

July 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2020.
- Acknowledged Mayor Furman's appointment of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Audit Committee.
- Provided an updated site plan and information on the proposed brick pathway and grape arbor at Clum-Kennedy Park, which will be funded through the Program Open Space grant program.
- **Continued Ordinance No. O-03-2020** - An Ordinance to amend Chapter II, "Government and Administration", Article 2, "Elections", Section 2-202, "Distribution of Absentee Ballots", Section 2-203, "Procedures of Absentee Ballots", and Section 2-204, "canvassing of Absentee Ballots" of the Town Code to delete any requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot.

Town Meeting July 13, 2020, 7:00 pm, by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, and Engle; Town Manager Hoffman; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present by Zoom Video Conferencing. Council Member Hill-Zayat was necessarily absent. A moment of silence was observed to keep Council Member Hill-Zayat and her family in our thoughts and prayers following the passing of her father.

The Town Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2020 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Council

Mayor Furman acknowledged the re-appointment of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Audit Committee.

Mayor Furman acknowledged that the Board of Elections Supervisors certified the results of the June 1, 2020 Town Election. Tracey Furman was re-elected Mayor; Bridget Hill-Zayat was re-elected to the Town Council; and Nate Engle was elected to the Town Council.

Program Open Space

Mayor Furman provided an update on the Program Open Space grant for an ADA brick pathway and new grape arbor at Clum-Kennedy Park. The Greenscape Committee has been working on improvements to Clum-Kennedy the last few years and the Program Open Space grant will cover 75 percent of the project, with the Town contributing 25 percent of the cost. The Board of Public Works will meet August 12 to review the project for final approval. Mayor Furman also confirmed that the existing grape vines will remain and be reattached following the completion of the new grape arbor.

Joe Campbell requested that the Town confirm the cost of the Clum-Kennedy project; noted how well the Town has been keeping the park; and stated that although the project adds value to the

park, suggested that the Council consider whether this is the best investment of funds during the pandemic.

Council Member Bartram stated that there will be a Council Work Session, via Zoom, with Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the State Highway Administration (SHA), to discuss traffic and pedestrian safety along the 3900 and 4000 block of Knowles Avenue; the meeting will be open to the public.

Council Member Bartram stated that he spoke with representatives from KenGar to ensure that they were aware of the proposed installation of a Stop sign on eastbound Plyers Mill Road at the intersection with Summit Avenue.

Town Manager Hoffman confirmed that Vincent Ho, MCDOT, was working with the KenGar community with regards to the proposed Stop sign, along with pedestrian improvements to the intersection.

Council Member Crimmins noted that Wohlsen Construction is on schedule to complete the main utility work along Metropolitan Avenue and that the street will be open to thru traffic the first week of August.

Mayor Furman noted that she attended the Maryland Municipal League (MML) virtual Summer Conference; thanked Council Members Bartram and Crimmins for helping with social distancing efforts at the Farmers Market; and noted the following Council assignments following the Town's Organizational Meeting:

- **Auditing Committee** – Crimmins and Hill-Zayat
- **Board of Elections** – Engle
- **Ethics Commission** – Bartram
- **MCPS** – Engle
- **Greenscape Committee** – Furman and Engle
- **Development Review Board** – Bartram and Crimmins (chair)
- **Traffic Committee** – Bartram and Hill-Zayat
- **Election Committee** – will serve as a subcommittee to the Board of Elections to review the 2020 Town Election and make recommendations for the 2021 Town Election.
- **Pedestrian and Bike Safety** – discussion will continue to determine the appropriate formation of the subcommittee.
- **Social Justice Committee** – will serve as an independent Committee reporting to the Mayor.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported that a portion of the Town Hall portico had collapsed and that Donohoe Construction was contracted to shore up the entrances until the repair could be completed; the repair project will cost over \$30,000 and require Council approval.

Mayor Furman stated that the Town is in sound financial shape and noted that income tax revenues for a specific fiscal year trail the current calendar year.

Clerk-Treasurer Engels stated that the FY20 Audit will begin in August and the early numbers suggest a large surplus for the fiscal year.

Public Appearances

Jack Gaffey noted that the Neowise comet will be visible for viewing the evening of July 23.

Joe Campbell suggested the Town recognize David Gregg for his long service to the Town; noted sediment control issues with the new homes being built along Frederick Avenue and stated that they should be fined for repeated violations; and congratulated Council Member Engle on his unprecedented number of votes within the June Election and inquired what he attributed to the vote count.

Town Manager Hoffman noted that the Town is working with the developer on the sediment issues and that violations and fines are issued in accordance with the Town Code.

Council Member Engle stated that he attributed the high vote total to the vote by mail election, which encouraged greater participation.

Jack Gaffey suggested a proclamation to honor David Gregg for his many years of service.

Mayor Furman discussed planting a tree to honor his years of service with the Town.

Town Manager Hoffman stated David Gregg plans on continuing to work with the Town for the foreseeable future.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations

Ordinance No. O-03-2020 – Ordinance No. O-03-2020 to amend Chapter II, “Government and Administration”, Article 2, “Elections”, Section 2-202, “Distribution of Absentee Ballots”, Section 2-203, “Procedures of Absentee Ballots”, and Section 2-204, “canvassing of Absentee Ballots” of the Town Code to delete any requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot was continued. See Council Actions.

The Council discussed the importance of maintaining an ‘Oath’ statement within any changes to the Town’s election procedures, as this would provide affirmation of an individual’s eligibility to vote and ensures the integrity of the election. The Council concurred to allow the Election sub-committee review the proposed ordinance and provide additional comments prior to voting.

Council Actions

Councilmember Bartram moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2020, as amended. Council Member Engle abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to continue consideration of Ordinance No. O-03-2020 - An Ordinance to amend Chapter II, "Government and Administration", Article 2, "Elections", Section 2-202, "Distribution of Absentee Ballots", Section 2-203, "Procedures of Absentee Ballots", and Section 2-204, "canvassing of Absentee Ballots" of the Town Code to delete any requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. The motion passed unanimously.