

July 10, 2023, Town Council Organizational Meeting Summary

(held in Person)

- Council Member Crimmins was appointed Mayor Pro Tem.
- The Mayor and Council discussed areas of interest and were assigned to the following Committees and liaising roles:
 - Auditing Committee – Ann Lichter and Nate Engle
 - Board of Elections – Darin Bartram
 - Ethics Commission – Conor Crimmins
 - Greenscape Committee – Ann Lichter
 - Development Review Board – Conor Crimmins and Darin Bartram
 - Mobility and Traffic Committee – Nate Engle and Darin Bartram
 - Pedestrian and Bicycling Access & Safety Working Group – Nate Engle
 - Sustainable Kensington – Ann Lichter and Nate Engle
 - Business Community Liaison - Conor Crimmins
 - Montgomery County Public Schools Liaison – Conor Crimmins and Ann Lichter

Town Council Organizational Meeting July 10, 2023, 5:00 pm, held in Person

Council Members Bartram and Crimmins were sworn in prior to the Organizational Meeting.

Mayor Furman; Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, Engle, and Lichter; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present.

Council Member Crimmins was appointed to Mayor Pro Tem. See Council Actions.

The Mayor and Council discussed areas of interest and were assigned to the following Committees and liaising roles:

- Auditing Committee – Ann Lichter and Nate Engle
- Board of Elections – Darin Bartram
- Ethics Commission – Conor Crimmins
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- Sustainable Kensington – Ann Lichter and Nate Engle
- Business Community Liaison - Conor Crimmins
- Montgomery County Public Schools Liaison – Conor Crimmins and Ann Lichter

The Mayor and Council concurred to move the Town Council meetings from the second Monday of each month to the second Wednesday of each month, effective September 2023.

Council Actions

Council Member Engle moved to appoint Council Member Crimmins as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion passed unanimously.

The Organizational meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

July 10, 2023, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2023.
- Acknowledged the appointments of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Auditing Committee.
- Approved Resolution No. R-13-2023 – Approving a Sign Variance to allow a Limited Duration sign at 10800 Connecticut Avenue to be placed for an Additional 90 Days.

Town Council Meeting July 10, 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 Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

The Mayor and Council held an Organizational Meeting to set Council responsibilities and met with the District 18 Delegation prior to the Town Meeting.

The Town Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2023, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Auditing Committee

Mayor Furman acknowledged the appointments of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Auditing Committee for a one-year term.

Sustainable Kensington

Council Member Lichter reported the Town has submitted the application for Sustainable Maryland Bronze Certification, and the Sustainable Kensington Committee plans to reconvene in September to work on priorities for the coming year.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Bartram stated he, along with Mayor Furman and Council Member Engle, attended the MML Conference, which provided great informative networking opportunities with other municipalities.

Council Member Lichter stated the Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 17 had a tremendous show of support from the community in participation and sponsorship; and the Racial Justice Committee will be planning the Annual Back to School Block Party on August 26.

Council Member Engle reported the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel will be having a panel on Wednesday and Thursday at Town Hall with 9 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.

Council Member Crimmins thanked everyone for the successful 4th of July Bike Parade; and is meeting with vendors for St. Paul Park to determine the scope of making it more ADA accessible and plans to apply for a grant from Community Parks and Playgrounds to fund the improvements to the Park.

From the Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported the proposed Oberon Street sidewalk project, which proposes connecting Kensington Parkway to St. Paul Park, will be put on hold until the spring of 2024 to allow for additional review and community input; the Town will be working on traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements for the intersection of Plyers Mill Road and St. Paul Street, which will include a bump out on the northeast corner, squaring off the existing crosswalks, adding a motion detected flashing stop sign, and making storm water improvements.

Sandie Henne confirmed the location of the bump out.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town Energy Audit is complete; he along with Council Member Engle will be meeting with Spectrum Energy to review the energy audit recommendations for Town Hall; and noted proposals were received for replacing the HVAC system in the drill hall.

The Mayor and Council discussed the HVAC system in the drill hall and whether there was a benefit to a new HVAC system that may be able to be acquired with a grant or an in-kind replacement; and the Town will proceed with Havtech Solutions' engineering feasibility study to evaluate the HVAC system as a viable solution for an efficient and effective HVAC system which is funded by the Green Energy Bank.

Assistant Town Manager Marini applied for the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All grant requesting \$1.2 million for design and engineering plans for a separated pedestrian and bicycle pathway over the CSX railroad on the east and west sides of the existing Connecticut Avenue bridge; the Town will find out whether the grant was awarded in October 2023.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town will move the Town Meetings to the second Wednesday of the month beginning in September due to the Town Attorney's availability and staff preparations for the meeting.

Joe Campbell supported moving the Town Meeting to Wednesday.

Mayor Furman and Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town's priorities include completing existing projects such as Code revisions and using ARPA funding for storm water management.

Council Member Lichter will prepare a draft plan for a Town workshop to aid in completing priorities and provide community input.

Mayor Furman stated Nicole Bourgea will be working on a mural on the back side of Old Town Market, which will have a cosmic theme in recognition of Jack Gaffey's love of the stars and will include Warner Mansion along with the night sky.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Resolution No. R-13-2023 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Approving a Sign Variance to allow a Limited Duration sign at 10800 Connecticut Avenue to be placed for an Additional 90 Days was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the sign variance was held last month and is an extension of an existing limited duration sign for 90 days.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell suggested posting Town priorities on the website and requested the status of bridge repair, and updates on Brookside apartments.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the construction proposal should go out in December or January and depending on MDE permits the work should begin in the spring or summer of 2024.

Council Member Crimmins stated that regarding the Brookside Apartments, the initial purchaser with intent backed out, and a second purchaser is now in due diligence and if they proceed they would close in August or September and the units would be leased as market rate apartments.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution No. R-13-2023 Approving a Sign Variance to allow a Limited Duration sign at 10800 Connecticut Avenue to be placed for an Additional 90 Days. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. The motion passed unanimously.