM Oppenheim==== Motion to table- dies from no Second

Motion: If at any point in the future, if we are not able to use the normal postal scheme, and the criers are to be hand delivered, then it shall be that all residents including single-family homes and apartment units will receive a hand delivered Town Crier. If first-class mail is being used then it shall be all single family residents and apartment units will receive a first-class mailed Town Crier.

Mayor Archer stated as the person ultimately responsible, we have a budget and a job to do, this is a very reasonable request and we will do it.

Patrick Prangley stated that hopefully this would be resolved.

Mayor Archer stated that if we have the energy to go door to door to single-family residences we certainly would have the energy to go to individual apartment units.

CM Oppenheim stated he does not see why staff needs to hand deliver

Mayor Archer stated that perhaps more diligence could have been done, but I believe everyone thought this was being done.

CM Oppenheim made an amendment to the motion *stating: If Town Crier is hand delivered to Single-Family homes it will delivered in a timely manner to the Apartment units within 1 day*

CM Taylor Second

Approved

CM Kiernan requested that replacement copies be delivered to the Apartments

Mayor Archer stated that he has already directed staff to remedy this situation immediately

Conversation between Mayor Archer and CM Kiernan reference the introduction of this situation by CM Kiernan.

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CM Kiernan requests that policy be set that councilmember's receive their checks the second pay-period. Explaining that this month check someone arbitral decided to disseminate checks earlier. CM Kiernan stated this should be a matter of policy and questioned as to who changed this and why.

Mayor Archer stated that perhaps policy does not need to be set, because the checks are disseminated at the second pay-period, but perhaps just ask a question as to what happened this month. Mayor Archer also asked CM Kiernan why the delay in bringing this question.

Patrick Prangley stated the following: Checks are disseminated to Council by staff – checks are placed in Councilmember's mailbox. This procedure has transpired without incident for many years.

It is our understanding that 4 Councilmember's did not receive their checks and upon receiving this information, staff immediately re-issued substitute checks.

CM Donaldson asked if substitute checks were issued where the original checks are.

Patrick Prangley No one knows, this situation is odd.

CM Oppenheim thanked Mr. Prangley and staff for their diligence in rectifying this situation with the reissuance of the substitute checks.

Patrick Prangley stated that the missing 4 original checks would be cancelled tomorrow.

CM Kiernan requested a memo stating when check dissemination will be

CM Kiernan discussed that staff prepared 3 options however since chain linked fencing does not comply with town code for single-family residences perhaps aluminum industrial fencing would be an option

Mayor Archer stated that that was certainly worth looking into.

Mayor Archer stated that there was an item he wanted to bring up and perhaps get a motion on- Permitted Use for the Field of Dreams

CM Kiernan stated that there are suppose to be signs up indicating field use requires a permit. He believes this was voted on many years ago.

Mayor Archer stated that he is looking for a simple motion- and we will discuss signage, port o john facility, and permit fee at next work session.

CM Oppenheim asked what the permit fee would be

Jim Houser stated he was hoping that the fee would off set the cost of the restroom facility – we would want a handicap sturdy unit

CM Kiernan stated that he is passed the permitting process and is concentrating on the sanitary conditions under chapter 50 do we want to be providing a restroom facility for others?

Mayor Archer stated that he asked for a permitting policy and discussion has led away from that to fence and restroom. Mr. Houser please have information for us at the next work session. The fee will be discussed at the next work session.

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CM Oppenheim discussed the owner of 5800 Harrison is in the process of subdividing the lot into 3 lots. The neighbors are fine with this, they have a few questions but other than that no real objections.

CM Kiernan asked if this was approved through park and planning

CM Oppenheim stated that it is in the beginning stages for Park and Planning approval.

CM Oppenheim made a motion to accept the proposal for subdivision into 3 lots

CM Taylor Second

Approved

Adjournment

CM Taylor: Motion Made

CM Donaldson: Second

Approved

Typed from video tape 03-06-06

Colleen M. Ferguson

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