

May 9, 2022, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2022.
- Announced Candidates for the June 6, 2022, Town Election: Mayor – Tracey Furman; Town Council – Nate Engle, Jon Gerson, and Ann Lichter. The Candidates Forum will be held in person, and via Zoom on Monday, May 23, 2022, 7:00 pm. Voters have the option to vote in person at Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Monday, June 6, 2022, or to vote by Absentee Ballot.
- Adopted **Ordinance No. O-02-2022** - An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY23) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-11-2022** – A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Robin Watson to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-12-2022** - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Whitman Requardt and Associates, LLP, to provide engineering services to assist in the request for proposal process for the maintenance and repair of three bridges located in the Town and to provide project management services.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-13-2022** - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Approving a Variance for a fence to exceed four (4') feet in height within the front plane of the property on land zoned for single-family use at 3910 Warner Street.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-14-2022** - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council Authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10800 block of St. Paul Street.

Town Council Meeting May 9, 2022, 7:00 pm, in Person and 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. Council Member Hill-Zayat was present via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

The Minutes from the April 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Town Election

The Candidates for the June 6, 2022, Town Election were announced:

Mayor

Tracey Furman

Town Council

Nate Engle

Jon Gerson

Ann Lichter

The Candidates Forum will be held in person, and via Zoom, on Monday, May 23, 2022, 7:00 pm. Voters have the option to vote in person at Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Monday, June 6, 2022, or to vote by Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballot applications will be mailed out to every registered voter and the supplemental in-person registration form is available on the website for non-citizens.

Juneteenth Celebration

The Council approved an alcohol waiver at St. Paul Park for the Town's Juneteenth celebration on June 18 (rain date June 19) from 12 noon to 4 pm which will have a beer and wine garden. See Council Actions.

Ann Lichter, Racial Justice Committee Chair, stated the celebration will be a family friendly event including educational presentations, musical performers, poetry, food vendors, and activities for children.

Crossroads of Kensington, 10619 Connecticut Avenue

The Public Hearing for site plan review with the Montgomery County Planning Board will be held on May 19 at 2:30 pm.

Leslie Olson requested clarification on the egress from the site.

Council Member Crimmins stated two curb cuts that are on the existing site will be eliminated and there will be a right in, right out, from Connecticut Avenue; exiting onto Plyers Mill Road and Metropolitan Avenue will be through an easement with the 7-11 property; Park and Planning acknowledges there is sufficient maneuverability; and Montgomery County DOT will be reviewing additional improvements to be made with the stop bars along Metropolitan Avenue.

Council Member Bartram stated the developer will address ingress and egress further if the property is used to bypass the traffic light on Metropolitan Avenue.

Sharon Scott questioned if there will be a dedicated right turn lane off north bound Connecticut Avenue to Metropolitan Avenue at that intersection.

Council Member Bartram stated several years ago there was some thought for a dedicated lane but due to an emphasis on increased pedestrian safety, it is not being considered.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Hill-Zayat stated that HB 1083 did not make it out of committee; however, comments are being accepted until May 16.

Council Member Engle reported that the Public Workshop to discuss options for improving pedestrian and bicycling access and safety on the Connecticut Avenue Corridor was well attended

on April 21; 586 responses to the survey were received, and a follow-up survey will be conducted to help improve connectivity with Ken-Gar; a report with key recommendations and funding opportunities will be available in June; and the Town is coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions and the County to begin a grant application to study potential options for adding a bike lane on Kensington Parkway.

Council Member Crimmins stated the Villages of Kensington is looking for volunteer board members and hosting an organizational meet and greet on May 11 from 5pm to 7pm at the Kensington Park Library; any questions can also be sent to him or Jennifer Ivory.

Council Member Bartram noted on May 18 there will be a business community meeting with the Montgomery County Police; and noted that at the Montgomery County MML Chapter he had the opportunity to hear Chief Marcus Jones who reported on the increase in crime and ghost guns; car meet ups which are being addressed on a regional basis; and that twenty percent of the County police force is eligible for retirement, they are looking to increase starting salary and improve morale to maintain the level of police needed.

