

March 11, 2019 Town Council Meeting

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2019 and the Work Session Minutes from February 25, 2019.
- Introduced Ordinance No. O-02-2019 – An Ordinance to adopt the Town's Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (FY20). The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 8th, 7 pm.
- Approved Resolution No. R-04-2019 – A Resolution confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of David Beaudet and Tina Sherman to the Ethics Commission.
- Approved Resolution No. R-05-2019 – A Resolution confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jennifer Smith to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- Approved Resolution No. R-06-2019 – A Resolution amending the schedule of Fees, Charges, and Expenses.
- Approved Resolution No. R-07-2019 – A Resolution to establish a 20 MPH Speed Limit along the 3700 Block of Farragut Avenue between University Boulevard and Lexington Street.

Town Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Furman; Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Hill-Zayat, and Rollins; 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 Town Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2019 and the Work Session Minutes from February 25, 2019 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Council

Council Member Rollins reported that the Traffic Committee met on February 21st and noted that the Committee recommended the following:

- Reduce the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph along the 3700 block of Farragut Avenue, at the recommendation of the Town's Traffic Engineer, Joe Cutro.
- Proceed with the proposed plug at the intersection of University Boulevard and Farragut Avenue.
- Delay installation of the petition proposed speed hump along the 3700 block of Farragut Avenue to allow the Traffic Engineer to evaluate data following the reduction in the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph; the Town will keep the petition on file for one year.
- Requested that the Council consider a Traffic Warrant to determine if a three-way stop sign was justified at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Fawcett Street, prior to moving forward with option 2 of the proposed bump out.
- Move forward with hiring two part-time Montgomery County Police Officers as Town employees instead of using a rotation of officers to enforce traffic restrictions.
- Have staff work with the Traffic Engineer to draft a letter to the County Department of Transportation requesting a review of the recent traffic calming measures along Summit Avenue.

- Have the Traffic Engineer evaluate the entire Town for crosswalk improvements and installations.

Assistant Town Manager Hoffman noted that after the Traffic Committee meeting, the Town's Traffic Engineer, Joe Cutro, stated that prior evaluation of the Howard Avenue and Fawcett Street intersection would not justify a Traffic Warrant for a three-way stop, and recommended that the Council move forward with the bump out option.

The Council discussed the bump out and conducting a Traffic Warrant for a three-way stop and concurred to have the issue for discussion again at the next Traffic Committee meeting.

Council Member Bartram asked about proceeding with the proposed plug for the intersection of University Boulevard and Farragut Avenue.

Town Manager Daily noted that he would like to discuss the project with the State Highway Administration before moving forward.

Mayor Furman reported that the Greenscape Committee met and will once again be hosting an Arbor Day event in coordination with the Day of the Book Festival on April 28th; the Committee recommended contracting Rasma Plato to lay out a preliminary design for Clum Kennedy Park; and discussed creating a banner program along Howard Avenue.

Mayor Furman noted that she and Town Manager Daily met with County Executive Elrich, along with representatives from Montgomery County and the Housing Opportunities Commission to discuss making a portion of the HOC gymnasium available for public use.

Nate Engle asked about the original agreement for public use of the gymnasium and why only half of the gym is being offered; and also requested that the Council be productive in providing information to the community to include the availability of the facility for public use.

Jennifer Graff suggested that middle school aged children also be considered for activity uses within the gym and suggested that the Town take the opportunity to help find an appropriate use for the facility once HOC has left.

Mayor Furman noted that HOC has taken over half of the gym due to a lack of office space and they may be relocating to a new facility within three years; she suggested creating an ad-hoc committee in the future to review the space if the school system does not use it.

Karin Averbeck requested that the Town fight for the public use of the entire gym and for all ages during daytime use.

Mayor Furman noted that the current parking limitations would prevent most uses during the day.

Public Appearances

Jack Gaffey requested that the Town enforce 'Do Not Block the Box' signs, and noted a number of upcoming astronomical events.

Council Member Bartram stated that the proposed 'Do Not Block the Box' legislation exempts enforcement of left turns, which would not apply to the issue at Connecticut Avenue and Knowles Avenue.

Julie O'Malley clarified that the Greenscape Committee's plan for Clum Kennedy Park is to allow for greater accessibility and use by improving the existing paths and gardens; and noted that the British Player's production of Noises Off was fabulous.

Tim Weir thanked the Town on behalf of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department for contributing the funds for the 9/11 plaque honoring the victims of Flight 93; and thanked Mayor Furman and Council Member Rollins for their attendance.

Leslie Olson asked if the Town would consider offering composting collection and noted that the Pepco facility at Metropolitan and St. Paul was not being maintained.

Council Member Crimmins questioned one of the current compost providers within the Town and if they could handle the volume of customers, as he has encountered service issues.

Council Member Hill-Zayat suggested reminding Residents in the Around Town Journal that they can sign-up for compost collections with Compost Crew; and mentioned that if the Pepco property maintenance issue persists, she can provide contact information for the Public Service Commission.

