

### **July 12, 2021 Town Organizational Meeting**

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Council Members Bartram and Crimmins were sworn in prior to the Organizational Meeting.
- Appointed Council Member Crimmins as Mayor Pro Tem.
- Scheduled an Organizational Work Session for Monday, July 19, 2021, 5:00 pm.

### **July 12, 2021 Town Council Meeting**

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021.
- Acknowledged Mayor Furman's appointment of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Audit Committee.
- Held a Sign Variance Hearing for 10616 Connecticut Avenue in accordance with Section 6-104 (c) of the Town Code.
  - The Town Council denied the Sign Variance.
- Approved Resolution No. R-12-2021 – A Resolution approving a Variance to encroach three (3) feet into the ten (10) foot side yard setback for a dwelling on land zoned for single-family use at 10221 Montgomery Avenue.
- Approved Resolution No. R-13-2021 – A Resolution authorizing a License Agreement with PEPCO Holdings for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Kensington Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) and Kensington Train Station (3701 Howard Avenue).

### **Organizational Meeting July 12, 2021, 6:45 pm and Town Meeting 7:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing**

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, and Hill-Zayat; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant to the Town Manager Marini and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present via Zoom.

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins were sworn in prior to the Organizational Meeting.

Mayor Furman stated there would be an Organizational Work Session on Monday, July 19, 2021, 5:00 pm. to discuss Council committee assignments and liaisons.

Council Member Crimmins was appointed Mayor Pro Tem. See Council Actions.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2021, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

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

**Montgomery County Council Member Evan Glass**

County Councilmember Glass discussed the County's goals pertaining to Vision Zero, Thrive Montgomery 2050, future transportation projects, and presented crime statistics for the area from May through July 2021. Councilmember Glass also mentioned his collaborative efforts with community stakeholders to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic fatalities in Montgomery County.

Council Member Engle thanked Councilmember Glass for providing a letter of support for the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) grant and noted that Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is in the process of selecting a firm to conduct the bicycle and pedestrian safety improvement study along Connecticut Avenue.

Council Member Crimmins noted some concerns with regards to Thrive Montgomery 2050, and noted that the document mentions the introduction of additional types of housing into residential zones, such as duplexes and triplexes; however, the plan lacks language promoting conformity.

Councilmember Glass noted that Thrive 2050 is a visionary document and does not necessarily create zoning changes. Any proposed changes within the document can be discussed and debated by the legislature; therefore, what is in the plan is not final.

Council Member Bartram commented that Thrive 2050 is more than just a conceptual document and expressed concerns about equating the Town's MARC station with Metro, in which MARC should not be considered mass transit.

Joe Campbell commented and agreed with Council Member Bartram that the MARC station is not equivalent to a Metro station and should not be considered as such.

### **10616 Connecticut Avenue Sign Variance Hearing**

A Variance Hearing was held for the Valero gas station monument sign located at 10616 Connecticut Avenue. The Variance was requested in accordance with Section 6-104 (c) of the Town Code.

Bhupendra Prakash, an engineer representing Capitol Petroleum, and Yagya Oli from The Plan Source, were present to speak on behalf of Valero and answer any questions.

Mr. Prakash made the case that keeping the sign at nine (9) feet increases price visibility for drivers and allows them to safely change lanes and enter the store.

Council Member Crimmins pointed out that Valero received and signed a permit for a six (6) foot Monument Sign in accordance with the Town Code, prior to installation and asked why it was changed to nine (9) feet,

Mr. Prakash noted that he was not aware why the decision was made to alter the height of the sign after permit approval.

Council Member Crimmins also noted that several nearby gas stations have the price listed next to the brand name on their monument sign, whereas Valero listed the price underneath the brand name, which could hinder visibility.

Council Member Bartram commented that the height of the canopy over the gas pumps provides additional visibility.

Council Member Engle noted Valero disregarded the permitting process and that the additional three (3) feet does not provide additional visibility.

Council Member Hill-Zayat commented that the request fails every component of the Variance test.

The Council denied the Sign Variance request. See Council Actions.

### **Auditing Committee**

Mayor Furman acknowledged the appointments of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Auditing Committee for a one-year term.

### **Compost Crew**

Council Members Crimmins and Engle provided an update on Compost Crew with Council Member Engle noting that the Town reached the fifty accounts mark, so participating residents now receive a discount on composting services.

Council Member Engle also mentioned that Compost Crew are attending the Farmers' Market and will continue to do so every third Saturday to sign up additional residents for the program.

Council Member Crimmins commented that they are working with Compost Crew to locate a "drop-off" bin at the MARC Station for smaller households that may not generate enough compost on their own to pay for the service, but still wish to compost.

### **Council Reports**

Council Member Bartram wished to follow up on two potential ordinance changes. The first is whether the Council wants to change the setback requirements under building and housing regulations, and the second is how the Council responds to the approval of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the Town.

Mayor Furman added that she wished to see some discussion/changes of ordinances involving driveways and impermeable surfaces.

Council Member Engle mentioned that he does not want to lose momentum on the issue of sending out a survey for voting eligibility.

Mayor Furman thanked Mark Hudson, Val Deale, Lindsay Cantor, Anna Sachs, Dave Beaudet, Jon Gerson, Joe Ralston, Jenny and Doug Smith, Kabir Archuleta, the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, Matt Hoffman, and Joe Natali for all their help putting together the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bike Parade.

Council Member Hill-Zayat commented that the Pepco rate case is over, and Pepco lost. She thanked Matt Hoffman for his testimony, as it was cited numerous times in the decision.

Mayor Furman recognized the Kensington Historical Society (KHS) for bringing back the Summer Concert Series.

Mayor Furman advised the Council that the Maryland Mainstreet Program meeting is scheduled for July 27 at 10 am. Council Member Engle and Council Member Crimmins are attending along with Mayor Furman and Town Manager Hoffman.

Mayor Furman noted that Modena is having a job fair on August 3 and 17 from 11am-5pm at the Social Hall at St. Paul's Church.

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

Town Manger Hoffman discussed plans for the Labor Day Festival. The Town is planning to have 35 booths at the Labor Day Festival (less the Labor Day Parade) from 11am-3pm on Labor Day.

### **Public Appearances**

Jack Gaffey noted upcoming astronomical events.

Joe Campbell commented that he hoped the survey that Council Member Engle discussed previously is going to be designed in a way that elicits a high response rate. Mr. Campbell also mentioned that he hopes the Town will conduct an inventory of trees to help determine which trees pose a threat and need to be removed.

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

**Resolution No. R-12-2021** – A Variance to encroach three (3) feet into the ten (10) foot side yard setback for a dwelling on land zoned for single-family use at 10221 Montgomery Avenue was approved. See Council Actions.

**Resolution No. R-13-2021** – A Resolution authorizing a License Agreement with PEPCO Holdings for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Kensington Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) and Kensington Train Station (3701 Howard Avenue) was approved. See Council Actions.

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins expressed concern that the parking spots with charging stations may be abused by people who do not have electric cars, or people with electric cars that do not need to be charged.

## **Council Actions**

Council Member Bartram moved to appoint Council Member Crimmins as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to deny the Sign Variance for 10616 Connecticut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution R-12-2021 in support of the variance to encroach three (3) feet into the ten (10) foot side yard setback for a dwelling on land zoned for single-family use at 10221 Montgomery Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve Resolution R-13-2021 authorizing a License Agreement with PEPCO Holdings for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Kensington Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) and Kensington Train Station (3701 Howard Avenue). The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm. The motion passed unanimously.