

October 11, 2023, Town Council Meeting Summary (held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023.
- Discussed providing additional comments to the Montgomery County Sign Review Board for the proposed Holy Cross Health sign at 10605 Concord Street. The Town will support the placement of the existing sign at the County's height restriction of twenty-six feet (26'), and defer to the Sign Review Board to determine if the requested height of forty-seven feet (47') would be permitted.
- Discussed the proposed Lease Agreement with 10509 Summit Avenue, LLC, with the Town Attorney for 48 public parking spaces at the proposed Flats at Knowles Station development project.
 - The resolution will be presented at the November 8, 2023, Council Meeting.
- Approved Resolution No. R-16-2023 – Authorizing an MOU for non-exclusive use of Reinhardt Park with the Brookewood School for Girls.
- Approved Resolution No. R-17-2023 – Authorizing the Town Manager to establish 'No Parking' along the north side of the 3800 block of Plyers Mill Road.
- Approved Resolution No. R-18-2023 - Authorizing the extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one-year, per the Contract Agreement.
- Resolution No. R-19-2023 was removed from the Agenda.

Town Council Meeting October 11, 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; Town Attorney Ferguson; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed for long-time resident Mary Jane Fisher, who passed away, and for the victims of terrorist attack on Israel.

Mayor Furman condemned Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel and extended condolences to the victims and hostages.

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

From the Mayor and Town Council

County Councilmember Kate Stewart

Kate Stewart, County Councilmember for District 4, along with her staff, were present to provide updates on County topics and legislative priorities, including the County's AAA bond rating, pedestrian master plan, safe streets act, ban on gas powered leaf blowers, police recruitment, and transparency on special appropriations.

The Mayor and Council addressed concerns with Councilmember Stewart over the ban on gas powered leaf blowers' and its effect on municipal leaf collection, along with addressing the proposed Summit Avenue Extended project as a priority.

County Councilmember Stewart took questions and comments from Residents and stated she is committed to keeping the Summit Avenue Extended project in the County's CIP.

Holy Cross Health Sign (10605 Concord Street)

Jeff Bartlett, Director of Capital Projects for Holy Cross Health Partners, was present to request the Town's support on a variance with the County Sign Review Board to allow their existing sign at a height of 47'6" at their new location, 10605 Concord Street.

The Mayor and Council discussed the required illumination and questioned whether the sign could be placed lower with the HVAC louvers on the building.

The Council concurred that they were supportive of the existing sign being placed at the 26 feet with the illumination restrictions if it is feasible due to the louvers; and will accept the decision of the sign review board if the Sign Review Board grants a Variance and allows the sign to be placed at 46-feet.

Allison Oppenheim and Jody Kreiger did not support the sign on the building and suggested a free-standing monument sign.

John Blick, owner of the building, stated that Holy Cross is the largest tenant, and he does not anticipate allowing any other signage from tenants in the building; and he is not sure whether it is possible to place the sign in front of the HVAC louvers.

Halloween Street Closures

Town Manager Hoffman discussed a request to close additional streets around Perry Avenue and Farragut Avenue to accommodate pedestrian traffic on Halloween.

Jody Kreiger did not support closing additional streets and suggested cones so cars could not park.

The Council discussed traffic flow and safety and concurred to not close any additional streets, but to add cones to the west side of St. Paul Street to create more space for pedestrians during Scary Perry between Farragut Avenue and Perry Avenue.

Mayor and Council Reports

Mayor Furman stated she reached out to Karl Voglmayer on the progress at Warner Mansion and they should have permits in February; and announced Lisa Carney has joined the Town as a new part-time archivist and work is being done on the archive room.

Council Member Lichter stated the Greenscape Committee met and the Weed Warriors are continuing to clear invasive vines on Kensington Parkway between Frederick Avenue and Kent Street; native shrub seedlings are now coming up; reminded residents to avoid mulch volcanoes around their trees and to submit a service request for any problems with Town trees in front of their property; the Town will be partnering with University of Maryland to establish a tree inventory of the parks which will come with a database to maintain the inventory; and the Racial Justice Committee will be meeting on October 18 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Council Member Engle stated they are awaiting the official announcement on whether the Town received Bronze Certification; Sustainable Kensington will meet on November 6; confirmed with the Council that non-residents could be included on the committee; and Walktober is scheduled for October 28.

Council Member Crimmins reported Kensington Crossroads project is moving forward with permits and grading.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Resolution No. R-15-2023 was not presented to the Council.

10509 Summit Avenue (The Flats at Knowles Station)

Town Manager Hoffman stated at the request of Summit Ventures, LLC, the Town applied for and was awarded an \$800,000 Legislative Bond bill to help offset the cost of the parking structure at the proposed Flats at Knowles Station. Since the Town does not own the property, the Town Attorney has drafted a lease agreement for the 48 public parking spaces for review.

Town Attorney Ferguson reviewed the changes from the prior draft which include clarifying the location of the 48 parking spaces, extending the term to 25 years, allowing the Town to install a parking control system, and limiting the time for development to 5 years.

Tom Brault, 10509 Summit Ventures LLC, was present and stated he will be reviewing the revised lease agreement and looks forward to partnering with the Town.

Resolution No. R-16-2023 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council Authorizing an MOU for non-exclusive use of Reinhardt Park with the Brookwood School for Girls was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manger Hoffman stated the Brookwood School has requested use of the playground facility at Reinhardt Park for non-exclusive use during certain hours of the school week.

The Council discussed the requirement to remove all debris and discussed whether the fees were comparative to agreements with other schools using St. Paul Park.

Resolution No. R-17-2023 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council Authorizing the Town Manager to establish ‘No Parking’ along the north side of the 3800 block of Plyers Mill Road was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated complaints have been received about abandoned vehicles being left in the public right-of-way along the 3800 block of Plyers Mill Road. The adjacent property owner had the property surveyed and additional Town right-of-way was shown which can be enforced with no parking signs.

Resolution No. R-18-2023 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council Authorizing the extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one-year, per the Contract Agreement was presented.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the contract was bid in 2018 for three years with three one-year extensions and this is the final year of renewal. The contract will be renewed on the same terms and conditions which include a 2.5% increase along with an adjustment to the unit pricing in accordance with the tipping fee increase by Montgomery County. The contract will be bid out for 2025 and may include only one trash pickup if at least forty percent of residents sign up for composting.

Council Member Lichter stated Sustainable Kensington will discuss this next summer in anticipation of the bid package to solicit community engagement and input into the bid process.

Resolution No. R-19-2023 was not presented to the Council.

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Council Actions

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

Council Member Engle moved to adopt Resolution R-16-2023 Authorizing an MOU for non-exclusive use of Reinhardt Park with the Brookewood School for Girls. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution R-17-2023 to establish ‘No Parking’ along the north side of the 3800 block of Plyers Mill Road. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution R-18-2023 for an extension of the existing refuse and recycling contract with Ecology Services Refuse & Recycling, LLC, for the term of one-year, per the Contract Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.