David Romeo requested clarification on the Shred-It event and what electronic items would be collected; asked if the Town had any regulations pertaining to the size of flags or flag poles; and how Committees and notice of meetings are posted.

Assistant Town Manager Hoffman stated that he would review the County's regulations pertaining to flag poles and that Committee information, along with meeting information, is posted on our website.

Helen Wilkes presented the Mayor and Council a letter outlining her goals and vision for the Community with respect to development and design guidelines. Ms. Wilkes noted that the letter was in follow-up to her comments at the previous Council Meeting where she suggested that a townhouse development was not within the vision of Brainard Warner when he designed our 'Garden Community'.

Julie O'Malley stated that the existing townhouses within Kensington look more like houses compared to what was presented within the Knowles Station plan, which were four stories and did not engage the street with a community feel.

Council Member Crimmins reiterated the Council's position of the proposed Summit Avenue Extension project.

Miles Carr noted the importance of having a walkable community with sidewalks and also addressed the Council with respect to his request to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in Town Elections. Mr. Carr stated that Takoma Park passed a similar law in 2013 and the following election in November suggested that only 8.5 percent of eligible voters over the age of 18 voted; while 16.9 percent of registered 16 and 17-year-olds voted. He concluded that lowering the voting age would allow teens to feel like they have a voice and will allow them to gain credibility and would help send a message to other teens in neighboring communities.

Council Member Crimmins questioned if the teen voter turnout has been sustained within Takoma Park elections.

Council Member Hill-Zayat stated it should not preclude Miles to propose the voter age change and whether or not it has been sustained.

Mayor Furman stated that Mr. Carr's request was not an Agenda item, so no action could be taken this evening; however, the Council may decide to discuss the issue further at a future Council Meeting.

Karin Averbeck thanked the Council for the 'No Thru Traffic' sign on Washington, in which she believed has made a big difference in making the street safer.

Jack Gaffey spoke in support of having a walkable community with a green buffer between the curb and sidewalk.

Miles Carr suggested that a sign be placed on Connecticut Avenue advising drivers of the 'No Thru Traffic' regulations, as he had a negative experience with an officer enforcing the restriction.

Dave Beaudet clarified that Mr. Carr's proposal was only for 16 and 17-year-olds to vote not to hold elected office within the Town.

Mayor Furman stated that the developers for the proposed Kensington Square Self Storage (10619 Connecticut Avenue) project will be holding a community meeting on March 28th, and that the Town is taking no action, as the applicant is hosting the meeting to present a revised sketch plan; noted that the developer for Knowles Station has withdrawn his proposal for phase 3 and 4 of the project; and announced that Wine & Co. will officially open March 13th.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations

Ordinance No. O-02-2019 - An Ordinance adopting the Town's Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 (FY20) and levying a tax on all assessable property within the Town was introduced. The Council set the Public Hearing for April 8, 2019, 7:00 pm. See Council Actions. Mayor Furman stated that the proposed FY20 Budget includes hiring two Montgomery County Police Officers as part-time employees to replace the existing rotational contract with Montgomery County Police, along with funding for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer position.

Resolution No. R-04-2019 - A Resolution confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of David Beaudet and Tina Sherman to the Town Ethics Commission was presented. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-05-2019 - A Resolution confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jennifer Smith to the Board of Supervisors of Elections was presented. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-06-2019 – A Resolution amending the schedule of Town Fees, Charges, and Expenses was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Daily stated that the fees are updated yearly for the cost of living; in addition, fees have been added for the small cell ordinance, and Building Permit fees have been amended to reflect construction by the square foot instead of as a total estimated cost, at the recommendation of the Town Attorney.

Council Member Rollins suggested that the storage container regulations should be adjusted to allow for a fee between 30 and 120 days.

Leslie Olson questioned whether a permit and fee would be needed for repairing a driveway.

Assistant Town Manager Hoffman stated the storage container increment is written within the Town Code and would require an amendment, and that the Town would not require a permit if a resident is only repairing an existing driveway. However, a new or reconstructed (change in foot print) would require a permit.

Resolution No. R-07-2019 – A Resolution to establish a 20 MPH Speed Limit along the 3700 Block of Farragut Avenue between University Boulevard and Lexington Street was presented. See Council Actions.

Council Member Bartram stated that both the Traffic Committee and Traffic engineer recommended the reduced speed due to the commercial nature of the street, along with a number of other abnormalities along the block including a narrower width.

Mayor Furman swore in David Beaudet to the Ethics Commission.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2019 and the Work Session Minutes from February 25, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to introduce Ordinance No. O-02-2019 to adopt the Town's Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 (FY20). The Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 8th, 7 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-04-2019 confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of David Beaudet and Tina Sherman to the Town Ethics Commission. The motion

passed unanimously.

Council Member Rollins moved to approve Resolution No. R-05-2019 confirming the Mayor's re-appointment of Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jennifer Smith to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-06-2019 amending the schedule of Town Fees, Charges, and Expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-07-2019 to establish a 20 MPH Speed Limit along the 3700 Block of Farragut Avenue between University Boulevard and Lexington Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.