

September 13, 2021 Town Council Meeting

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Acknowledged there was a Closed Session on August 30, 2021, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
- Approved the Town Organizational and Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021.
- Approved the Town Work Session Minutes of July 19, 2021.
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021.
- Approved the Town Work Session Minutes of August 30, 2021.
- Discussed the proposed Summit Avenue Sidewalk Improvement project; a letter will be sent to MCDOT with recommendations following resident feedback.
- Discussed the Town Election Survey; the survey will be sent to all registered voters in October and placed on the Town website for additional residential feedback.

Town Council Meeting September 13, 2021, 7:00 pm, by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant to the Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present via Zoom. Council Member Hill-Zayat was necessarily absent. A moment of silence was observed for Howard Kolodny.

Joe Campbell spoke in remembrance of longtime Town Resident, and his neighbor, Howard Kolodny.

The Minutes from the Town Council Meeting of July 12, 2021, the Town Council Work Session of July 19, 2021, the Town Council Meeting of August 9, 2021, and the Town Council Work Session of August 30, 2021, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

Mayor Furman congratulated Council Member Hill-Zayat and her husband, Salim, on the birth of their daughter, Maya.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Mayor Furman acknowledged that the Council met in Closed Session on August 30, 2021, following a scheduled Work Session, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the State Code to consult with the Town Attorney. No actions were taken. See attached form – Statement for Closing a Meeting.

Summit Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (Proposed)

Council Member Engle noted that he, along with Mayor Furman and Town Manager Hoffman, met with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to discuss the proposed sidewalk improvements along the 10300 block of Summit Avenue, which would reconstruct the existing sidewalk to allow for a six (6') wide path and a variable greenspace buffer.

- MCDOT noted during the conversation that they would not reduce the northbound travel lanes from two-to-one due to operational issues; however, they agreed to provide a

schematic overview of the proposed project showing where the improvements would extend and survey the public right-of-way.

Council Member Engle stated that the objective is to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining parking and minimize the number of tree removals; along with continuing to encourage for a lane reduction from Prospect Street to Brookfield Drive.

Council Member Crimmins noted the importance of MCDOT coordinating with other County agencies to consider Vision Zero, the proposed Summit Avenue Extended plan, and the repurposing of the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) property.

Council Member Bartram stated that he previously advocated for removing the second northbound travel lane unsuccessfully and noted that a lane reduction should occur once Summit Avenue has been extended.

Charles and Rebecca Smith commented on the need to reduce the northbound travel lanes from two-to-one.

Council Member Engle will send a letter to MCDOT on behalf of the Mayor and Council with general support of the proposed sidewalk improvements with the understanding that additional consideration will be taken with regards to the following: 1) how the proposed project complies with Vision Zero; 2) reducing the northbound travel lane from two-to-one travel lanes; 3) revisit closing a travel lane once the Summit Avenue Extended project has been completed; 4) encourage MCDOT to coordinate sidewalk improvements with the bicycle master plan and current redevelopment projects; and 5) consider adding a separated bicycle lane on the west side of Summit Avenue.

Attainable Housing Strategies (Montgomery Planning)

Council Member Crimmins provided an update from the September 9, 2021, Montgomery Planning Work Session on Attainable Housing Strategies, which outlined strategies for infill development within residential zones to increase the County's housing stock. The proposal would allow for multi-tenant units (duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes) within the residential R-60 zone and amend the existing parking requirements.

Council Member Crimmins stated that he will continue to follow the issue and encouraged Residents to attend the upcoming work sessions on October 7, October 21, and November 4.

The Town will address the proposed Zoning regulation with the Town Attorney to review what options the Town may have to update its Code to permit infill development and re-development in the R-60 zone with structures with similar scale, fit, and form with existing nearby structures.

Council Member Bartram noted that he has been reviewing the Town's Building Code and will be proposing amendments through an Ordinance with regards to setbacks at a future Council Meeting.

