

May 8, 2023, Town Council Meeting Summary (held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2023.
- Town Election:
 - Announced that Darin Bartram and Conor Crimmins were the only candidates to file for the June 5, 2023, Town Election, and in accordance with Article VII, “Registration, Nominations, and Elections”, Section 710, “Conduct of Elections”, of the Town Charter, Mr. Bartram and Mr. Crimmins will be declared elected for the term by the Board of Supervisors of Elections at the June 12, 2023, Town Meeting.
- Adopted Ordinance No. O-01-2023 - An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (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.
- Approved Resolution No. R-10-2023 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council declaring the first Friday in June (Friday, June 2, 2023) to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Kensington to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a Country must do more to reduce gun violence.

Town Council Meeting May 8, 2023, 7:02 pm, held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman; Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Lichter; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant to the Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Council Member Engle was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Junior Girl Scout Troop 34067, and a moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2023, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Town Election June 5, 2023

Mayor Furman announced that the Town will not be holding an Election since Council Members Bartram and Crimmins were the only candidates to file for the June 5, 2023, Town Election, and in accordance with Article VII, “Registration, Nominations, and Elections”, Section 710, “Conduct of Elections”, of the Town Charter, they will be declared elected for the term by the Board of Supervisors of Elections at the June 12, 2023, Town Meeting. The Town will be holding a Meet and Greet with ice cream on June 5 from 6 to 8 pm.

Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor Furman announced in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, there will be a Mayoral Proclamation Honoring John Morris

“John the Train Guy” as the Kensington Train Station Ambassador for his passion and continued support towards MARC Train ridership and the CSX rail line.

Sustainable Kensington

Council Member Lichter provided an update on the Sustainable Kensington Committee and the proposed Action Plan to obtain Bronze Certification with Sustainable Maryland.

Sustainable Kensington Committee members Carolyn Morrissey, Karen Fadely Craig, and Daphne Wegner presented a report with the actions completed (documented) and in progress based on suggestions in the Town survey, and other areas useful to the Town. The Committee hopes to pursue the Silver Certification in Years 2 and 3.

The application for Bronze certification will be submitted by June 30 and notification of the designation should be received by October 1 and will be valid for three years.

Actions completed and/or documented include the following: community-based public art program, participation in MD green schools, Green Team, Action Plan, sustainability resource center, farmers market, E-vehicle charging stations, municipal energy audit, municipal carbon footprint, pesticide-free zone, organic composting, weed warriors/watershed, Tree City designation, pet waste management, and registered historic district. Action items for Years 2 and 3 include an online sustainability resource center, municipal solar panels, municipal renewable energy, a green purchasing policy, expanding composting, waste management reduction, insect hotel, native plants, stormwater management plan, bicycle and pedestrian safety plan, and a watershed protection plan.

Pedestrian Bicycle Access and Safety Working Group (PBASWG)

Alan Simon and John Rogers presented the 2023 Walk Audit Results and Priority Recommendations.

The biennial 2022 Walk Audit took place between November 2022 and February 2023 and increased coverage to 108 segments for complete coverage of the Town. A new prioritization methodology was used to focus the 100+ recommendations generated through the audit process; points were assigned based on the PBASWG Vision Statement and then prioritized into segments resulting in 38 recommendations including 9 maintenance recommendations, and 29 improvement/construction recommendations.

The group will meet with the Town Manager to discuss the prioritization and feasibility of the recommendations.

Joe Campbell questioned whether the audit included consideration of installation of sidewalks for Frederick Avenue and part of Kent Street.

Ann Banville questioned if the audit addressed motorized bikes and scooters sharing the same paths for pedestrians and bicycles.

Bronze Award Project

Members of the Junior Girl Scout Troop 34067 presented the project they chose for their Bronze Award, the highest honor they can receive, which was to educate people about bicycle and pedestrian safety. They are considering ideas to implement their project, which includes teaching younger girl scouts bicycle hand signals and encouraging them to be courteous and mindful; and participating in a community event to share what they learned with other members of the community.

Town Council Chamber

The Council concurred to allow Chevy Chase View to rent the Council Chamber to hold their public meetings once a month.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Lichter thanked Katherine Wood for the active Weed Warriors in the Town; noted the Tree Care 101 event was successful; and announced the 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration at St. Paul Park on June 17 from 12 pm to 4 pm will include historical reenactments, music, and local community groups; and suggested a community workshop, possibly in October, for public input on the Town's long-term priorities.

Council Member Crimmins reported Park and Planning approved the modification of The Flats at Knowles Station (10509 Summit Avenue).

Olwen Logan reported on the planned celebrations at BabyCat Brewery on May 28 commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and an excursion train ride on May 29.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported the Town Energy Audit is being subsidized with the help of Green Bank and Spectrum Energy, which will limit the Town's expense for the Energy Audit to \$5,000; and a survey is being completed for the proposed Oberon Street sidewalk.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2023 – An Ordinance 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 was presented for adoption. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated we did not receive any additional public comment.

Resolution No. R-10-2023 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council declaring the first Friday in June (Friday, June 2, 2023) to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Kensington to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a Country must do more to reduce gun violence was presented for adoption.

Peter Benjmain, former Mayor of Garrett Park, spoke in support of the Resolution.

Mayor Furman stated on Friday, June 2, at Flinn Park the Council will be reading the Resolution with an opportunity to honor and remember loved ones.

Resolution No. R-11-2023 was removed from the agenda. The Town Attorney is still reviewing the contract with Urban Land Institute; the expenditure was approved at the March 2023 Town Meeting.

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt 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 motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to approve Resolution No. R-10-2023 declaring the first Friday in June (Friday, June 2, 2023) to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Town of Kensington to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a Country must do more to reduce gun violence. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. The motion passed unanimously.