

Town Council Summary from the October 20, 2014 Town Meeting:

- Approved the Town Council Minutes from September 29, 2014.
- Adopted Resolution No. R-16-2014 to extend the contract with Unity Disposal and Recycling, LLC for an additional year per the terms and conditions of the existing contract.
- Adopted Resolution No. R-17-2014 authorizing the Town to purchase a 2015 Ford Escape and sell the existing code enforcement vehicle, a 1997 Chevrolet Tracker.
- Discussed Amendments to Chapter VI “Signs and Commercial Regulations” of the Town Code, proposed Ordinance No. O-02-2014 and motioned to hold the record open until November 10, 2014.

October 20, 2014

Town Meeting 7:12 p.m.

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

The Minutes from the September 29, 2014 Town Meeting and Work Session were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council –

Council Member McMullen stated that a number of safety improvements suggested by the Traffic Committee had been completed along Calvert Street by removing some bushes within the public right-of-way and by placing larger stop signs at the junction with Washington Street; and mentioned that the Town’s Traffic Engineer would evaluate the area to determine an appropriate location for a new speed hump. Business Parking Permits will begin being issued for Fawcett and Howard January 2015; Town staff will put together an informational flyer for the businesses on areas where parking is available and enforcement. The Traffic Committee will convene in early November to discuss traffic along Armory and Baltimore.

Council Member Sexton stated he received a question about whether the Farmers Market could include additional vendors along the center of the parking lot and also received an inquiry about the Town adhering to a standard schedule for Town Meetings. Council Member Bartram also questioned whether the Farmers Market could expand to the parking lot on Metropolitan Avenue. Mayor Fosselman stated the center of the parking lot had a number of issues for past vendors, mainly the sloping topography, which prevented the Market from expanding to this area of the lot; and expanding the Market to the Metropolitan side would induce safety concerns with the number of trains crossing during Market hours. The Mayor stated that Council Meetings do change from time to time to accommodate the Council’s schedule, along with holidays and other unplanned events. The Mayor reminded everyone that the Town releases a summary within 48 hours of the meeting and an audio recording is always available on our website.

From the Public –

Jack Gaffey stated that a car was stolen and recovered from his block on Frederick Avenue the previous evening and also noted that a partial solar eclipse would occur on Thursday evening at 6 pm.

Al Lacey thanked the Town for sponsoring the 1st Annual Kensington Car Show on Saturday, November 1st.

Bernadette Englested, non-resident, expressed concerns about the time restrictions on Kent Street after she received a \$90 citation for violating the “No Turn” signage. Ms. Englested requested that local traffic be exempted from the restrictions.

Council Member McMullen stated that the Traffic Committee has researched the issue on a number of prior occasions and the issue of “local traffic only” and the Committee determined that there was no clear way to determine what would constitute “local traffic.” He also stated the Committee has not shown interest in removing the restrictions.

Council Membr Bartram stated the Traffic Committee should re-evaluate the possibility of “local traffic only” signs, as they are used in other areas of the County.

David Nellis commented that the Town could use stickers to identify local residents from non-residents.

Eli Sola-Sole stated that a number of Residents along the Fawcett Street apartments have expressed concern about the enforcement of the parking restrictions along Fawcett not covering overnight parking. Ms. Sola-Sole mentioned that occasionally vehicles are parked overnight or on weekends that prevents spaces to be used by apartment residents, and requested the parking restrictions be extended to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Town Manager Daily stated that staff surveys suggest that there is no parking issue along Fawcett, and although there are rare occurrences, the studies do not justify extending the hours of the restrictions.

Al Lacey clarified that he and Town Manager Daily had not spoken previously about the parking situation along Fawcett.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations –

Resolution No. R-16-2014 – a Resolution to exercise the option to extend the contract with Unity Disposal and Recycling for another year was presented. The Council discussed Unity’s service to the community over the last three years favorably. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-17-2014 – a Resolution to authorize the Town Manager to purchase a 2015 Ford Escape from Lindsay Ford and to sell the existing code enforcement vehicle, a 1997 Chevrolet Tracker, was presented. The Town Manager reported that the Tracker had seen an increase in mechanical problems and had become unreliable for staff to drive. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Ordinance No. 02-2014 – the revised amendments to Chapter VI “Signs and Commercial Regulations” was reviewed and discussed by the Council and Town staff to clarify a number of enforcement concerns, to include: 1) once adopted, allowing for a six (6) month applicability before the Town would begin enforcing the 20 percent coverage of all commercial window signage; 2) to continue to allow for neon signs, per county regulations, throughout the commercial district, although not within the Historic District; 3) to allow for a variance option with ground signs and landscaping requirements for these signs; 4) to remove the exemption of places of worship from the commercial regulations and defer to County regulations on signs within Residential zones; 5) and to require an updated signage plan after each new sign is changed at a multi-tenant property.

The Town Attorney will amend the Ordinance to include the clarification for the Council’s review at the November 10th Council Meeting. Town staff requested that the record be held open until the next meeting to advise the business community of the revisions with the Council concurring.

Council Actions –

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the Minutes from the September 29, 2014 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the Minutes from the September 29, 2014 Work Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adopt Resolution R-16-2014 to exercise the option to extend the contract with Unity Disposal and Recycling another year, per the contract conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adopt Resolution R-17-2014 to authorize the Town Manager to purchase a new code enforcement vehicle, a 2015 Ford Escape, from Lindsay Ford and to sell the current enforcement vehicle, a 1997 Chevrolet Tracker. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to instruct the Town Attorney to amend the revised suggestions to the Ordinance No. 02-2014 and to extend the record through November 10, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.