

## **May 10, 2021 Town Council Meeting** (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2021.
- Announced Candidates for the June 7, 2021, Town Election: Candidates for Council - Darin R. Bartram, Conor D. Crimmins, and Tim Willard. The Candidates Forum will be held via Zoom on Monday, May 24, 2021, 7:00 pm. Voters have the option to vote in-person at Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) from 6pm – 9pm on Monday, June 7, 2021, or by Absentee Ballot.
- Adopted **Ordinance No. O-02-2021**, as amended - An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-09-2021** - A Resolution authorizing the extension of a contract with Nazario Construction Corporation for concrete and asphalt paving services.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-10-2021** - A Resolution in support of the proposed sale of the Warner Mansion and Carriage House (10231 Carroll Place) to Washington Landmark Construction for the rehabilitation of the Historic buildings as residential condominiums, and to preserve the surrounding land around the Historic buildings as public park land.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-11-2021** - A Resolution authorizing the donation of a surplus vehicle, 2000 Ford F-150 to the Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation.

### **Meeting May 10, 2021, 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 via Zoom Video Conferencing. A moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2021 were reviewed and approved as corrected adding “bridge” to Frederick Avenue and changing “M&T Bank” to “Jubilee building” in reference to the murals on page 2, along with grammatical corrections. See Council Actions.

### **From the Mayor and Council**

Mayor Furman announced that three candidates have filed to run for Town Council in the June 7, 2021, Town Election. Darin Bartram (Incumbent), Conor Crimmins (Incumbent), and Tim Willard will vie for two seats and the Candidate Forum has been scheduled for May 24, 2021, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. The Town Election will be held in-person, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, or Absentee Ballots will be made available upon request.

Council Member Engle questioned the transparency in determining that the election would be held in-person and stated that he was not aware of this decision and noted the importance of providing Residents greater access to voting.

Mayor Furman stated that Absentee Ballots will be made available to those that prefer not to vote in-person.

Council Member Hill-Zayat noted the importance of providing accessibility to voters and not creating an extra-step to vote.

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins spoke in support of voting in-person, while providing Residents the choice to vote Absentee if they choose.

Tim Willard stated it was not clearly communicated that someone can come in to vote or request an Absentee Ballot.

Mayor Furman suggested sending out information and the Absentee Ballot application to all registered voters, in which the Council concurred.

The Council discussed adding two non-binding referendum questions to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote within Town Elections, along with lawful permanent residents.

Council Members Bartram and Engle were tasked to draft the two non-binding referendum questions to add to the June 7, 2021, ballot.\*

*\*The Town staff clarified with the Mayor and Council on the morning of May 11 that the Council previously concurred to send out a questionnaire at the February 2021 Council meeting with regards to allowing 16 and 17-year-olds, along with lawful permanent residents to vote within Town Elections. The proposed non-binding referendum questions will not be added to the ballot and the Town will proceed with the aforementioned questionnaire later in the year.*

### **Warner Circle Park (Friends of Warner Circle)**

Jason Gerson, Chairperson with Friends of Warner Circle (FOWC), stated the FOWC supports the proposal from Washington Landmark Construction (WLC) to purchase the Mansion and Carriage House for \$660,000 and rehabilitate them into 12 condominiums while preserving the park land as part of the Legacy Open Space. Mr. Gerson noted that this is the first viable proposal since the County purchased the property through the Legacy Open Space program in 2005 and the buildings are falling further into disrepair and the estimates have been between \$5M and \$6M for rehabilitating the buildings.

The Council spoke in support of the sale to Washington Landmark Construction.

Andrew Roud stated that he had concerns with the proposed deal and suggested that the proposal be reconsidered with understanding that there could potentially be a \$6M loss to taxpayers with the sale of the property to the private sector.

Kristie Saltsman questioned how selling the property to a developer could be justified when the property was purchased through the Legacy Open Space program and intended for public use.

Mayor Furman stated that County Parks would retain the land around the structures, which would remain park land, and the WLC proposal would allow for a repurpose of the Mansion and Carriage house, which the County has been trying to do for the last 16 years.

Jack Gaffey stated he supported the proposal.

### **Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group (PBASWG)**

Council Member Engle stated that the Town, in partnership with the County, was awarded the Transportation Land Use Connection (TLC) grant for \$55,000. The PBASWG applied for the grant in an effort to enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and nonvehicular safety along the Connecticut Avenue corridor and surrounding areas. The Town has also applied for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area (BPPA), which was also a recommendation of the PBASWG. The Town already has this designation from the county and is hoping to receive the designation from the State which will provide more focus for collaborating with the state and the county for pedestrians and cyclists to have greater prioritization.

