

Town Council Summary from the May 11, 2015 Town Meeting

- Approved the Town Council Minutes from April 13, 2015.
- Announced Candidates for the June 1, 2015 Town Election: Darin R. Bartram; Tom H. Rodriguez; and Clifford Scharman.
- Amended Budget Ordinance No. O-01-2015 for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (FY16) by increasing the CIP by \$200,000 for additional street resurfacing.
- Adopted Budget Ordinance No. O-01-2015 for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (FY16) as amended.
- Adopted Ordinance No. O-02-2015 - Amending Chapter IV, Article II, by establishing Section 4-209 and incorporating Chapter 30-C of the Montgomery County Code in order to regulate the towing of vehicles on private property.
- Amended Ordinance No. O-03-2015 to remove reference to the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI) and to establish a set compensation amount effective July 1, 2016.
- Adopted Ordinance No. O-03-2015 - Amending Chapter II, Article I, by establishing Sections 2-113 and 2-114 "Compensation" of the Mayor and Council as amended.

May 11, 2015

Town Meeting 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Bartram, Furman, McMullen, and Sexton, 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 Minutes from the April 13, 2015 Town Meeting were approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council –

Mayor Fosselman thanked Mario Bruno, Kensington Service Station, for his leadership in a very successful 2015 Kensington Auto Show; he also thanked Mr. Bruno, along with Linda Blackburn, Dennis McCurdy, Duane Rollins, and Eli Sola Sole for organizing the first and third Thursday Food Truck Night along Armory Avenue through the summer months. Mayor Fosselman thanked Maryland State Comptroller Peter Franchot for visiting four Kensington businesses and honoring them with Certificates of Recognition as small businesses; he also thanked Kariann Zentz, Maier Warner, for helping to organize the event. The Mayor thanked Council Members Bartram and McMullen for leading the Traffic Committee and their continued efforts to resolve the parking concerns.

Mayor Fosselman announced the Town Council Candidates for the June 2015 Election as: Darin R. Bartram, Tom H. Rodriguez, and Clifford J. Scharman; and announced that Council Member Paul Sexton has decided not to seek re-election.

Mayor Fosselman thanked David Beaudet and David Weeda for agreeing to serve an additional term on the Town Ethics Committee; and thanked Martha Deale for volunteering to serve on the Board of Elections; David Beaudet and Martha Deale were both sworn in earlier in the evening for their respective positions. The Mayor noted that he attended, along with Council Members Furman and Sexton, the annual Jubilee Roast, where Congressman Chris Van Hollen was

honored; attended the Day of the Book Festival, and thanked Eli Sola Sole and the volunteers for the event. The Mayor also attended the Parkwood Elementary School PTA community yard sale; attended the Noyes Library Read-A-Thon, where he helped present the awards for the most pages read; attended the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department's banquet; and attended MML's Chapter meeting with County Executive Leggett, where the County budget and economic development were discussed.

Council Member Sexton thanked Eli Sola Sole, along with the volunteers, for the Day of the Book Festival; and thanked the Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce for awarding six scholarships to local students at their annual awards dinner.

Council Member Furman reported that the Arbor Day event held on April 18th, in partnership with the Farmers Market, was very well received. Council Member Furman also noted that the Greenscape Committee will meet in early June to discuss new plantings at Howard Avenue Park, along with a possible shade structure; and mentioned that the Committee suggested dedicating the newly planted Elm Tree in honor of Wat Stewart.

Council Member McMullen reported that the next Traffic Committee meeting will be held on May 18th, 7 pm, and is working with Code Enforcement Officer Snow, Town Manager Daily, and the Mayor to put together a parking plan for the business district. Council Member McMullen thanked staff for the white stop bars along Frederick Avenue, and noted that staff is discussing with County Parks the possibility of moving the crosswalk at Kensington Cabin Park to the intersection of Frederick Avenue, which would be a more natural location.

Council Member Bartram thanked volunteers for the Day of the Book Festival and announced that he is running for second term on the Kensington Town Council.

From the Public –

Leslie Olson noted street surfacing issues along Kensington Parkway, between Oberon Street and Metropolitan Avenue; she also asked about a house on Wheatley Street that had graveled their front yard; the G&G towing signs placed at the shopping center along Metropolitan, and who maintains the right-of-way; and also noted the fencing at the Pepco station on St. Paul.

Mayor Fosselman stated that an ordinance has been drafted by the Town Attorney, which will help with enforcing driveway issues similar to the one on Wheatley; he also stated that staff will address the other enforcement issues mentioned.

Jack Gaffey thanked the Town for adding the white stop bars at the intersections along Frederick Avenue.

George Buckwalter questioned the removal of the boxwoods at Howard Avenue Park and noted that the Park was in need of weeding; he also asked about property maintenance concerns at Ayoub Carpet, the Mizel property, and along the train tracks.

Council Member Furman stated the Greenscape Committee is currently working on re-designing

the garden areas of Howard Avenue Park to help reduce the maintenance requirements of the existing plantings.

