

Minutes Worksession April 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, Councilmembers (CMs) Patricia Dennison, Maria Robles and Lynn White. Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Chris Rasmussen had an excused absence. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Jessica Cowles, and Clerk Kerstin Harper.

1. Mayor

Announcements: Mayor Kulpa-Eddy said that a Town resident passed away last week. She would like to explore whether the Town flag could be lowered in such a case. CM Dennison said that her son Joey celebrated his birthday on April 16.

Calendar: The date for free tipping day at the County landfill needs to be confirmed.

Minutes: On a motion by CM Dennison and second by CM Robles, the March 28 budget worksession minutes were approved 4 - 0.

Department reports: CM Robles reported that County contractors are in the process of clearing debris from the demolished property on Cunningham Drive. The Code Department will need to monitor the property during the summer to ensure that grass and weeds are kept cut. CM Dennison announced that the Recreation Council continues to seek volunteers for Berwyn Heights Day. She thanked CM White and Katy Curtis for agreeing to serve as co-chairs on the Education Advisory Committee (EAC). CM White said that the EAC is planning to formalize its structure and come to the Council with recommendations. The Committee is also exploring collaborating and sharing resources with the education committees of Greenbelt and College Park. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy said that County Councilwoman Dannielle Glaros is very interested in improving schools in her district and is encouraging parents to get involved. She may attend the next meeting of the EAC.

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy announced that the Commercial District Management Authority (CDMA) will meet in the Town office tomorrow afternoon to review the FY 2017 Public Safety Taxing District budget. Representatives of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation will be present. Further, Councilwoman Glaros will hold a Town Hall and Resource Fair on April 20 to provide information on local issues and developments.

CM Robles asked whether trash receptacles for bus stops have been received and installed. TA Cowles will check.

Citizen comments: CM Robles received compliments for Code Supervisor Glass helping a resident on 59th Avenue with a sump pump problem. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy received an inquiry as to whether the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project on 63rd Avenue has been completed. TA Cowles said that a handrail for the steps to the Church has yet to be installed, and the contractor is working with the State Highway Administration to obtain approval of the handrail design. She also received comments about an

increase in cars parking on Town streets, particularly on the north side. Some of the increase may be due to rentals. Lastly, she received a comment about the lettering on the new ATHA/ Maryland Milestones signs being too small for drivers to read. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy noted that the signs identify bicycle routes in a larger regional trails network and are not intended to be viewed by car drivers but rather by bicyclists and pedestrians.

MML Board nominations: Mayor Kulpa-Eddy said that the Maryland Municipal League is requesting nominations for the election of next year's board of directors, which will take place at the MML conference in June. All elected municipal officials are eligible to run, and all elected officials and administrative staff can make nominations. Nomination forms were distributed.

Fishnet restaurant growler license: Mayor Kulpa-Eddy said that the Town has received a notice of public hearing that the Fishnet restaurant in the Berwyn area of College Park has applied for a license to serve beer and wine. The hearing will be held on May 11, 7 pm in Largo in the event any councilmember or resident wants to testify on the matter.

2. Administration

FY 2017 budget: TA Cowles said that the Town office is now equipped to accept credit cards as a form of payment. The vendor recommends posting the service charge at the sales counter along with other fees the Town charges for fax, copying and notary services. The proposed credit card fee is \$4 per transaction. The fee may be adjusted depending on the value of transactions that take place.

The Council also raised the question whether to continue the tuition reimbursement program, which offers employees a reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for taking courses that develop their workplace skills. The human resources consultants the Town has hired to review its personnel policies will make a recommendation about whether to continue this program or allocate the money into training and conferences line items in the budget. A vote by the Council is not required at this time.

Nothing was discussed under **3. Code Compliance, 4. Parks and Recreation, 5. Public Safety or 6. Public Works**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk