

## **August 30, 2021 Work Session, 6:00 pm**

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, Town Attorney Ferguson (present for closed session only); Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant to the Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Council Member Hill-Zayat was necessarily absent.

Council Member Bartram moved to close the meeting at 6:01 pm in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Council Member Crimmins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adjourn the closed meeting at 6:47 pm. Council Member Bartram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to reopen the Work Session at 6:47 pm. Council Member Engle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Limited Duration Signs**

The Mayor and Council discussed requested changes to the Town's limited duration sign regulations from numerous commercial property owners, which would allow for additional square footage and greater leniency on limited duration sign placement.

The Council concurred that that they would not introduce any amendments to the Town's limited duration sign regulations at this time. A commercial property owner may convert a limited duration sign into a permanent sign or request a variance for their limited duration sign.

### **Town Election Survey**

The Mayor and Council reviewed the proposed Election survey questions, which are intended to receive feedback on allowing 16 and 17-year-olds, along with lawful permanent residents to vote in Town Elections.

The survey would include two separate questions and allow for additional comments. The questions are non-binding and will be sent to every registered voter within the Town. Non-registered voters may also complete the survey by contacting the Town.

- a. Discuss and review the proposed Election Survey Questions.
  - i. *You are asked to provide a response on the following two questions, both of which are for information gathering purposes only. Under current Town regulations, these are not binding questions and any action taken by the Town Council and Mayor based on this information would be discussed at a future Town Council meeting before any changes would be made regarding Town voter eligibility.*
    1. *Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit 16- and 17-year-old residents to vote in Town elections?*

- a. *Please provide additional comments.*
2. *Should the Council and Mayor propose an amendment to the Town Charter and Code to permit legal Town residents to vote in Town elections without requiring them to be US citizens?*
  - a. *Please provide additional comments.*

## **Thrive Montgomery**

Council Member Crimmins provided an overview of the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Neighborhood Coalition survey, which asks the Town to rank six proposed recommendations in order of importance to the Town. The Council concurred to rank the recommendations as follows:

1. The Draft Plan should mandate the use of the traditional master & sector planning processes to specify zoning changes to achieve public buy-in and to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach now prescribed.
2. The Draft Plan should reinstate the concept and value of compatibility as a means of ensuring that such change enhances each individual community for all residents –new and existing.
3. The Draft Plan should discuss how evolution from car-centric to transit-centric society will be staged and differentiated across the diverse communities of the county.
4. The Draft Plan should reinstate a chapter on economic competitiveness that was deleted from the intimal draft, in recognition that a holistic vision will be needed to reverse current shortcomings in jobs and wages.
5. The Draft Plan should include detailed strategies for how affordable and attainable housing can be created through adaptive reuse and other means.
6. The Draft Polan should require a 5-year review to document results and impacts as well as modify the Draft Plan as indicated by the results of the review.

## **Summit Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (Proposed)**

Council Member Engle discussed the proposed sidewalk improvements along the 10300 block of Summit Avenue by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), which would reconstruct the existing sidewalk to allow for a six (6') wide path and variable greenspace buffer.

Mayor Furman and Council Member Engle met with Residents about the proposed sidewalk improvements and will meet with MCDOT prior to the September Council meeting to discuss community feedback on the proposal.

## **Housing and Building Regulations**

Council Member Bartram suggested that the Town consider amending our building code with regards to projections, side yard setbacks, and accessory dwelling units, to establish Town regulations independent of the County Code. The issue pertains to County zoning text amendments, which could amend our regulations, as we currently defer to County projections.

The Work Session ended at 8:22 pm.