

## **June 12, 2023, Town Council Meeting Summary (held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)**

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2023.
- Acknowledged Darin Bartram and Conor Crimmins were declared Elected by the Board of Supervisors of Elections in accordance with Article VII, “Registration, Nominations, and Elections”, Section 710, “Conduct of Elections”, of the Town Charter.
- Held a Variance Hearing for 10800 Connecticut Avenue to allow a limited duration sign to be placed an additional 90 days.
  - *A Resolution in support of the Variance request will be prepared for the July 10, 2023, Council meeting.*
- Approved the proposed traffic island installation for Farragut Avenue at University Boulevard.
- Scheduled the Town Organizational Meeting for Monday, July 10, at 5 pm.
- Approved a waiver to allow alcohol at St. Paul Park for the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17.
- Approved Resolution No. R-11-2023 - Authorizing a Contract with the Urban Land Institute to establish a Technical Assistance Panel for the strategic review of Economic Development, Connectivity, and Mobility improvements within the Town.
- Approved Resolution No. R-12-2023 - Authorizing the Extension of a Contract with Nazario Construction Corp. for Concrete, Asphalt Paving, Perk-E-Pave, Storm Drain, and related services.

## **Town Council Meeting June 12, 2023, 7:00 pm, held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing**

Mayor Furman; Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, and 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 May 8, 2023, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

### **From the Mayor and Town Council**

#### **Town Election June 5, 2023**

Mayor Furman acknowledged Darin Bartram and Conor Crimmins were declared elected by the Board of Supervisors of Elections in accordance with Article VII, “Registration, Nominations, and Elections”, Section 710, “Conduct of Elections”, of the Town Charter.

#### **10800 Connecticut Avenue Sign Variance Hearing**

Property owner, Amy Hamilton, along with real estate broker, David Edgerley, were present to request a Variance to extend a limited duration sign, advertising the sale of the property, for an additional ninety (90) days.

Mr. Edgerley noted the importance of the sign, which results in 30 to 40 percent of calls they receive inquiring about purchasing the property.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the Town Staff is supportive of the Variance request due to the uncertainty of the property with regard to the proposed Summit Avenue Extended project and how the project will be used for storm water management.

The Council supported allowing an additional 90 days for the limited duration sign. A formal resolution will be presented at the next Town Meeting. See Council Actions.

### **Farragut Avenue at University Boulevard Traffic Island Installation**

The Council reviewed the proposed traffic island from the Town's Traffic Engineer, which would provide a permanent structure to the existing flex-post delineators. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated this was reviewed by the Mobility and Traffic Committee previously, and he had received requests from Residents on Farragut Avenue for a permanent structure to replace the flex-post delineators.

The Council requested the crosswalk placement be reviewed to ensure it is in the proper sight line and suggested grass or vegetation for pollinators instead of concrete.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town's Traffic Engineer will be marking this out for any additional feedback and will address the crosswalk placement.

### **Town's Organizational Meeting**

Mayor Furman stated the Town's Organizational Meeting will be held prior to the July 10 Town Council Meeting, beginning at 5:00 pm. The Council will also be meeting with the District 18 Delegation at 6:00 pm, with the Town Council meeting to follow at 7:00 pm.

### **St. Paul Park Alcohol Waiver – Juneteenth Celebration**

The Council supported a waiver to allow alcohol to be available at the Juneteenth Celebration at St. Paul Park. See Council Actions.

### **Mayor and Council Reports**

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins stated they both appreciated the opportunity to serve the Kensington community for another term and look forward to continuing to work on Town projects including development projects, Code revisions, and playground accessibility improvements at St. Paul Park.

Ann Lichter reminded everyone of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 17 at St. Paul Park, which will include musical performers and living history portrayals.

Council Member Engle stated he, along with Council Member Crimmins, have been working with the Urban Land Institute on the Technical Assistance Panel, which will provide a panel of 7 to 10 experts to help envision the Summit Avenue Extended, Connecticut Avenue, and University

Boulevard corridor beyond traffic alleviation with economic development and bicycling and pedestrian safety. The Town has prepared questions for the Panel to address and will be putting together a briefing book. The Panel will meet July 12 and 13 and walk the study area, interview key stakeholders, and provide the Town with a presentation and report on their recommendations.

Council Member Engle reported that the Town, in coordination with the State Highway Administration (SHA), held the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area (BPPA) workshop, which was intended to coordinate State, local, and private stakeholders to align planning goals for innovative bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the study area; and also noted that the Sustainable Kensington Bronze application for Sustainable Maryland designation was on track to be submitted by the June 30 deadline.

Mayor Furman stated that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) with Montgomery County will hold a hearing on the Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) for Warner Circle on June 14, and the developer for the multi-unit residential condominium project will provide a courtesy review to the Town once they have formally applied for permits with the Town.

#### **From the Town Manager and Staff**

Town Manager Hoffman reported that the Engineering contractor, Brudis and Associates, for the bridge repair project, will be providing an updated schedule and anticipates that the construction RFP will be issued in late 2023 or early 2024; also noted that CAS Engineering had completed the boundary survey for the Oberon Street sidewalk project and once the utilities are verified, an on-site meeting will be scheduled for the surrounding neighbors.

Mayor Furman requested that two on-site meetings be arranged to accommodate residents.

Joe Campbell questioned the delay and the timing of the bridge repair construction.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that he was advised by Brudis and Associates that the proposals for construction will go out later than initially proposed within the bid and that construction should begin in the spring/summer of 2024; however, additional delays may incur due to required permitting by the Maryland Department of Environmental Protection.

#### **Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations**

**Resolution No. R-11-2023** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with the Urban Land Institute to establish a Technical Assistance Panel for the strategic review of Economic Development, Connectivity, and Mobility improvements within the Town was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the contract is for \$25,000 and will require approval by an extra-majority vote of the Town Council (waiving bid procedure).

**Resolution No. R-12-2023** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Extension of a Contract with Nazario Construction Corp. for Concrete, Asphalt Paving, Perk-E-Pave, Storm Drain, and related services was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated this will require approval by an extra-majority vote of the Town Council (waiving bid procedure); noted the Town is piggy-backing on the contract from the City of Takoma Park, which was competitively bid for street, sidewalk and storm water structures in 2019 and amended with price adjustments in 2022; and noted that Town Attorney has reviewed the contract and associated documents for the price increase.

Joe Campbell requested that the contract with NZI not be extended and that the contract be bid out; and also asked if there were performance requirements within the contract.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the contract was publicly bid, albeit by the City of Takoma Park, and noted that the piggy-back bid process, which is allowed within the Town Charter, allows the Town to benefit from public bids without the administrative costs of a formal bid process conducted by the Town.

The Council stated they appreciated Mr. Cambell's comments; however, piggy-backing on an existing public bid from a larger municipality was the best practice.

### **Public Appearances**

Joe Campbell asked where prior meeting minutes and recordings were located on the website.

Mayor Furman announced the July meeting will be both online and in person, and the August meeting will be online only.

### **Council Actions**

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to support the variance for the extension of the limited duration sign at 10800 Connecticut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to proceed with the installation of the Farragut Avenue at University Boulevard Traffic Island. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to provide a waiver to allow alcohol at St. Paul Park Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adopt Resolution No. R-11-2023 authorizing a contract with the Urban Land Institute to establish a Technical Assistance Panel for the strategic review of Economic Development, Connectivity, and Mobility improvements within the Town. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adopt Resolution No. R-12-2023 authorizing the extension of a contract with Nazario Construction Corp. for concrete, asphalt paving, perk-e-pave, storm drain, and related services. The motion passed unanimously.

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