

## **Town Council Summary from the November 18, 2013 Town Meeting:**

- Approved Town Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2013.
- Ana Lopez Van Balen and Delegate Carr discussed a proposed State Bill to change the alcohol to food ratio in Montgomery County from 50/50 to 60/40.
- Approved Resolution R-18-2013 to expand the B-K Liquor License area to 10401 Connecticut Avenue.
- Supported Proclaiming January 2014 as Public Safety Month within Kensington.
- Approved Resolution R-19-2013 Proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month in Kensington.
- Approved Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt the 2013 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **November 18, 2013**

#### **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 to keep Jean Thompson in our thoughts and prayers.

The minutes from October 21, 2013 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

Ana Lopez Van Balen, Mid-County Regional Center Director, discussed recommendations from the Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force, including a proposed bill to change the alcohol to food ratio in the County from 50/50 to 60/40. She explained the proposed ratio change would better reflect the existing sales within the County and higher cost of premium alcoholic beverages. If the Town wanted to change the ratio, they would have to pass their own resolution to be included in the bill, which may be put on the next agenda. Delegate Carr stated a hearing would be in December and explained the Bill introduction process and other bills he is working on. Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the alcohol to food ratio change.

Sharon Scott gave an update on Safety Month for January 2014, which will include CPR training, smoke detector testing and installation, police security assessments, and house number painting on the curb. The Mayor stated \$1,500 is available for funding and the Council suggested adding some activities for children. The Council concurred to proclaim January as Safety month. (Subsequently, Safety Month has been postponed until the spring.)

**From the Mayor and Town Council** – The Mayor reported the new Greenscape Committee is being formed and he is looking for Residents and Business Owners interested in addressing landscaping and maintenance of landscaping abutting the public right of way, Council Member Furman, Helen Wilkes, and Barbara Scharman will participate in the Committee; the intersection at Kensington Parkway and Montgomery Avenue is nearing completion, the brick crosswalk/speed hump will be installed and landscaping completed when weather permits; a potluck dinner and/or a chili cook-off will be held at the Armory in February, the planning committee will be meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>; he testified at the County Council for the ZTA hearing last Thursday opposing changes to the CRT zone points and amenities; others also

testified in opposition; he witnessed the swearing in of the new council in Rockville; the Town continues to work with the County on sign violations at the new nail salon; the annual lighting of the Menorah will be Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., the Tree Lighting will be Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m., the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., and the next Town Meeting will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.; he attended the Annual Ministries of Montgomery Dinner; researched information on the LAP (local advisory panel), which is under the direction of HPC, the Town nominates members to be on it, there are no term limits, and it has not been very active in the past but has become active now due to the Reynolds property; SHA continues to work with the Town on improving the median on Connecticut Avenue, landscaping plans were provided, brick pavers and low maintenance decorative plants will be added, the existing pots will need to be removed and either used in other parts of Town or sold to Residents; and he announced the “If I Were Mayor” essay contest for fourth grade students, MML is looking for volunteers to read and judge essays.

Updating the Town directory was discussed; due to the difficulty in obtaining information from Residents, suggestions were made to eliminate the directory or develop an online version. Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the paper Town directory; and Sharon Scott explained a password protected online directory would be difficult to maintain, she suggested making it easier for Residents by allowing them to provide their information online. Council Member Sexton volunteered to work on the new directory.

Council Member Bartram thanked Town Manager Daily for helping one of his neighbors resolve a problem between Washington Gas and WSSC.

Council Member McMullen reminded Residents the Nighthawks will be playing on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, it is a non alcoholic event, and admission is \$10 and a donation of packaged foods.

Council Member Furman explained the Design Guideline Task Force subcommittee is continuing to work on the supplement and the next meeting will be on Thursday; the map project is still being developed with a goal to have it ready for distribution at the Day of the Book event on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Sexton stated the Town Manager is reviewing the steep handicap ramp on Kensington Parkway and questioned the reason and whether the traffic committee could evaluate the no left turn restriction onto Kent Street. The Mayor stated that in past reviews of the sign, the majority of Residents were in support of the restriction.

Council Member Bartram stated he was aware that the Town Attorney recommended not to use local traffic only signs, but suggested further review may be needed since they are not only used in nearby municipalities, but by the County.

**Public Appearances** – Jack Gaffey stated he approved the modification to Montgomery Avenue, suggested a left directional sign be added, and suggested the pot luck dinner be held on the Town’s incorporation date in April.

Delegate Carr suggested there may be an opportunity when SHA mills and paves Connecticut

Avenue next summer to suggest a different lane width or configuration. The Mayor suggested Delegate Carr contact SHA for the Town; however, he stated there may be new standards that require bicycle and bus lanes when there are lane reconfigurations.

**Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations -**

Resolution R-18-2013 expanding the commercial area in the Town in which the County Board of License Commissioners may issue B-K Liquor Licenses to include 10401 Connecticut Avenue was discussed. The Mayor stated this is to attract a future restaurant at that address and he emailed adjacent Residents and received no comment. Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the Resolution. See Council Actions.

Resolution R-19-2013 proclaiming November as Municipal Government Month in Kensington was discussed. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013 was discussed. Town Manager Daily explained in order to be eligible to receive disaster mitigation grant funding the Town is required to adopt the County's Mitigation Plan or develop their own. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

**Council Actions:**

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2013 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-18-2013 expanding the commercial area in the Town in which the County Board of License Commissioners may issue B-K Liquor Licenses to include 10401 Connecticut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to approve Resolution R-19-2013 proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.