

January 14, 2019 Town Council Meeting

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2018.
- Acknowledged the receipt of the Audit Committee's Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18 (FY18).
- Adopted Resolution No. R-01-2019 - A Resolution of the Town Council confirming the Mayor's appointment of Conor Crimmins to serve as Chair of the Development Review Board.
- Adopted Resolution No. R-02-2019 - A Resolution of the Town Council confirming the Mayor's appointment of Tina Sherman to serve the remainder of Dave Weeda's term on the Town Ethic's Commission.

Town Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Furman; Council Member Bartram, Crimmins, Hill-Zayat, and Rollins; Assistant Town Manager Hoffman; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Town Manager Daily was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed for Mary Stewart and Toni Ward, who both recently passed away.

The Town Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2018 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

Girl Scout Troop 1325, whom led the Pledge of Allegiance, was present and observed the meeting in coordination with earning their governmental badge.

Mayor Furman acknowledged receipt of the Audit Committee's Report for the year ending June 30, 2018 (FY18), which stated that the audited financial statements be accepted as submitted.

Development Review Board Updates

Knowles Manor Senior Housing (3906/3910 Knowles Avenue) -

Council Member Crimmins reported that the developers are finalizing the site plan submission and anticipate that the project will break ground late this year. A community meeting will be held on January 22, 2018, 6:30 pm.

Mayor Furman noted that the Town has already supported the proposed project.

Knowles Station Townhomes (10509 Summit Avenue)

Council Member Crimmins reported that the developers have presented several sketch plans for the proposed 19 townhome project and the plan is still in the very early planning stages.

Kensington Square Self Storage (10619 Connecticut Avenue)

Council Member Crimmins reported that the developers have revised the most recent sketch plan following feedback from the DRB, which notably removed the reveals from the project. The current configuration has 6,000 square feet of retail space available on the first and second floor, along with planned self-storage on floors three through six and sub grade. The plan meets the County's parking requirements and the DRB discussed and presented alternate architectural

renderings they would like to see used as a guide for elevation improvements. The developer is actively looking for restaurants that may occupy the first floor.

Council Member Bartram explained that by removing the reveals within the elevation plans, the outward appearance of a storage facility would be less relevant and noted the importance of providing retail on the first and second floors; otherwise, he would not support the project as a conditional use.

Mayor Furman stated that there will many opportunities for the public to comment and ask questions on the proposed plan, as they are currently within the sketch plan phase.

Lori Simmons asked about the availability for Kensington residents at the proposed senior housing project; and informed the Council that many sidewalks in the Town had yet to be cleared of snow.

John Oppenheim asked if a cumulative traffic and transportation study had been completed for the proposed projects.

Mayor Furman stated the County determines if a traffic study is necessary based on potential trips per hour during peak times.

Council Members Bartram stated the proposed Summit Avenue extension project would help alleviate traffic congestion and encouraged residents and the community to support it by contacting their County and State officials.

Jack Gaffey noted the importance of developers to mitigate traffic impacts prior to submitting plans.

Council Member Bartram stated that the DRB is working with the Knowles Station development team on providing an egress along both Detrick and Summit Avenues.

Council Member Crimmins noted that the Hawkins property has an existing easement to allow egress onto Metropolitan Avenue and that the Council has been vigilant to support projects that will not adversely affect our current traffic congestion issues.

Joseph Campbell noted the importance of Mr. Oppenheim's comment on the cumulative effects of development, which tend to be overlooked; and noted the Summit Avenue extension is many years away.

Council Member Bartram stated that an introduced 'Do Not Block the Box' bill could also help with traffic; however, the way the bill is currently written to exempt left turn traffic does not help with the Knowles Avenue intersection.

Jack Gaffey requested that the Howard Avenue 'Do Not Block the Box' be enforced.

From the Town Manager and Staff

The Mayor and Council thanked the Town crew for the excellent snow removal.

Assistant Town Manager Hoffman stated that the crew will continue the push back of snow to the curb as necessary; a Work Session has been scheduled for January 28th to discuss amendments to the Town's commercial sign regulations; and noted that the February Council Meeting will include a resolution for the purchase of the pavilion at St. Paul Park.

Public Appearances

Jack Gaffey thanked the Town crew for snow removal and informed residents that there will be a super moon and total lunar eclipse on January 20th.

Al Lacey noted that the Town's new trash contractor had hired the crew from our previous contractor, which is working very well; and thanked the Town for live streaming the meetings on Facebook.

Lori Simmons asked about previous concerns she noted to the Town with regards to the Frederick Avenue bridge; and suggested that each Council Member be assigned to evaluate a specific street.

Mayor Furman stated that she reviewed the Frederick Avenue bridge and that the sidewalk will be repaired to allow for better drainage.

Carol O'Toole questioned whether anything could be done about the litter along Metropolitan Avenue and improving the pedestrian crossing at St. Paul Street,

Mayor Furman stated that a letter will be sent to Konterra with regards to property maintenance and noted that the Solera Senior Reserve project will allow for pedestrian improvements to the Metropolitan Avenue and St. Paul Street intersection.

Council Member Crimmins stated that the Town continues to work with the State Highway Administration on crossing improvements in certain areas of the Town.

Joseph Campbell questioned the penalty amount for not removing snow on sidewalks; when the audios of Town Meetings are usually posted; thanked the Town crew for snow removal; and questioned if Council Members Bartram and Crimmins have decided if they would be running for reelection.

Council Member Bartram stated that he has not decided if he will be running for reelection.

Council Member Crimmins stated that he intends to run for reelection.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations

Resolution No. R-01-2019 – A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the Mayor of Conor Crimmins as Chair of the Development Review Board was presented. See Council Actions. There were no public comments.

Mayor Furman noted that the current Chair, TJ Monahan, is stepping down as Chair but remaining on the DRB and serving under the Professional designation, due to increased work responsibilities.

Resolution No. R-02-2019 – A Resolution to confirm the appointment made by the Mayor to the Town Ethics Commission was presented. See Council Actions. There were no public comments.

Mayor Furman stated that a current member, David Weeda, has moved outside of the Town and that she has requested the appointment of Tina Sherman to serve the remainder of Mr. Weeda's term.

The Mayor swore in Tina Sherman to the Ethics Commission.

Council Actions

Council Member Rollins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-01-2019 to confirm the appointment by the Mayor of Conor Crimmins to Chair of the Development Review Board. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Crimmins abstained.

Council Member Rollins moved to approve Resolution No. R-02-2019 to confirm the appointment made by the Mayor of Tina Sherman to the Town Ethics Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.