

September 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Work Session Minutes of August 7, 2020.
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2020.
- Directed staff to draft an Ordinance to adopt the Montgomery County Pesticide Law for introduction at a future Town Council Meeting.
- Concurred with the Development Review Board's (DRB) recommendation to support the proposed Flats at Knowles Station project (10509 Summit Avenue), while continuing to focus on areas of consideration through the review process. Mayor Furman will forward the DRB letter, dated September 9, 2020, to the Planning Board with a transmittal letter noting the unanimous council vote supporting the project, along with the developer's pledge to meet LEED Silver Certification.
- Directed staff to explore drafting a potential Resolution in support of a local map amendment for the property located at 10509 Summit Avenue, which would propose changing the FAR from CRT 1.5: C 1.0, R 0.5, H 60 to CRT 1.5: C 0.5, R 1.0, H60, with the understanding of securing public parking options.
- Adopted **Resolution No. R-08-2020** – A Resolution to accept Program Open Space Grant (POS# 7107-15-715) and to override the Bid Process to authorize a contract with John Shorb Landscaping, Inc., for the removal and disposal of an existing pergola, existing concrete, and existing mulch path; and installation and construction of a replacement pergola, board walk and brick path, and provision and installation of two benches, in Clum-Kennedy Park.
- Adopted **Resolution No. R-09-2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County to install and maintain a mural on the Summit Avenue bridge; and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with the Artist for the mural.
- Adopted **Resolution No. R-10-2020** – A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to establish a 'No Parking' zone along the east side of Detrick Avenue, between 10411 Detrick Avenue and the egress/ingress apron at 3930 Knowles Avenue; and to change the existing "One (1) Hour Parking" restriction to "Two (2) Hour Parking, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, M-F" along the east side of the 10400 block of Detrick Avenue

Town Meeting September 14, 2020, 7:00 pm, by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, and Hill-Zayat; Town Manager Hoffman; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present by Zoom Video Conferencing. A moment of silence was observed.

The Town Work Session Minutes from August 7, 2020 and the Town Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2020 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Council

CRAFT & Connect

Antittaya Jantalert, Scott Sheahan, and Michelle Sheanan introduced their new business, CRAFT & Connect, which will be opening at 10513 Metropolitan Avenue in November 2020. CRAFT & Connect will specialize in craft beers and wines from local brewers, vintners, and distillers. The business will also schedule Sip 'N Learns to educate consumers about certain beverages they will offer.

Montgomery County Pesticide Law

Mary Travaglini, Organic Lawn and Landscape Program Manager with Montgomery County, was present to discuss the County's new Pesticide Law. Ms. Travaglini noted that Montgomery County was the first major locality within the United States to enact a law restricting the use of synthetic pesticides. The Town would need to opt-into Chapter 33B of the County Code for the regulations to apply within the Town and that the County would enforce the regulations.

The Council questioned how the law has been enforced thus far and whether any fines have been issued.

Ms. Travaglini noted that the County's focus thus far has been on education and that they have only issued advisory or warning letters. The regulation allows for a \$50 fine that may be applied to both residents and commercial businesses for non-compliance.

Council Member Bartram expressed concerns over the enforcement of the Pesticide Law and questioned whether it would make more sense for the State to enact a law banning the sale of certain pesticides; also suggested that an information pamphlet be issued instead of a warning.

Ms. Travaglini stated that the regulations require commercial businesses to place signage advising the public of restrictions against certain pesticides, as the County cannot specifically ban certain products on their own.

Shruti Bhatnagan, Sierra Club of Montgomery County, spoke in support of the Town adopting the Pesticide Law.

The Council concurred to move forward with drafting an ordinance, which will be introduced at a future Council Meeting. See Council Actions.

