

April 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting Summary (held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023.
- June 5, 2023, Town Election: Nominations are due by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 8, 2023, for two Council Member positions.
 - Council Members Bartram and Crimmins have the option to run for reelection. A Candidate Forum will be held on May 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm, if Nominations exceed the number of Council positions requiring an Election, per the Town Charter.
- Held a public comment session for the possible sale of Joseph Park.
- Held a Public Hearing on **Ordinance No. O-01-2023** to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY24) 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 Public Hearing will be left open until 4:00 pm on Friday, May 5, 2023.*
- Approved **Resolution No. R-08-2023** authorizing a Contract with Brudis & Associates, Inc., for Design Engineering and Project Management Services for the Rehabilitation of Three Town Bridges as amended.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-09-2023** confirming the Mayor's appointments of Mark Hudson and Leslie Maxam to the Development Review Board (DRB).

Town Council Meeting April 10, 2023, 7:00 pm, held in Person and 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2023, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Town Election June 5, 2023

Mayor Furman announced Certificates of Nomination are due by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 8, 2023, for two Council Member positions for the June 5 Town Election; and noted that a Candidate Forum will be held on May 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm, if nominations exceed the number of Council positions requiring an Election, per the Town Charter.

Joseph Park (3420 Plyers Mill Road)

The Council held a public comment session for the possible sale of Joseph Park, which was appraised at \$450,000. Town Manager Hoffman noted that the proposed sale had been on two prior Agenda's; however, the Council requested that a public comment session be held prior to any further consideration on possibly selling Joseph Park. If the Council decides to proceed with the sale, a formal public hearing would be scheduled.

Jen Beaudet, Zacharey Carmichael (written and oral comment), Beth Meyer, Larry Meyer, Leslie Olson, and Alicia Toledano spoke in opposition of the proposed sale of Joseph Park and commented on the history and significance of the property, and offered alternative uses for the Park, including a pollinator garden, and open green space, and also noted concerns that a decision had already been made on the sale.

Karen Craig stated she was not concerned about the loss of open space; however, suggested the sale should be considered separate from the purchase of the M&T drive-thru lot and the purpose of the Park be evaluated.

Olwen Logan questioned the basis the land was originally given to the Town.

Patrick O'Connor, whose property abuts the Park, sent comments via email, and did not oppose the proposed sale of the Park, which he noted would be a positive gain to the neighborhood with a dwelling.

The Mayor and Council stated a decision had not been made about the proposed sale of the property and the appraisal and arborist report were to provide information to the public; and noted the importance of moving forward with the acquisition of the M&T drive-thru lot even if Joseph Park is not sold.

Council Member Bartram stated he reviewed the deed, and the property was transferred to the Town from a private owner in 1956 with no restrictions on the use.

Council Member Lichter noted the importance of working with the Greenscape Committee to review how all the open space in Town is being optimized.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Lichter stated the Greenscape Committee is hosting a Home Tree Care 101 class presented by Conservation Montgomery to learn about taking care of trees on April 29 from 10 am to 12 pm.

Council Member Engle reported Sustainable Kensington is working toward submission for certification; the Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Work Group (PBASWG) finished the walkability audit and will be prioritizing a list of recommendations for Council review, and finalized the brochure for educational outreach; he testified on behalf of the Town for the county's Pedestrian Master Plan which was well received; and will be working with the Washington Council of Governments to provide information for other jurisdictions that are interested in applying for a Transportation Land Use Connections grant.

Council Members Crimmins and Engle reported the Town is moving forward with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel for the Connecticut Avenue and University Boulevard split and the terminus of the Summit Avenue extension; and will be providing the ULI with background information and 5 questions for them to address.

Council Member Lichter noted the importance of including the KenGar community in the study.

Mayor Furman reported that the County Executive has recommended delaying the start of construction for the Noyes Library project due to the elevated construction costs, and that the Town will be sending a letter to the County Executive requesting that the delay be no more than one year; and noted that the County's right of first refusal was not applicable in the Brookside Garden Apartment sale and that they would not be acquiring the property.

Council Member Lichter stated she will continue to explore a land trust and other ways to promote home ownership in Town.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported that the Community Compost Center at Town Hall was now accepting composting items and that a notification will be sent to residents; and noted that a topographic survey of Oberon Street had been ordered to help clarify the public right-of-way for the proposed sidewalk connecting Kensington Parkway to St. Paul Park, and that an onsite meeting would be held once completed.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2023 – A Public Hearing was held on Ordinance No. O-01-2023 to Approropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY24) 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. *The Public Hearing will be left open until 4:00 pm on Friday, May 5, 2023.* See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the budget was posted in the newsletter, on the website, and linked to the agenda for this meeting.

Joe Campbell requested a brief overview of the proposed budget, questioned the total cost for the bridge repair and projected completion date, information on the unassigned fund balance, requested transparency on salaries, and information on the promotion of the Assistant to the Town Manager.

Town Manager Hoffman provided an overview of the budget as outlined within the FY24 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan; stated that the overall cost for the bridge repairs, including engineering design, is expected to be around \$450,000 and should be completed within

FY24; and clarified that the unassigned fund balance is the surplus from FY22 Audited Budget, which is appropriated into the non-lapsing CIP to fund infrastructure projects within the Town.

Resolution No. R-08-2023 –A Resolution authorizing a Contract with Brudis & Associates, Inc., for Design, Engineering, and Project Management Services for the Rehabilitation of Three Town Bridges was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that our consultant, WRA Engineering, has recommended awarding the bid proposal to Brudis and Associates following a review of the bids received for design, engineering, and project management services; and is requesting an amendment to the Resolution to include \$20,000 in contingency funds for a total of \$144,205.

Resolution No. R-09-2023 – A Resolution confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Mark Hudson and Leslie Maxam to the Development Review Board (DRB) for two years was presented. See Council Actions.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell questioned if the Town has information on the purchaser of Brookside Garden Apartments; requested whether Council Members Bartram and Crimmins intend to run for reelection; and suggested Public Appearances be earlier in the meeting.

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins stated they were planning to run for re-election.

Leslie Olson stated the area of St Paul Street, Plyers Mill Road, and Metropolitan Avenue needs to be cleaned up and landscaped by the business properties.

Karen Craig stated the M&T drive-thru lot property may not be a good site for additional parking and suggested further review.

Zachary Carmichael noted the problems with the Wheatley Street intersection and offered to help and provide his correspondence on the rapid flashing beacon request.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to hold the record open on Ordinance No. O-01-2023 to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 (FY24) 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 until 4 pm on May 5, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve Resolution No. R-08-2023 authorizing a Contract with Brudis & Associates, Inc., for Design Engineering and Project Management Services for the Rehabilitation of Three Town Bridges as amended to include a contingency of \$20,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to approve Resolution No. R-09-2023 confirming the Mayor's appointments of Mark Hudson and Leslie Maxam to the Development Review Board (DRB) for a two-year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. The motion passed unanimously.