

March 9, 2020 Town Council Meeting

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020.
- Approved sending a letter to Montgomery Planning in support of the proposed Residences at Knowles Station – Phase I (4000 Knowles Avenue) townhome project.
- Held a Public Hearing for **Ordinance No. O-01-2020** - an Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council Amending Chapter VI, Article I, “Signs and Solicitors”, Sections 6-101, “Signs”; 6-102, “Town Sign Permit Required”; 6-103, “Signs in the Public Right-of-Way”; 6-104, “Signs on Private Property – CRT, CRN, and Industrial Zones”; and 6-106, “Enforcement and Penalties”, to identify the types of signs that are authorized and are required to be permitted, expand the prohibition on pole signs, to regulate limited duration signs on private property, to clarify that all illuminated signs are regulated in the same manner, and to make conforming changes. *The Public Record will remain open until 4:00 pm on Friday, April 10, 2020.*
- Introduced **Ordinance No. O-02-2020** – An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property. *The Public Hearing was set for Monday, April 13, 2020, 7:00 pm.*
- Adopted **Resolution No. R-02-2020** – A Resolution confirming appointments made by the Mayor to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- Adopted **Resolution No. R-03-2020** – A Resolution confirming appointments made by the Mayor to the Town Ethics Commission.

Town Meeting March 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Hill-Zayat, and Rollins; and Town Manager Hoffman were present. Clerk-Treasurer Engels was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2020 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Council

Development Review Board

Council Member Crimmins reported that the Development Review Board (DRB) met with Woodside Ventures on March 4th to review revised site plans and elevations for the proposed Residences at Knowles Station – Phase I (4000 Knowles Avenue) townhome project. The project proposes six townhomes with three to four bedrooms and a single car garage each, with access from Kaiser Place. Additional amenities planned by the developer are for an improved gateway entry into the Town along Knowles Avenue and pedestrian improvements to include green buffer along the sidewalk, additional plantings, and two bioretention storm drains. Council Member Crimmins noted that this is the third time that the DRB has met with the developer and that the DRB recommended sending a letter in support of the project to Montgomery Planning.

Tom Brault, Woodside Ventures, was present to answer questions about the project.

Council Member Hill-Zayat questioned the impact the proposed development would have on traffic.

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins stated that the residential use would provide a low traffic count between six and twelve cars, while other uses, including commercial, would have a greater traffic impact.

Council Member Hill-Zayat asked if there was a proposed buffer for Wine and Co., which currently does not have one.

Mr. Brault stated that the State Highway Administration (SHA) has jurisdiction over the right-of-way along Knowles Avenue and they would determine what improvements or buffer are necessary for the project.

Jody Krieger noted that the plans do not account for a pull-off area for delivery trucks along Knowles Avenue, which may impact traffic.

Peter Bartram stated that he appreciated the DRB's review process; however, we was concerned by the proposed renderings where vehicles may be able to protrude into Kaiser Place, which may obstruct pedestrians from walking along the street; and noted that the current magnolia tree would be removed if the project is approved.

Mayor Furman noted that there is a proposed sidewalk on the southside of Kaiser Place within the plans and that the Town could control the parking concerns through code enforcement.

Mr. Brault noted that County Planning requested that the structures be shifted from the original plan, which lessened the distance of the rear of the properties to the street along Kaiser Place. Mr. Brault stated that he would discuss this with Planning.

Helen Wilkes noted that although she did not support the notion of townhouses as an appropriate entrance into the Town, she recognized that the developer was willing to improve the area and green space through additional amenities; stated that enforcement of vehicles along Kaiser Place would be necessary to prevent protrusion; and noted that there is more to the sector plan than traffic and that is why design guidelines are so important.

Jack Gaffey stated that the building setback line should be parallel to Kaiser Place so the driveways would be equal length and prevent vehicles from protruding onto Kaiser Place.

Council Member Rollins suggested adding the concern of vehicles possibly protruding onto Kaiser Place within the letter of support to Planning.

Council Member Crimmins stated that the applicant will submit the plan to Planning by March 18th, which will begin a new public process for comments.

See Council Actions.

Composting

Council Member Crimmins stated that he and Town Manager Hoffman met with Compost Crew in January to discuss expanding the program within the Town. Currently, there are 28 homes with the Town signed up for curbside pickup and the Town has agreed to help promote and sponsor the program to encourage greater participation within the Town. An ad-hoc committee will be established to help with the outreach efforts.

Kensington Dog Run

Jessica Chertow, Kensington Dog Run Chair, provided an overview and update on the new dog park and announced that the official opening will be on May 16th in conjunction with the Kensington Dog Parade; and also thanked the Mayor and Council for supporting the Kensington Dog Run.

Mark Hudson, Dog Run Committee, reported that the Committee would like to purchase a 12' x 16' gazebo as a shade structure, which would cost approximately \$7,000, including installation. The Committee is also collecting donations, \$100 from individuals and \$300 from businesses, with the goal of raising at least \$4,000 towards the anticipated \$7,000 for the gazebo.

Jon Gerson, Dog Run Committee, reported that there are ten concrete pillars within the park and the Committee is seeking local artists to paint dog themed imagery on the pillars. Currently, there are six artists committed and the Town will supply \$100 grants to reimburse for supplies. Artists interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact Jessica Chertow at JessicaChertow@gmail.com with a proposal and sketch.

