

## **Town Council Summary from the April 6, 2017 Town Meeting**

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2017.
- Approved the installation of a speed hump on Prospect Street between Summit Avenue and the intersection of Baltimore and Washington Streets.
- Approved the proposed Mural Design at M&T Bank (10420 Montgomery Avenue).
- Held a *Public Hearing* on Ordinance No. O-01-2017 - An Ordinance of the Town Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY18) and levying a tax on all assessable property within the Town. *The Public Record will remain open until 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 4, 2017.*

### **Town Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, McMullen, Rodriguez, and Rollins, Town Manager Daily, Assistant Town Manager Hoffman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2017 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

### **From the Mayor and Town Council**

Council Member McMullen reported that although the Traffic Committee's recommendation for a speed hump along Prospect Street was discussed at a prior meeting, he suggested that the Council formally approve the speed hump. See Council Actions.

Council Member McMullen requested that the Council consider donating the equivalent of the Town Crew or our tree contractor to help with landscaping at Walter Johnson High School. Mr. McMullen stated that former Council Member Chris Bruch has been helping to trim and maintain trees on their campus, but could use some help. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Assistant Town Manager Hoffman will meet with Walter Johnson's administration to coordinate.

Mayor Furman stated that while the Town supports Walter Johnson and their events, she asked that staff contact them about the placement of their mulch signs within the public right-of-way.

Council Member McMullen stated he would contact Walter Johnson's booster club and remind them of our sign regulations.

Council Member McMullen also noted that the work group for the reopening of Woodward High School will have an open meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Rodriguez announced that the fountain has arrived at Flinn Park and was currently being installed, and reminded everyone that it was not too late to purchase a brick for the pathway; met with Mayor Furman, Town Manager Daily, and Public Works Supervisor

Swain to discuss hiring a professional landscape architect to help design future plantings within Clum Kennedy Park; and noted the upcoming Kensington Car Show on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Day of the Book Festival on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mayor Furman reported that the ad hoc committee to redesign the Victorian Room will have their first meeting April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 am, and will be open to the public; announced that the family of Jackie Jones will be hosting a gathering of remembrance on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, at Town Hall; and noted that the Candidates Forum for the Town Election has been scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm, and will be moderated by Rob Sachs.

### **Alcohol Regulations**

The Mayor and Council discussed amending the Town's alcohol regulations to allow for Class D Liquor Licenses within the existing alcohol zone, which would require state legislation. The request to allow Class D licenses was made by Woodside Ventures, 10414 Detrick Avenue, in an effort to establish a wine tasting facility within the Town.

Mayor Furman reviewed the existing provisions of the Montgomery County Class D license with the Council and directed the Town staff to work with our local State Delegation to draft legislation that would allow for Class D licenses with certain provisions similar to our existing restrictions for a B-K license. There was no public comment.

### **M&T Bank Mural**

Meaghan McNamara, McNamara Design, presented the proposed mural design for the M&T Bank on Howard Avenue and explained that she had been working with Mayor Furman on a design that would provide a fresh perspective while maintaining the historical and cultural aspects of the Town. The design is intended to represent various aspects of the Town, to include a train, the historical gas station, the Town's official tree the redbud, music, the Farmers Market, and the Town's year of incorporation.

Mayor Furman explained that Residents had expressed interest under Mayor Fosselman about street art and murals, and that she was excited about the project, which will begin once the MOU with M&T Bank is finalized.

Council Member Rollins questioned whether the clock tower and the color red could be added to the design.

Joseph Campbell questioned whether other designs were developed and suggested the Town clock could be used in future mural locations along with the Armory or a park.

Mayor Furman stated that the mural does depict historical landmarks within the Town and that it was impossible to include them all, and acknowledged that the clock tower has already been used extensively through Explore Kensington and they wanted the design to focus on other aspects of Kensington.

Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the mural and suggested having a mural placed on the warehouse across the tracks from Howard Avenue.

### **From the Public**

Jack Gaffey noted the Lyrid meteor shower will occur between Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Cliff Scharman questioned whether the Council was familiar with the Community Solar Coop program in conjunction with the Public Service Commission. Mr. Scharman noted that he hopes to learn more about the program and will report back to the Town.

### **Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations**

Ordinance No. O-01-2017 – The Public Hearing for the Ordinance adopting the Town’s Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY18) and levying a tax on all assessable property within the Town. See Council Actions.

Council Member McMullen reported that the FY18 Budget was introduced at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, and that the Public Record will remain open until Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm, for further comments.

Council Member McMullen reviewed the FY18 Budget by stating that the real property tax rate is being kept at the current rate, and noted that speed camera revenue has decreased dramatically due to a change in our agreement with Montgomery County. The Town is once again exempt with respect to the constant yield tax rate, which allows a local government to maintain their current rate, if anticipated revenues are less than \$25,000 from the previous year. However, due to assessment changes, an average home in Kensington could see an increase of \$17 from last year. Mr. McMullen continued by stating how much the budgeting process has improved over the years and thanked Town Manager Daily and staff for their efforts for providing a clear and user friendly budget.

Conor Crimmins requested clarification on whether there were any specific projects related to the CIP carried over for street light acquisition and parks.

Council Member McMullen explained the street light acquisition funds are set aside for purchasing and replacing the Pepco street lights.

Cliff Scharman requested clarification on the pension contributions.

Council Member McMullen and Town Manager Daily explained that the Defined Benefit Plan has an unfunded obligation of \$427,264, and the Town currently has four active employees and one former employee that requires funding for the plan.

Joseph Campbell questioned why a memo with bullet points highlighting certain aspects of the budget was not included, as previously promised, and referenced a statement by Council

Member McMullen last year indicating that the salary of the Mayor, Council, and Town Manager, along with big ticket items and tax rate information would be included. Dr. Campbell continued by requesting that the top five salaried employees be provided as part of the budget for transparency, and also questioned how the proposed four percent salary increase was determined.

Council Member McMullen stated it was an unintentional omission; however, the Council did confirm that Dr. Campbell had requested and received employee salary information.

Council Member Bartram noted that the information Dr. Campbell requested is readily available from the Town staff and any questions about the budget or a specific line item could be provided.

Mayor Furman explained that the proposed four percent increase to salaries was based on the local consumer pricing index (CPI) and through merit considerations; the Mayor also reiterated the importance of attracting and retaining good employees.

Peter Fosselman stated that he requested Town Manager Daily to conduct a salary review while he was Mayor because he took notice that Town employees were being paid less than surrounding jurisdictions, including the County. Mr. Fosselman noted that the Town has made strides over the last few years to be more competitive with salaries and acknowledged the Town staff for their hard work; and also commended Mayor Furman on her first budget and noted it was very responsible.

Jon Gerson spoke in support of the Defined Benefit Program, which was put in place when he was on the Council in the early 1980's, and explained that the pension program was instituted because there was no retirement plan for employees at that time. Mr. Gerson also acknowledged the value of institutional knowledge and the importance of creating an environment where employees want to stay.

Mayor Furman stated that the responsibilities of the Town have changed over the years and that having a professional staff manage the day-to-day operations is beneficial to the community, and that the staff deserves to be fairly compensated for their work.

### **Council Actions**

Council Member Rollins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the installation of a speed hump on Prospect Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve directing the staff to coordinate with Walter Johnson High School on helping with certain landscaping around the campus. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to hold the Public Record open on Budget Ordinance No. O-01-2017 for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY18) until 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 4, 2017. The motion

passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the Town Meeting at 8:37 pm. The motion passed unanimously.