Town Manager Daily stated that he will have the Town crew address the issues at Howard Avenue Park and have staff contact the properties noted with regards to property maintenance concerns.

Alice Kessler requested an update on the proposed three-way stop at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Fawcett Street.

Council Member McMullen stated that the Montgomery County Police have informed the Town that the collision rates are actually higher at Howard and Armory Avenues, and that this may be a more likely scenario. A traffic count of the surrounding area will be performed and discussed at the next Traffic Committee meeting to determine the next step.

Mayor Fosselman noted that the Town was also looking at speed humps, along with additional traffic calming devices, to help slow traffic.

Julie O'Malley stated that County Councilmember Hans Reimer read a proclamation on behalf of Montgomery County observing the month of May as Historical Preservation month, and encouraged the Town to do the same next year.

Cliff Scharman encouraged the Mayor, Town Council, and Residents to attend a meeting to discuss the 'Villages Concept' the following evening. Mr. Scharman noted that there is a national effort to bring people together in areas for neighbors helping neighbors.

Dr. Campbell stated he was please to see an increased police presence enforcing the stop sign at Frederick Avenue and Frederick Place; however, he questioned the deployment of police during the mid to late morning, and proposed a more opportune time of 7:30 am. Dr. Campbell also inquired about the possibility of regulating the removal of grass clipping on sidewalks, similar to the enforcement of snow and ice during the winter; and also reminded the Council that the crosswalk by Kensington Cabin Park was to be upgraded with brick like pavers.

Council Member McMullen stated that it was recommended to the Council to move the existing crosswalk from the middle of the block to the intersection of Frederick Avenue, and Town Manager Daily is working with County Parks on a plan.

Julie O'Malley cautioned on moving the crosswalk and to be aware of the bridge so children do not cross in front of it. Also requested if a copy of the plan could be distributed.

Jack Gaffey stated it makes more sense to put a sidewalk where people walk.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations –

Adoption of Ordinance No. O-01-2015 – Adopting the Town Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 (FY16), and levying a tax on all assessable property within the Town was

discussed. Town Manager Daily stated the public record was held open until May 6, 2015 and there were no comments received. Mr. Daily explained that based on the current projections, there is a greater than anticipated surplus in the current fiscal year and recommended increasing the proposed budget by \$200,000, which would be put into the CIP for street resurfacing. This would help following the harsh winter this past year. Council Member McMullen stated that the anticipated surplus is due to additional income tax and some savings. See Council Actions.

Adoption of Ordinance No. O-02-2015 – Amending Chapter IV, “Traffic and Vehicles”, Article II, “Parking”, establishing Section 4-209, “Motor Vehicle Towing on Private Property”, by incorporating Chapter 30-C of the Montgomery County Code, “Motor Vehicle Towing and Immobilization on Private Property”, to regulate the towing of vehicles from private property was discussed. Town Manager Daily stated the public record was held open until May 6, 2015 and no comments were received. He explained the ordinance may be adopted immediately as an emergency or be made effective June 1, 2015, following the required twenty day period. The Council concurred that there was no need to adopt as an emergency ordinance. See Council Actions.

Adoption of Ordinance No. O-03-2015 – Amending Chapter II, “Government and Administration”, Article I, “Town Offices and Procedures”, by establishing Sections 2-113 and 2-114, “Compensation of the Mayor and Council” was discussed. Town Manager Daily stated the public record was held open until May 6, 2015 and no comments were received. The amended ordinance had been prepared to remove the CIP reference as some members of Council had requested a fixed amount to go into effect in July 2016.

Council Member McMullen noted that Council agreed since no changes had occurred within the last ten years, a round number sounded more reasonable than using an index. Council Member Bartram stated that Council salaries should be reviewed infrequently – once every ten years. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Daily stated he prepared a draft document for an ordinance relating to driveways for the Council to review for possible introduction at the next meeting.

Council Actions –

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the Minutes from the April 13, 2015 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to amend the proposed Budget Ordinance O-01-2015 to increase the CIP by \$200,000 for street resurfacing. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adopt Ordinance O-01-2015 as amended by the prior motion to approve the Town operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and levying a tax on assessable property within the Town of Kensington. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to adopt Ordinance No. O-02-2015 – Amending Chapter IV,

“Traffic and Vehicles”, Article II, “Parking”, establishing Section 4-209, “Motor Vehicle Towing on Private Property” to incorporate Chapter 30-C of the Montgomery Code, “Motor Vehicle Towing and Immobilization on Private Property”. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to amend the proposed Ordinance, No. O-03-2015, to include the suggested increase by \$500 per year in Council compensation and set the fixed amount for the Mayor and Council and remove reference to the CIP. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adopt Ordinance No. O-03-2015 – Amending Chapter II, “Government and Administration”, Article I, “Town Offices and Procedures”, by establishing Sections 2-113 and 2-114, “Compensation of the Mayor and Town Council” as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. The motion passed unanimously.