



Town of Berwyn Heights

5700 Berwyn Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
Tel. (301) 474-5000
Fax (301) 474-5002

MAYOR

Amanda M. Dewey

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jodie A. Kulpa-Eddy (Mayor Pro Tem)

Christopher S. Brittan Powell

Jason W. Papanikolas

Ethan D. Sweep

Worksession Minutes February 7, 2022| 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order at 7PM. Also present were Mayor Pro Tempore Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, Councilmember Jason Papanikolas, Councilmember Chris Brittan-Powell as well as Town Manager Laura Allen and Town Clerk Melanie Friesen. Councilmember Ethan Sweep was excused. Also present were several of the applicants for Board of Election Supervisors as well as residents of the Town.

1. Announcements

Mayor Dewey reviewed logistics for meeting in person, including wearing a mask that covers both nose and mouth, overflow for building capacity and requested that all residents speak at the podium. CM Brittan-Powell announced on behalf of the Walkable Bikeable Berwyn Heights Taskforce that they are not in support of bicyclists running stop signs.

2. Approval of Agenda

MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to approve the agenda. CM Papanikolas seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion Items

a. Board of Elections Supervisors- review of applications

Mayor Dewey invited the applicants that were present to take a moment to introduce themselves. Susan Kelley, Sharmila Bhatia, and Debby Steele-Snyder introduced themselves. Brandon Wong was present but did not speak.

CM Brittan-Powell asked if there was any advice from the experienced judges on structure. Ms. Bhatia explained that some of the structure will be determined closer to the election but that ballots are to be in both English and Spanish by law based on the Census. Mayor Dewey asked if it was helpful to have more than 5 judges; the Charter requires at least five, but the Town Council can appoint more. Ms. Bhatia explained that having more judges is helpful as it allows for breaks and rotation of election staff. Resident Angie Wolfinger expressed that the broadcast during the vote count in the prior election was very poor and would like that rectified should there be a broadcast of the vote count in this election.

b. Greenbelt Planning- Staff presentation

TM Allen introduced Holly Simmons from the Greenbelt Planning Department. The Town of Berwyn Heights was supportive of a grant that the City of Greenbelt was able to obtain to do this project, the “Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan”. Ms. Simmons reviewed that they obtained a grant through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG). The study area spans three jurisdictions, following Greenbelt Road from Rte. 1 to Kenilworth. The purpose of this project is to develop a cohesive vision for a nearly 2-mile span of roadway. The City of Greenbelt will be working with consulting firm Kittelson and Associates who will develop short- and long-term recommendations. The timetable for the Plan began in October and is now beginning the public engagement phase. The next step is a visioning meeting, which will be a public meeting 7-9PM Thursday, the 10th of February. At this time an interactive virtual map for public comment will be open. On March 16 another public meeting will be held as part of a Greenbelt City Council Worksession. Kittelson will have the report completed by the end of June. You can find more info on the project webpage (<https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/greenbelt-road-md-193-corridor-plan>). MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked for clarification on what a virtual comment map is. Ms. Simmons explained that it is an interactive online map where you can click different buttons on a side panel that will allow you to see existing conditions, comments already provided by others, and allow you to pick a specific place along Greenbelt Road to add your own comment. She also stated if you have a general comment, pick a less populated spot on the map and make a note that the comment is for the whole of Greenbelt Road. CM Brittan-Powell expressed thanks for the consideration and collaboration between the communities. TM Allen stated that not all of the community will embrace a virtual meeting or Virtual Map. Ms. Simmons stated that comments could be physically mailed into her at 15 Crescent Rd in Greenbelt 20770. MPT Kulpa-Eddy pointed out that the Visioning meeting is the same time as the Green Team meeting. Ms. Simmons stated a recording of the Visioning meeting will be posted to the project webpage.

c. ARPA Projects; high, medium low assessment and creation of ARPA fund

Mayor Dewey reviewed that the timeline document, results of survey and community meetings and the list of goals will be included with every ARPA discussion. The project list was to be presented to TM Allen, and staff will conduct initial research. TM Allen will be reaching out to Council for more clarification on projects. The second part of the discussion will be to discuss the establishment of an ARPA fund.