The Flats at Knowles Station (10509 Summit Avenue)

Tom Brault and the Woodside Ventures team presented The Flats at Knowles Station (10509 Summit Avenue) project. Mr. Brault acknowledged a number of revisions to the proposed plan following feedback from the Development Review Board (DRB), along with the community, and requested that the Town provide a letter in support of the project to the Planning Board. Mr. Brault also noted that Montgomery Planning has estimated that the project would impact the local school cluster with an additional seven (7) students, and that the Traffic Group conducted a traffic analysis that suggests that the project would have nominal or no impact to the surrounding traffic.

Council Member Crimmins, DRB Chair, stated that the DRB met on August 12, 2020 and August

24, 2020 with Woodside Ventures to review the project, and that the DRB recommends that the Council support The Flats at Knowles Station with the condition that Montgomery Planning address six areas of concern, which were outlined in the DRB letter to the Town Council. (See DRB letter dated September 9, 2020). The proposed plans for the project are available to view on the Town's website at the following link: <https://tok.md.gov/redevelopment/>

Mr. Brault also noted that the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for the property, which is identified within the Kensington and Vicinity Sector Plan as TC-19, has a CRT 1.5: C 1.0, R 0.5, H 60, and requested that the Council pursue a local map amendment to change the CRT to 1.5: 0.5 C, 1.0 R, H 60, which would allow them to establish an appropriate number of residencies within the proposed plan. Mr. Brault noted that if the CRT is not changed, it will require them to purchase another property in Town and transfer FAR.

Mayor Furman stated that FAR averaging would hinder future development at the other location.

Jack Gaffey commented that in order to improve the traffic on Knowles Avenue, the traffic lights need to be synchronized at Connecticut and Summit Avenues.

Council Member Engle requested that the developer commit to LEED Silver Certification.

Mr. Brault committed to build the project to LEED Silver Certification.

Council Member Bartram addressed the Town pursuing a local map amendment for the proposed change in FAR, and in return, requested that the developer provide a third level of parking for public purposes.

The Council concurred to forward the DRB's letter in support of the project to the Planning Board, which highlights six areas for the Planning Board to address, along with a transmittal letter from Mayor Furman indicating that the developer has agreed to LEED Silver Certification. See Council Actions.

The Council concurred to direct the staff to explore a possible local map amendment to change the existing CRT 1.5: C 1.0, R 0.5, H60 to CRT 1.5: 0.5 C, 1.0 R, H60, with the understanding that the developer would provide a third level of parking for public purposes.

Thrive Montgomery 2050

The Council discussed Thrive Montgomery 2050, Montgomery Planning's vision for the next thirty years.

Council Member Crimmins noted that there was limited outreach to the municipalities pertaining to the draft documents, which would have implications on current and future sector plans throughout the County; the documents also lacks plan details and does not address historic districts.

Council Member Crimmins and Town Manager Hoffman will continue to discuss Thrive Montgomery 2050 with the other municipalities and will work with them collectively to request that Montgomery Planning delay review of the proposal until 2021.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety Working Group

Council Member Engle noted that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Access and Safety Working Group met on September 9, 2020, which will be co-Chaired by Ann-Marie Turner. The Working Group plans to meet monthly and will evaluate and prioritize projects that improve bicycle and walking safety, conduct a walkability audit of the Town, and will also review possible grant opportunities. Council Member Engle also reminded the community that October is ‘Walktober’ in the State of Maryland.

Town Elections Sub-Committee

Council Members Bartram and Engle requested that the Council provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the Town Charter and Code pertaining to Town Elections. The Council will provide feedback by September 30, and the topic will be discussed at the October Council Meeting.

Council Member Bartram noted that the Traffic Committee is continuing to work on an engineering study for a permanent installation of the plug at the intersection of University Boulevard and Farragut Avenue; setting enforcement priorities for the Town’s additional enforcement program with MCP; and reviewing various traffic requests, including the turn restrictions on Kent Street and Wake Drive, along with a request for a barricade along Oberon Street.

