

January 10, 2024, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Held a Closed Session meeting pursuant to State Government Article §3-305(b)(3) and §3-305(b)(7), “Closed Session”, to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2023.
- Approved the Special Town Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2023.
- Approved the Closed Session Town Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2023.
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2023.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-01-2024** – A Resolution Authorizing a Contract Agreement with AB Consultants, Inc., to conduct a Storm Drain Survey to identify the location of inlets and invert elevations within the C-line storm drain network, specific to the scope of work identified within EXHIBIT A.

Town Council Meeting January 10, 2024, 7:02 pm, held 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. A moment of silence was observed.

The Town Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2023, the Special Town Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2023, the Confidential Closed Session Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2023, and the Town Meeting Minutes from December 13, 2023, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

A Closed Session was held at 6:00 pm pursuant to State Government Article §3-305(b)(3) and §3-305(b)(7), “Closed Session”, to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice with regards to the lease agreement with 10509 Summit Avenue Ventures, LLC, and land acquisition for 10415 Montgomery Avenue. No Actions were taken. See Attached form – “Statement for Closing a Meeting.”

Acknowledge the Town Condemns Attacks on our local Religious Institutions

Council Member Lichter reported that the Star of David and Israel Sign at Temple Emanuel were vandalized around December 17th and the Town issued a statement on December 19, 2023, available on the Town’s website, strongly condemning attacks on our local religious institutions, including antisemitic attacks that are meant to intimidate and alienate Jewish members of the community, and reminding the community of the importance of being alert and reporting any incidents to the authorities.

Sign Review Board Variance 10800 Connecticut Avenue

Town Manager Hoffman stated the new tenant, Equality Builders, at 10800 Connecticut Avenue have requested three variances for two signs before the Montgomery County Sign Review Board. The Board has requested comment from the Town before considering the variance.

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposed signs and supported the sign on the east side providing that it does not exceed the 200 square foot sign allocation; and did not support the sign on the south side of the property, which is a non-customer entrance.

Tactical Urbanism Presentation

Council Member Engle explained the Tactical Urbanism concept, which prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle safety in conjunction with public art programs to provide short-term, low-cost pilot projects to test out long-term permanent safety improvements; he requested approval for adding funds to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to pilot some of the concepts presented by the PBAS Working Group.

PBAS Working Group members, Marla Hollander and Peter Kosogof, gave a presentation on Tactical Urbanism and identified three possible locations identified by the Walkability audit - Calvert Place and Kensington Parkway, Frederick Avenue from Kensington Parkway to Wake Drive, and Knowles Avenue and Detrick Avenue. The Presentation is available on the Town's website.

The Mayor and Council thanked the Working Group for the presentation and commented on the feasibility of the locations, content of the art, traffic engineer evaluation, permanent solutions for the three areas identified, and suggested crosswalk areas that fit well with this concept including St. Paul Street and Metropolitan Avenue, along with Howard Avenue at Montgomery Avenue.

Tom Brault spoke in support of the concept.

Joe Campbell stated consultation with the neighbors would be an important next step.

The Council concurred to add funding to the Community Arts Program in the Fiscal Year 25 Budget for this concept; and the Town Manager will work with the PBAS Working Group and the Mobility and Traffic Committee to identify potential areas.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Crimmins noted Kensington Historical Society is having a presentation on Preserving Kensington's Historic District on January 23 at 6:30 pm, which will include information about Historic Area Work Permits (HAWP) and tax credits.

Council Members Lichter and Engle will draft a letter for Council review to the County regarding the impact of the transportation cuts on the Kensington area along with including the Town's budget priorities: Noyes Library and the Summit Avenue Extension.

Council Member Bartram stated the Mobility and Traffic Committee will meet in February.

Council Member Engle reported the PBAS Working Group will be meeting January 16 and Sustainable Kensington will be meeting January 22; and suggested moving Public Appearances before “Ordinances” on the Town Meeting Agendas per a Resident’s request.

Mayor Furman stated Moby Dick House of Kabob has signed a lease with the Kensington Shopping Center for the space where Tumbleweed was located; thanked Amy Johnson, active member of the business community, for all her leadership on KensingtonCAN!; thanked KHS for the lovely full color calendar; and reminded the Council of the January 18 Montgomery Chapter Meeting.

Town Manager and Staff

Town Manager Hoffman reported the bridge project has been delayed and a request for proposal should go out in late spring due to a project manager change; Montgomery Parks has contacted the Town requesting that the entry point to Kensington Cabin Park from Kensington Parkway be relocated due to flooding issues; Brudis & Associates will provide a proposal and design concept for Montgomery Parks to review to relocate the entry point further north at the intersection with Frederick Avenue, which would also provide a safer crossing at a controlled stop.

Council Member Engle suggested there is potential for the Tactical Urbanism concept once the access is relocated.

Joe Campbell noted relocating the crosswalk was discussed in previous years and the Town thought it was not feasible at the time.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town will be holding a community forum on proposed CIP infrastructure projects to inform Residents of current and potential infrastructure projects.

Mayor Furman suggested providing information on the projects in advance of the forum for those who may not attend.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town is moving forward with acquiring the SERVPRO property for a future public works facility in anticipation of the Summit Avenue Extended project. A public hearing will be scheduled in March.

The next Town Meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Resolution No. R-01-2024 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract Agreement with AB Consultants, Inc., to conduct a Storm Drain Survey to identify the location of inlets and invert elevations within the C-line storm drain network, specific to the scope of work identified within EXHIBIT A was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated a CCTV scan was done in two locations on the C-line which showed no blockages from Armory Avenue to Calvert Place; and showed the pipe may need to be replaced on Hadley Place; this Contract is the second phase which will evaluate both locations for replacement recommendations and engineering for the rest of the C-line to the flap gate.

Council Member Crimmins requested clarification on whether the lower hourly rate would apply since there were two different rate tables.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Resolution needed to be amended to remove reference to “Exhibit B” and add “per the Town Attorney”; and he will clarify the rate schedule.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell requested the status of once-a-week trash collection and composting that was discussed at a prior meeting.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the Town is in the last year of its current trash contract and the Town is beginning to review the data to see if composting could be added and/or the second trash collection removed; once the data has been collected there will be public meetings for input.

Tom Brault informed the Town of laser technology that a county resident has a patent on, which could help with the Summit Avenue Extension.

Council Actions

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

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to approve the Confidential Closed Session Minutes from December 13, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution No. R-01-2024 Authorizing a Contract Agreement with AB Consultants, Inc., to conduct a Storm Drain Survey to identify the location of inlets and invert elevations within the C-line storm drain network, specific to the scope of work identified within EXHIBIT A as amended to remove “and Exhibit B” from the last “WHEREAS” clause and replace with “per the Town Attorney.” The motion passed unanimously.

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