Mayor Dewey invited Council to present information that will inform staff research. CM Brittan-Powell thanked the Wolfingers and Susan Jones as well as others for their assistance with one of the projects. He shared a handout on a proposed project for a permanent structure that could house outdoor events. MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked about the assignments of projects to single categories. TM Allen explained that Treasury has several codes that projects can fall under. However, projects cannot be attached to multiple codes and so they will be designated into a single category that best fits the project. MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked if this changes how we consider prioritizing projects. TM Allen confirmed that projects may need to be restructured to fit Treasury’s accounting codes, but that the substance of the project won’t be lost. CM Brittan-Powell expressed his understanding that this was reported through the Maryland Department of Budget and Management. TM Allen explained that the Town reports directly to the US

Treasury. CM Brittan-Powell shared information that he had put together in response to his conversations with the Department of Budget and Management. TM Allen shared that the final guidance from Treasury allows for the whole of what Berwyn Heights will be receiving to be allocated as revenue loss, which is different than the interim guidance that was initially received. MPT Kulpa-Eddy added that some things are still prohibited (e.g., lowering taxes). CM Brittan Powell further suggested that the goals list could be reduced to two goals. CM Papanikolas stated that Council needs to be cognizant of staff effort. CM Brittan-Powell provided a document to the Council that shared how he thought the goals could be summarized. Mayor Dewey stated CM Brittan-Powell had added several goals during the last meeting. MPT Kulpa-Eddy stated that she was comfortable with the previous set goals. CM Brittan-Powell requested that Council begin to think of projects in two categories: physical or services.

TM Allen suggested that Council create an ARPA fund in addition to the existing General Fund and Public Safety Taxing District Fund. This would create a third “bucket”. She further recommended designing the project presentations in such a way that it can be easily uploaded into the Treasury portal. MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked where the fund would be kept. TM Allen explained that from a bank account standpoint, it is in the same bank account as the General Fund, but from an accounting standpoint it will be separate. The fund will be established by resolution at the Town Meeting on the 9th.

4. Department Reports

Mayor Dewey reported that she swore in the new police officer, Officer Lowndes, a little over a week ago. She shared that the MML legislative committee will be meeting biweekly with the next meeting occurring on Wednesday of this week. She reviewed having attended several Berwyn Heights committee meetings as well as 4 Cities and Mayors Association of PGC. The 4 Cities meeting was good and productive. She also reviewed the MML Young Municipal Leaders meeting and shared about the upcoming Greenbelt Corridor meeting as well as the extension of the indoor mask mandate through March 9. She reviewed that tests and masks are available through the County and you can locate information on pickup spots at health.mypgc.us/COVIDsupplies

MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked at the beginning of her report if the Town has test kits available for residents. Mayor Dewey stated that the Town does have kits available at the BHPD, one kit per household while supplies last and that a stack of kits will be distributed at the Senior Center during their next meeting. MPT Kulpa-Eddy continued her report, stating that on January 28th she attended the Maryland Association of County Park and Recreation Administrators/MML Parks and Recreation meeting, which is the joint meeting for the Counties and Municipalities in Maryland to get together. During the meeting there were several grant opportunities mentioned from the State DNR that may be useful for community parks and playgrounds. She also attended a “Municipalities in the Know” webinar presented by Parks and Planning Youth and Countywide Sports Division, where it was mentioned the County will offer baseball leagues this year. She highlighted changes to the PGCPs school calendar, that incorporates the Juneteenth holiday and pushes the last day of the school year back to June 23rd. Finally, she shared information about the Explore Lakeland virtual event taking place on Thursday, February 10 at 6:30PM.

CM Papanikolas stated that there have been no new building permits in the past couple of weeks, but that these usually pick up around this time of year. He shared that Code Compliance issues brought to the attention of the Town are being dealt with. CM Brittan-Powell expressed

that he has had people mention concerns over the number of people living in rental housing. CM Papanikolas asked for clarification as to whether the residents were talking about shared housing or rental housing. He explained that there is a difference in what Code can do between the two categories, and that if residents have concerns about this to have them bring it to the attention of Code.

CM Brittan-Powell shared appreciation to the Administrative staff for all their hard work on the ARPA planning. He shared that he has some numbers worked up for his projects/goals. He also spoke with someone at MML regarding the summer intern program that could be used by staff.

5. Resident & Community Comments

Mayor Dewey expressed heartfelt condolences to the City of Hyattsville and the loss of Mayor Kevin Ward. CM Brittan-Powell stated he has had conversations with other communities regarding economies of scale for ARPA projects.

There were no other residential comments.

Adjournment

CM Brittan-Powell moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Papanikolas seconded. After no discussion the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:21PM

(attached to these minutes are the handouts that were provided by CM Brittan-Powell that were not included in the public agenda packet. For the Bulletin, a link will be provided to where they will be placed once approved on the website.)