

Town Council Summary from the April 14, 2014 Town Meeting:

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2014.
- A Variance Hearing was held with regards to the Town's side-yard setback requirements for a new home to be built at 3912 Baltimore Street. The Council moved to hold the public record (public comment) open through Sunday, April 27th. The Council will vote on the Variance at the April 28th Town Council Meeting.
- The Public Hearing for the FY15 Budget was held. The Council moved to hold the public record (public comment) open until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 7th. The FY15 Budget is expected to be voted on at the May 12th Town Council Meeting.

April 14, 2014

Town Meeting 7:10 p.m.

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

The minutes from March 24, 2014 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council –

The Mayor attended the ribbon cutting for the new coffee shop in Town, Java Nation, which opened behind Hardware City; attended the KVFD dedication for their new pumper truck; and noted the wonderful article on the Town in Bethesda Magazine.

Council Member Bartram stated that he is continuing to review with the Traffic Committee whether local traffic regulations should be exempted within the Town.

Council Member Sexton reported that the upcoming Farmers Market will be featuring Australian meat pies and the Kensington Book Festival will be held on April 27th.

A **Variance Hearing** was held for a new home at 3912 Baltimore Street, formerly the Reynolds property. Luke Olson, GTM Architects, explained the property was originally three lots and was divided into two incongruous lots by the County to preserve the existing street trees. He requested a two foot variance for a proposed bay window due to the lots being divided unequally and the positioning of the homes.

Council Member Bartram clarified the variance process. Assistant Town Manger Hoffman informed the Council proper notice was sent to abutting and confronting property owners along with the required variance sign posted, no comments were received.

Helen Wilkes, Chairman of the Local Advisory Panel (LAP), explained that the entire property was divided into two lots instead of three lots; the property currently has a single ownership with an easement, which allows more of a buffer; a bay window improves the facade and makes it more aesthetically pleasing to the streetscape; and the variance does not undermine the character of Kensington and is complimentary to the historic district. There was no other public comment.

The Mayor noted the reasoning behind the subdivision of the lot, along with its unique situation, HPC support, historic significance, and the agreed upon covenant with the Town not to build more than two single-family homes.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations –

A Public Hearing was held on the FY15 Budget. Elisenda Sola-Sole, of Kensington Row Bookshop, requested additional funds for the Book Festival in the FY15 Budget. There were no other public comments. Council Member Furman questioned the drill floor replacement under capital expenditures; and Town Manager Daily stated he is funding this project each year for a future replacement of the drill hall floor. He also stated that a significant amount was added to the nonlapsing CIP for street resurfacing to complete the recommendations within the 2006 VHB study. He also stated the real property tax rate will remain the same with a slight increase to the personal property and public utility taxes. The public record will remain open until May 7th at 4 pm. See Council Actions.

Council Actions –

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2014 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to leave the record open until April 27th on the variance for 3912 Baltimore Street and instruct the Town Staff to prepare a resolution supporting the variance, which will be voted on at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to hold the record open until May 7, 2014 at 4 p.m. for the Fiscal Year 14 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.