Andrea Stumpf noted that her daughter, Maxie, was very excited to be one of the artists and presented a sketch of her proposed art.

Tom Rutkay, Albert Einstein HS Art teacher, stated that he is looking forward to painting a mural on one of the pillars.

Mayor Furman thanked Council Member Rollins for drawing attention to the property, which gave her the idea of the dog park; and noted that additional stone dust was placed by the Town Crew and NZI Construction to help improve drainage.

Jody Krieger, Dog Run Committee, stated that canine grass should be considered in the future.

Evan Reynolds, Dog Run Committee, stated that he received pricing for agility equipment within the park and noted the expense, and suggested alternatives proposed by Jason Swain.

The Council concurred to proceed with the purchase of the gazebo for the Dog Run.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Council Member Bartram reported that the Traffic Committee will convene March 19th, 7:00 pm.

Council Member Rollins noted that the pergola at Howard Avenue Park needs to be resealed; and noted that the moving company along University Blvd. are parking their vehicles on the grass.

Council Member Crimmins thanked the Town Crew for the new sod at St. Paul Park; stated the new basketball nets will be installed; and noted that the walking path and parking inlets will be repaved later this year.

Mayor Furman reported that the MML Chapter Meeting is scheduled for March 19th; Montgomery Preservation will be presenting a Historic Preservation Award to 3940 Washington Street for their outstanding renovation March 14th; Kensington Historical Society will be holding a meeting tomorrow evening; and the Greenscape Committee will be meeting March 11th, 9:00 am to discuss the Clum-Kennedy path, banner art program, and ivy at Flinn Park.

Mayor Furman stated that she attended the MCPS North Bethesda community meeting, which discussed the need for a new elementary school for the Walter Johnson and BCC clusters. The meeting discussed the current HOC site, formally Kensington Elementary, as either a holding site or backup school; however, they were looking at the site for the proposed pre-K program, which would include a recreation component for the site.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Ethics Committee met to review financial disclosure forms; and that he confirmed with SHA the road transfer agreement had been executed, which adds additional streets to the Town's highway user funds.

Jack Gaffey reported the Ethics Committee met and reviewed the financial disclosure forms and all forms were accepted.

From the Public

Al Lacey spoke in remembrance of 'little Mario' from the Kensington Service Station who recently passed away from cancer.

Evan Reynolds spoke in remembrance of Amy Beckwith 'Moon', following her passing.

Jack Gaffey noted the first day of spring, March 19th, was early this year due to leap year.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2020 – A Public Hearing was held on an Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council Amending Chapter VI, Article I, "Signs and Solicitors", Sections 6-101, "Signs"; 6-102, "Town Sign Permit Required"; 6-103, "Signs in the Public Right-of-Way"; 6-104, "Signs on Private Property – CRT, CRN, and Industrial Zones"; and 6-106, "Enforcement and Penalties", to identify the types of signs that are authorized and are required to be permitted, expand the prohibition on pole signs, to regulate limited duration signs on private property, to clarify that all illuminated signs are regulated in the same manner, and to make conforming changes. The Record

will remain open until April 10, 2020 at 4 pm. There were no public comments. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated postcards were sent to all residents notifying them of the public hearing and the revised ordinance was sent to the County Council for review. Major changes include: requiring limited duration signs to meet certain conditions and clarifying the materials they may be made of; and eliminating all pole signs; however, the Kensington Shopping Center pole sign will be grandfathered for 20 years or until the property redevelops, whichever occurs first.

Council Member Bartram noted correction of where “and” is used on page 8 (L) Variance Procedure which should be at the end of (L) (3) not (L) (2).

Ordinance No. O-02-2020– An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property was presented for introduction. The Public Hearing was set for Monday, April 13, 2020, 7:00 pm. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. O-02-2020 – A Resolution confirming appointments made by the Mayor of Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jenifer Smith to the Board of Elections was presented for approval. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. O-03-2020 – A Resolution confirming the appointment made by the Mayor of John “Jack” Gaffey, Jr. to the Ethics Commission for a two-year term was presented for approval. See Council Actions.

Mayor Furman swore in John “Jack” Gaffey, Jr. to the Ethics Commission.

Council Actions

Council Member Rollins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to write a letter in support of The Residences at Knowles Station – Phase I project, 4000 Knowles Avenue, to Montgomery Planning. The letter will note the Town’s concerns over the southern boundary and request that the project be shifted north to allow greater parking space within the residential driveways. The motion passed. Council Member Hill-Zayat opposed the motion.

Council Member Crimmins moved to hold the record open on Ordinance No. O-01-2020 - an Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council Amending Chapter VI, Article I, “Signs and Solicitors”, Sections 6-101, “Signs”; 6-102, “Town Sign Permit Required”; 6-103, “Signs in the Public Right-of-Way”; 6-104, “Signs on Private Property – CRT, CRN, and Industrial Zones”; and 6-106, “Enforcement and Penalties”, to identify the types of signs that are authorized and are required to be permitted, expand the prohibition on pole signs, to regulate limited duration signs

on private property, to clarify that all illuminated signs are regulated in the same manner, and to make conforming changes until 4 p.m. on April 10, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to introduce Ordinance No. O-02-2020 - an Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property and set the Public Hearing for Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-02-2020 to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jennifer Smith to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to approve Resolution No. R-03-2020 to confirm the Mayor's appointment of John "Jack" Gaffey, Jr. to the Ethics Commission for a two year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.