Council Member Engle requested guidance on whether non-Town Residents with expertise in this area could be part of the working group and whether the Town's lighting consultant could also work on identifying improvements in pedestrian lighting.

The Mayor and Council discussed the working group and supported non-Residents sharing their expertise as long as the focus and resources are for the Town.

Council Member Hill-Zayat stated the lighting Consultant is primarily working on the Pepco rate case and suggested handling pedestrian lighting as a separate issue.

### **Thrive Montgomery**

Council Member Crimmins provided an update on Thrive Montgomery 2050, which will be presented before the County Council at a public hearing on June 17, 7:00 pm. Residents wishing to testify may submit testimony by email, or by filling out the necessary form on the County's website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/calendar.html>

The Town continues to follow the plan closely as part of a Coalition of 23 municipalities and resident associations to voice concerns over the inadequate public input process, prioritization over specific zoning text amendments, and recommendations impacting residential and commercial properties.

### **Compost Crew Program**

Council Members Crimmins and Engle provided an update on the Compost Crew's program within the Town. The program currently has 47 households signed up, and the Town is encouraging Town residents to join the program, which will help remove compostable items from our landfills. The more households involved in the program benefits everyone, as there are specific price breaks at 50 households and 100 households within a community. Council Members Crimmins and Engle

also noted that they are in discussions with Compost Crew to attend the Farmers Market on a monthly basis and to possibly provide a community collective site.

Council Members Engle and Hill-Zayat will be meeting with Pepco to find possible locations within the Town to place Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

### **From the Town Manager and the Staff**

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the staff has been receiving feedback with respect to the Town's limited duration sign regulations, which were adopted in April 2020, and requested the topic be discussed at a future Council Meeting; the walking path at St. Paul Park will be widened and resurfaced later this month; the job posting for the Assistant to the Town Manager closed on April 30, and that the Town received 22 applications; and the Town received confirmation from MCDOT that they will proceed with certain pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Plyers Mill Road and Summit Avenue, as requested by the Ken-Gar community, with the understanding that the Town will remove the westbound Stop sign along Plyers Mill Road at Summit Avenue, once the pedestrian improvements have been completed.

The Council supported the removal of the stop sign since the County will be making pedestrian improvements and noted the importance of the county communicating the change properly.

### **Public Appearances**

Jack Gaffey reminded Residents of upcoming astronomical events.

### **Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations**

**Ordinance No. O-02-2021** - Ordinance No. O-02-2021 to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property was presented for adoption. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the Budget was introduced March 10, 2021, and the Public Hearing was held on April 12, 2021, with the record kept open until May 7, 2021. A comment was received from the Racial Justice Committee requesting \$1,500. The Town staff provided additional amendments to the initial budget introduced, to include adding \$10,000 to professional services for consulting services for the Development Review Board; adding \$3,500 to professional services to increase the building inspector's salary from \$4,000 per year to \$7,500 per year; and adding \$33,340 to Public Works Personnel to reclassify the seasonal public works position to a full-time position with benefits. The unappropriated surplus was also increased and added to the CIP as a result of the collection of a \$350,000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Special Purpose Grant that was received for improvements made to the Town Hall over 25 years ago.

**Resolution No. R-09-2021** – A Resolution authorizing the extension of a contract with Nazario Construction Corporation for concrete and asphalt paving services was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated this is an extension of an existing contract piggybacking off a 2019 award to the city of Takoma Park; the contractor has agreed to provide 2019 pricing though June 2023.

**Resolution No. R-10-2021** – A Resolution in support of the proposed sale of the Warner Mansion and Carriage House (10231 Carroll Place) to Washington Landmark Construction for the rehabilitation of the Historic buildings as residential condominiums, and to preserve the surrounding land around the Historic buildings as public park land was presented. See Council Actions.

**Resolution No. R-11-2021** – A Resolution authorizing the donation of a surplus vehicle, 2000 Ford F-150 to the Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation was presented. See Council Actions.

### **Council Actions**

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2021, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adopt Ordinance No. O-02-2021 to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-09-2021 authorizing the extension of a contract with Nazario Construction Corporation for concrete and asphalt paving services. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-10-2021 in support of the proposed sale of the Warner Mansion and Carriage House (10231 Carroll Place) to Washington Landmark Construction for the rehabilitation of the Historic buildings as residential condominiums, and to preserve the surrounding land around the Historic buildings as public park land. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-11-2021 authorizing the donation of a surplus vehicle, 2000 Ford F-150 to the Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm. The motion passed unanimously.