Mayor Furman stated Food Truck nights will continue on Third Thursdays beginning May 19; the grand reopening of Edith Throckmorton Park at Ken-Gar will be held on May 14; Kensington Parkwood 5th grade Bake sale will be at the Farmers Market this Saturday; KHS Concerts will begin on June 4; and the June Town Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, June 7, due to the MML Conference the following week.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City for 2021; and the Town Hall Veranda and Parapet Project is on schedule and should be completed in seven weeks.

Public Appearances

George Buckwalter reported on the noise from the GIGS concerts held within the courtyard along Howard Avenue, which he stated is too close to apartments and the residential area for a live music venue.

Town Manager Hoffman stated he spoke with Alcohol Beverage Services, the governing authority since there is alcohol, to see if there are any waivers for a concert; and he has also spoken with GIGS, and they are aware that they may need to change their hours.

Alice Kessler noted some concerns with those leaving the concerts in the past with alcohol and suggested a police presence at these events.

Jack Gaffey stated mirrors would help with visibility at Fawcett Street and Howard Avenue along with the Hadley Place intersection; and upcoming astronomical events include the lunar eclipse May 15-16 and the Mars-Jupiter conjunction on May 23-29.

The Town will check with the Traffic Engineer regarding whether mirrors are an appropriate traffic device.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-02-2022 – Ordinance No. O-02-2022 to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 (FY23) Budget and to levy a tax on certain Real and Personal Property under the provision of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended was presented for adoption. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman reported the Public Hearing was held on April 11, 2022 and the record remained open until May 6, 2022; one public comment was received with regards to a proposed sidewalk project within the CIP.

Resolution No. R-11-2022 – A Resolution of the Town Council confirming an appointment made by the Mayor of Robin Watson to the Board of Supervisors of Elections was presented. Tina Sherman, appointed last month, was not able to serve due to the requirement of the Town Code that a member of the Ethics Commission cannot hold any position with any other board or commission established by the Town.

Resolution No. R-12-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Whitman Requardt and Associates, LLP, (WRA) to provide engineering services to assist in the request for proposal process for the maintenance and repair of three bridges located in the Town and to provide project management services was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated WRA would write the scope of work, bid out the project for the Town and serve as project manager; the contract would not exceed \$40,000.

The three bridges, Kent Steet at Kensington Parkway, Kensington Parkway and Frederick Avenue in front of Kensington Cabin Park, and Frederick Avenue by Kensington House are rated a grade 90 or above and are in good structural condition and need minor repairs, with only one bridge needing structural repairs.

Ann Banville confirmed provisions will be made for those that live near the bridges when the work begins.

The Town Attorney will finalize the resolution once Exhibit A is received from the County.

Resolution No. R-13-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Approving a Variance for a fence to exceed four (4') feet in height within the front plane of the property on land zoned for single-family use at 3910 Warner Street was presented. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-14-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10800 block of St. Paul Street was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman reported a traffic analysis confirmed that the 85th percentile speed along this block was 26.5 MPH and the maximum speed was 38.2 MPH; normally a petition is required; however, he has spoken with the two residents affected by the speed bump and due to the speed is recommending moving forward without a petition.

Council Actions

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve a one-day alcohol waiver at St. Paul Park for the Town's Juneteenth celebration on June 18, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Ordinance No. O-02-2022 to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 (FY23) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property under the provision of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-11-2022 confirming the appointment made by the Mayor of Robin Watson to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve Resolution No. R-12-2022 authorizing a contract with Whitman Requardt and Associates, LLP, (WRA) to provide engineering services to assist in the request for proposal process for the maintenance and repair of three bridges located in the Town and to provide project management services. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-13-2022 for a Variance to allow a fence to exceed four (4') feet in height within the front plane of the property on land zoned for single-family use at 3910 Warner Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-14-2022 authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10800 block of St. Paul Street. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Hill-Zayat moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously.