

October 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting Summary (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Special and Regular Town Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022.
- Approved the Closed Session Minutes of September 12, 2022.
- Approved Resolution No. R-24-2022 – A Resolution approving a Declaration of Covenants, Access Easement and Agreement, with 10509 Summit Avenue, LLC. The Town Attorney will work with the developer of 10509 Summit Avenue to clarify certain aspects of the public plaza, including the landscape plan and a project completion date.
- Approved Resolution No. R-27-2022 – A Resolution approving a Variance at 10025 Frederick Avenue to allow for an encroachment of approximately two feet (2') into the allowed ten-foot (10') side yard setback in accordance with Section 5-104 (4)(b) of the Town Code.
- Approved Resolution No. R-28-2022 – A Resolution authorizing the extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one-year.

Town Council Meeting October 11, 2022, 7:01 pm held by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman, Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, Lichter, Town Manager Hoffman, Assistant to the Town Manager Marini, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. A moment of silence was observed.

The Minutes from the September 12, 2022, Special and Regular Town Meeting were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

The Minutes from the September 12, 2022, Closed Session were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Pedestrian Master Plan (Montgomery County) Presentation

Eli Glazier, Multimodal Transportation Planning Coordinator with Montgomery Planning, presented an overview of the County's first Pedestrian Master Plan. The Pedestrian Master Plan addresses pedestrian issues County-wide to make walking and rolling safer, more comfortable, more convenient, and more accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities. The plan will prioritize pedestrian infrastructure and recommend updates to County policies, operation practices, and design standards.

The presentation is available on the Town website.

The Mayor and Council asked clarifying questions about the presentation, and what the Town can do to help implement the plan.

Mr. Glazier stated the Town can support the implementation of these measures with letters of support and public testimony. Once the plan's priorities are established, Mr. Glazier encouraged the Town to identify and advocate for projects that align with these priorities.

Jack Gaffey noted the importance of placing sidewalks away from the curb; establishing bicycle lanes between parked cars and the curb; and preserving dark skies when illuminating walkways.

Alan Simon requested feedback on how the data from the Town's Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group (PBASWG) walkability audit could be compiled to be incorporated in the County's database.

Joe Campbell supported crosswalk changes and enforcement; noted the Town lacks sidewalks in several areas; and questioned the type of enforcement proposed in the pedestrian plan.

Mayor and Council Reports.

Council Member Crimmins suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to review the Town's playground equipment, so it is inclusive for children with physical disabilities.

Council Member Lichter reported the Montgomery Parks Weed Warriors program scheduled two dates for Kensington Cabin Park, October 26 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, and October 30 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Council Member Engle reported the Green Team will be meeting October 13 from 7:30-8:45 pm at Town hall; and the Walktober event will be held October 29 at 1 pm beginning at Reinhardt Park.

Council Member Bartram reported the Mobility Traffic Committee will be meeting on October 18 at 7 pm to review traffic priorities.

Mayor Furman, stated she, along with Council Members Crimmins and Lichter, attended the informative MML Fall Conference; and the Pumpkin Rock and Roll will be held at Warner Circle on October 30.

From the Town Manager and Staff

The Town Meeting will be held in person on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, due to Veterans Day.

10509 Summit Avenue (The Flats at Knowles Station)

Town Manager Hoffman stated that in November 2020, the Council approved a request by 10509 Summit Avenue LLC to use a portion of public right-of-way on the west end of Kaiser Place between Summit Avenue and Detrick Avenue as a public plaza to meet the requirements for the Flats at Knowles Station project.

The Declaration of Covenants will allow the use of 1,580 square feet of public right-of-way as public space and require the developer to install a sidewalk on the south side of Kaiser Place between Detrick Avenue and the public plaza. The right-of-way will still be under the Town's jurisdiction, with the developer being responsible for the improvements and maintenance.

The Mayor and Council discussed the importance of establishing a time limit for completion and approval of a landscape plan; and approving the Declaration of Covenants in substantial form so the developer could move forward with Planning.

David Romeo suggested the lighting of the project be reviewed.

Public Appearances

Jack Gaffey noted astronomical events including the full moon on October 9, the Orionid meteor shower on October 21, the Taurid meteor shower on November 4, and the lunar eclipse on November 8.

Joe Campbell noted the poor condition of Frederick Avenue due to the Washington Gas repairs and questioned whether permits and performance standards were required from the Town.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the project is nearing completion and in the paving stage, a permit with the Town was issued, and the contractor must meet County performance standards.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Resolution R-24-2022 - A Resolution approving a Declaration of Covenants, Access Easement and Agreement, with 10509 Summit Avenue, LLC was presented. See Council Actions.

The Town Attorney will work with the developer of 10509 Summit Avenue to clarify certain aspects of the public plaza, including the landscape plan and a project completion date.

Resolution No. R-27-2022 – A Resolution approving a Variance at 10025 Frederick Avenue to allow for an encroachment of approximately two feet (2') into the allowed ten-foot (10') side yard setback in accordance with Section 5-104 (4)(b) of the Town Code was presented. See Council Actions.

The variance hearing was held at the September Town meeting, and at the request of the Council, a letter of support was received from the adjacent neighbor.

Resolution No. R-28-2022 – A Resolution authorizing the extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one year was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the existing three-year contract with Ecology has three one-year renewal options and approval is needed for the second one-year renewal.

Joe Campbell questioned whether there is a contract increase and suggested Ecology be proactive with regards to oily deposits left on streets.

Town Manager Hoffman stated there is a 2.5% contract increase and potential for additional increases within the contract depending on tipping fees and noted Ecology has been very responsive when advised of concerns.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Special and Regular Town Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Confidential Closed Session Minutes from September 12, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve Resolution No. R-24-2022 for a Declaration of Covenants, Access Easement and Agreement, with 10509 Summit Avenue, LLC. as substantially written with the amendments to clarify certain aspects of the public plaza, including the landscape plan and a project completion date. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-27-2022 for a Variance at 10025 Frederick Avenue to allow for an encroachment of approximately two feet (2') into the allowed ten-foot (10') side yard setback in accordance with Section 5-104 (4)(b) of the Town Code. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution No. R-28-2022 authorizing the extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one year. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm. The motion passed unanimously.