

March 20, 2024, Town Council Meeting Summary (held in Person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2024.
- Approved the Closed Session Town Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2024.
- Held a Public Hearing for **Ordinance No. O-01-2024** – An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Property located at 10528 St. Paul Street, Kensington, Maryland, for a Public Purpose.
 - *The Public Hearing will remain open until 4:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024.*
- Introduced **Ordinance No. O-02-2024** – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (FY25) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended.
 - *The Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00 pm.*
- Approved **Resolution No. R-03-2024** - A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract Agreement with Brudis & Associates, Inc., to provide Engineering and Support Services for a Storm Drain Study along the 3500 and 3600 blocks of Farragut Avenue.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-06-2024** - A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington to Authorize the Town Manager to extend the auditing contract with Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett, P.A., Certified Public Accountants, to perform the Annual Audit for Fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-07-2024** – A Resolution of the Kensington Town Council Confirming Appointments made by the Mayor to the Development Review Board (DRB).
- Approved **Resolution No. R-08-2024** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10600 block of St. Paul Street.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-09-2024** - A Resolution of the Kensington Town Council Confirming Appointments made by the Mayor to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Town Council Meeting March 20, 2024, 7:02 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. Town Attorneys Ferguson and Rosenfeld were present for part of the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence observed.

The Confidential Closed Session Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024, and the Town Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

A letter was sent to the Transportation and Environment Committee of the Montgomery County Council requesting that the proposed Summit Avenue Extended project be included and adequately funded within the County's FY25 Capital Improvement Program.

Council Member Crimmins stated he, along with Mayor Furman and Council Member Engle, reached out to members of the County Council to make sure they were aware of the Urban Land Institute's Technical Assistance Panel report with regards to the proposed Summit Avenue Extended. The TAP report envisions housing and retail opportunities along the extended roadway, along with a linear park and increased tree canopy to help shield the Ken-Gar community from the proposed development.

Rita and Q Francis, Owners of Love People Records, were present to request a partial street closure on Fawcett Street between 10429 Fawcett Street and Howard Avenue to celebrate Record Store Day on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

The Council supported the event and confirmed that the owners will reach out to surrounding businesses and a notice will go out to Residents.

Council Member Crimmins stated the new flashing Stop sign installed at St. Paul Street and Plyers Mill Road is very effective and there is finally progress on the rapid flashing beacons from State Highway Administration, as the base supports have been installed on Metropolitan Avenue at Wheatley Street.

Council Member Engle stated that the Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety (PBAS) Working Group met on February 28 and the next meeting will be in April; Sustainable Kensington met on March 6, and they are working on a solar feasibility and resilience hub study for Town Hall.

Council Member Lichter reported Sustainable Kensington is also reviewing storm water issues that property owners can address; the Greenscape Committee met last week and are working on several programs to enhance and preserve the Town's tree canopy, such as holding a Tree Care 101 class on May 18 and a plant sale May 19, and moving forward with establishing pollinator-friendly gardens in Town; the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration will be Saturday, June 15, with a rain date of Sunday, June 16, at St. Paul Park; and the Walter Johnson Cluster is concerned MCPS may cut \$20 million from the planned budget from Woodward High School to delay the construction of the auditorium and suggested the Town comment on the proposed budget cut.

Council Member Bartram reported that the Mobility and Traffic Committee (MTC) met February 21 and reviewed the ADA sidewalk improvement plans for Connecticut Avenue; discussed areas to place additional flashing Stop signs; recommended a speed hump for the 10600 block of St. Paul Street; and discussed the tactical urbanism presentation by the PBAS.

Mayor Furman stated she has been working with KHS on two history boards about the B&O Railroad, which would be placed at the Kensington Train Station; noted the upcoming 130th Anniversary Celebration on April 6; the Compass Art Center grand opening April 13; and Day of the Book on April 21.

The Mayor and Council rescheduled the Budget Forum from April 3 to May 1 at 4 pm.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell questioned whether there would be a contested election.

Mayor Furman stated that nominations are due by 4:00 pm on May 13, and that she, along with Council Members Engle have filed for re-election and Council Member Lichter intends to file for re-election.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2024 – A Public Hearing was held on Ordinance No. O-01-2024 Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Property located at 10528 St. Paul Street, Kensington, Maryland, for a Public Purpose. The Public Record will remain open until 4:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that 10528 St. Paul Street was identified by the Town a number of years ago as a potential location for a future public works site, and Attorney Michele Rosenfeld has been working with the property owner's legal counsel; the Town had an appraisal done in January 2023 with a value of \$925,000 and the Town received a counteroffer of \$1,010,000.