Jack Gaffey stated that the Town should not automatically adopt County zoning amendments and that additional parking should be required for multi-tenant dwelling units.

Joe Campbell commented that Town streets and other municipalities would be overwhelmed by the additional parking from increased density.

Karen Craig suggested that the Town should focus on solving the problem of parking, traffic, and car use, while supporting ways the Town can fit into the County's vision.

The Council supported the sketch drawing for the proposed Howard Avenue mural, which will need to be approved by the property owner.

Council Member Bartram reminded Residents that properties in the Town will be reassessed in December, in which most properties will see an increase in their property assessment; however, the Town has limited the increase to five percent, compared to ten percent with the County, since 2006.

Mayor Furman noted that the Racial Justice Committee's (RJC) Community Block Party event was very well attended and thanked all of the volunteers; and also thanked the staff for the Labor Day Festival event, which was also well attended; thanked the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) for their 9/11 anniversary event; the Kensington Historical Society for the Train Show; and noted the upcoming Kensington 8K Race, Opera in the Park, and KVFD's Movie Night.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reviewed the Election Survey questions with the Mayor and Council, which proposes to allow 16 and 17-year-old residents, along with non-citizen Town Residents, to vote in Town Elections. The survey will be mailed to all registered voters within the Town and posted to the website for non-registered voters to print and return to Town Hall by November 1.

Joe Campbell questioned whether the response from non-registered voters would be advisory and not counted and suggested a ballot referendum instead of the survey to eliminate non-response bias.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell thanked the Town Crew for cleaning up the tree debris from the recent storm; questioned the response time of the Town's tree contractor; and noted the importance of an inventory of the condition of Town trees.

Jack Gaffey noted upcoming astronomical events.

Council Actions

Council Member Bartram moved to approve the Town Organizational and Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Work Session Minutes of July 19, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Work Session Minutes from August 30, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Form of Statement for Closing a Meeting

Location: **Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street
Kensington, Maryland 20895**

Date: August 30, 2021
Time: 6:01 pm

Vote to go into closed session for the reasons set out below:

Motion By: Council Member Bartram

Seconded By: Council Member Crimmins

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Council Member Bartram	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Council Member Crimmins	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Council Member Engle	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Council Member Hill-Zayat	[]	[]	[]	[x]

Other persons present for closed session:

[x] Town Attorney Suellen M. Ferguson [x] Town Manager Matthew Hoffman
[x] Town Clerk-Treasurer Susan C. Engels [x] Assistant to the Town Manager Marini

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

AUTHORITY UNDER STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE §3-305(b) TO CLOSE THIS MEETING. PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- (1) [] To discuss:
 - (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- (2) [] To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.
- (3) [] To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.
- (4) [] To consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.
- (5) [] To consider the investment of public funds.
- (6) [] To consider the marketing of public services.
- (7) [X] To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
- (8) [] To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Over

- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussions would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including:
 - (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and
 - (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.
- (11) To prepare, administer or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.
- (15) To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to "(i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology"; (ii) "network security information," such as information that is related to passwords, personal ID numbers, access codes, encryption, security devices, or vulnerability assessments or that a governmental entity collects or maintains to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or (iii) "deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

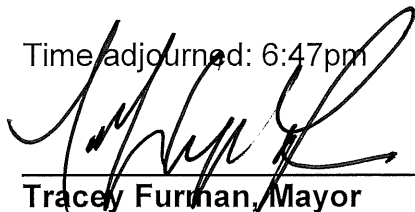
TOPICS DISCUSSED:
GreeneHurlocker Invoice

ACTION TAKEN:
 None

VOTE TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by: Council Member Engle Second by: Council Member Bartram

Time adjourned: 6:47pm



Tracey Furman, Mayor
 Signature of Presiding Officer

Town Office Record: The Statement of Closing for this meeting was attached to and included in the public minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on
9/13/2021
 Date

The Confidential minutes for the sealed record were approved by the Council on
10/18/2021
 Date