Mayor Furman stated that she and Ann Lichter will be hosting a Racial Justice Committee meeting on September 20, 2020, beginning at 7:30 pm; noted that Jenny Cakes will be closing at the end of September and that another bakery, Potomac Sweets, will be moving into the existing location; noted that Pink Dot will be moving to Sage Consignments location along Howard Avenue; Jubilee hosted a parade around Warner Circle Park to thank their professional support team; and that the Flinn Park fountain has been winterized early due to ongoing vandalism; a camera system will be installed at Flinn Park prior to the spring.

From the Town Manager and Staff

The Town Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the Town has purchased a new radar speed sign, which may be placed in different locations around the Town to capture speed and vehicle counts. The sign will also display the speed of a vehicle.

Public Appearances

Jack Gaffey requested an update on the Tea Room and the status of Resolution No. R-07-2020, in which the Town would accept a \$100,000 donation from Knowles Manor Senior Housing, LLC, to supplement traffic and parking enforcement.

Mayor Furman stated that an Argentinian Café and Market is planning to lease the Tea Room space, and that Resolution No. R-07-2020 will be addressed at a future Council meeting.

Joe Campbell requested the status of restoring the brick crosswalks along Kensington Parkway.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that he has received pricing for the brick crosswalks and that installation should occur in October or November.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations

Resolution No. R-08-2020 – A Resolution to accept Program Open Space Grant (POS# 7107-15-715) and to override the Bid Process to authorize a contract with John Shorb Landscaping, Inc., for the removal and disposal of an existing pergola, existing concrete, and existing mulch path; and installation and construction of a replacement pergola, board walk and brick path, and provision and installation of two benches, in Clum-Kennedy Park was presented. See Council Actions.

Mayor Furman noted a comment was received from David Kritz regarding ADA accessibility; the Greenscape committee chose brick over concrete due to the historic garden park; and the section with stepping stones between the path and seating area was overlooked and it will be changed to a brick path so it is also ADA accessible.

Resolution No. R-09-2020 – A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County to install and maintain a mural on the Summit Avenue bridge; and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with the Artist for the mural was presented. See Council Actions.

Mayor Furman stated the resolution is for the MOU with Montgomery County and the Council will have the opportunity to review the design.

Resolution No. R-10-2020 – A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to establish a ‘No Parking’ zone along the east side of Detrick Avenue, between 10411 Detrick Avenue and the egress/ingress apron at 3930 Knowles Avenue; and to change the existing “One (1) Hour Parking” restriction to “Two (2) Hour Parking, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, M-F” along the east side of the 10400 block of Detrick Avenue was presented. See Council Actions.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Work Session Meetings from August 7, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2020. The

motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to have staff prepare an ordinance to be introduced at a Town Meeting to adopt the Montgomery County Pesticide Law. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve the DRB recommendation to support the proposed Flats at Knowles Station project (10509 Summit Avenue) and forward the DRB letter, dated September 9, 2020 with the six areas for Park and Planning to address, with a transmittal letter from the Mayor to include the developer has agreed to the project being LEED Silver certified. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adopt Resolution R-08-0202– A Resolution to accept Program Open Space Grant (POS# 7107-15-715) and to override the Bid Process to authorize a contract with John Shorb Landscaping, Inc., for the removal and disposal of an existing pergola, existing concrete, and existing mulch path; and installation and construction of a replacement pergola, board walk and brick path, and provision and installation of two benches, in Clum-Kennedy Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution R-09-2020 - A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County to install and maintain a mural on the Summit Avenue bridge; and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with the Artist for the mural. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adopt Resolution R-10-2020 - A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to establish a ‘No Parking’ zone along the east side of Detrick Avenue, between 10411 Detrick Avenue and the egress/ingress apron at 3930 Knowles Avenue; and to change the existing “One (1) Hour Parking” restriction to “Two (2) Hour Parking, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, M-F” along the east side of the 10400 block of Detrick Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm. The motion passed unanimously.