Al Carr supported acquiring 10528 St. Paul Street and also stated he supports the Town acquiring 10526 St. Paul Street, which is the former Mulheron property acquired by Pepco in 2012, and it is not being used; however, he is opposed to a public works garage at the location.

Doug Smith requested more information on the use and suggested the Council consider the historical character, Residents on the street, and the proximity to the St. Paul Park when reviewing the use of the property.

Mayor Furman stated that the existing Public Works building will need to be replaced due to the Summit Avenue Extended project and a new building will incorporate a sustainable design that will fit with the park and community; the property is zoned for mixed-use (CRN); and there will be an opportunity for Resident input when the design phase begins.

Council Member Crimmins stated a new Public Works building could benefit the Park with bathrooms and indoor space.

Miriam Cross spoke in support of the other public comments and concerns that were raised.

Joe Campell requested the cost to acquire the property.

Town Manager Hoffman confirmed the cost of the property at \$1,010,000.

Ordinance No. O-02-2024 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (FY25) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended was introduced. The Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00 pm. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-03-2024 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract Agreement with Brudis & Associates, Inc., to provide Engineering and Support Services for a Storm Drain Study along the 3500 and 3600 blocks of Farragut Avenue was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that this is to provide engineering for a storm drain lateral to be added between St. Paul Street and Lexington Street.

Council Member Lichter noted the importance of considering beyond a 10-year storm event and suggested more planning for procurement for the larger storm drain projects.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the engineering team at Brudis will evaluate the storm drain improvements for more than a 10-year storm cycle and noted that both the St. Paul and Farragut projects would fall within the Town's existing contract with NZI Construction; however, any further storm water improvements related to Kensington Cabin Park would require both financial and design support from the County, State, and Parks.

Joe Campbell questioned whether Brudis & Associates can handle this work since the bridge projects have not been completed.

Town Manager Hoffman stated that the project managers for the storm water and bridge projects are within separate divisions of Brudis and that the delay on the bridges is a result of the prior project manager leaving, along with a request from Parks to change the access point to Kensington Cabin Park; the bridge construction RFP should go out late summer and construction on at least one of the bridges should begin prior to the end of the Calendar year.

Resolution No. R-06-2024 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington to Authorize the Town Manager to extend the auditing contract with Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett, P.A., Certified Public Accountants, to perform the Annual Audit for Fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman stated the proposal was sent to the Auditing Committee for review and it is for a one-year contract with two additional one-year options.

Jeff Capron, Audit Committee Chair, was present and spoke in support of the contract renewal.

Resolution No. R-07-2024 – A Resolution of the Kensington Town Council Confirming Appointments made by the Mayor to the Development Review Board (DRB) was presented. See Council Actions.

The Resolution is for the reappointment of Mike Henehan, Andrew Roud, and Michael Gordon for a two-year term which expires April 30, 2026.

The Resolution will be amended to remove the third “Whereas” which was in error.

Resolution No. R-08-2024 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10600 block of St. Paul Street was presented. See Council Actions.

Town Manager Hoffman reported that the Town received a request from several residents along the 10600 block of St. Paul Street; a petition was signed by all Residents on the block; and the Mobility and Traffic Committee met and provided a favorable recommendation.

Resolution No. R-09-2024 - A Resolution of the Kensington Town Council Confirming Appointments made by the Mayor to the Board of Supervisors of Elections was presented. See Council Actions.

The Resolution is for the re-appointment of Kate DeWitt, Spencer Harrill, and Robin Watson.

Resolution No. R-10-2024 was removed from the agenda for clarification with the Town Attorney.

Council Actions

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to approve the Confidential Closed Session Minutes from February 13, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to hold the record open on Ordinance O-01-2024 Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10528 St. Paul Street, Kensington, Maryland, for a public purpose until 4 pm on April 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to introduce Ordinance No. O-02-2024 to Appropriate and Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (FY25) Budget and to Levy a Tax on Certain Real and Personal Property under the provisions of §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as Amended and set the Public Hearing for Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adopt Resolution No. R-03-2024 Authorizing a Contract Agreement with Brudis & Associates, Inc., to provide Engineering and Support Services for a Storm Drain Study along the 3500 and 3600 blocks of Farragut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Lichter moved to adopt Resolution No. R-06-2024 Authorizing the Town Manager to extend the auditing contract with Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett, P.A., Certified Public Accountants, to perform the Annual Audit for Fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution No. R-07-2024 Confirming Appointments of Michael Gordon, Mike Henehan, and Andrew Roud made by the Mayor to the Development Review Board (DRB) as amended with the last “Whereas” clause removed. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to adopt Resolution No. R-08-2024 Authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10600 block of St. Paul Steet. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution No. R-09-2024 Confirming Appointments of Kate DeWitt, Spencer Harrill, and Robin Watson made by the Mayor to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. The motion passed unanimously.