

January 8, 2025, Town Council Meeting Summary

(held by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2024.
- Motioned to make a \$40,000 contribution to the Noyes Children’s Library Foundation from the FY25 Budget, which will be transferred from the Community Art Murals Program.
 - *A formal Resolution will be presented at the February 12, 2025, Town Council Meeting.*
- Approved Resolution No. R-01-2025 – Approving a Variance at 10609 Wheatley Street to allow a driveway width of 17 feet, 8.5 inches in accordance with Section 5-107, “Driveways and Parking Surfaces - Single Family Residential Zones”, of the Town Code.
- Introduced Ordinance No. O-01-2025 - Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Property located at 3420 Plyers Mill Road, Kensington, Maryland, that is no longer needed for a public purpose.
 - *The Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 7:00 pm.*

Town Council Meeting January 8, 2025, 7:00 pm, held by Zoom Video Conferencing

Mayor Furman; Council Members Bartram, Crimmins, and Engle; Town Manager Hoffman; Assistant Town Manager Marini; and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Council Member Lichter was necessarily absent. A moment of silence was observed for all impacted by the California wildfires.

The Town Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024, were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council

Town Curbside Food Waste Collection Program

Town Manager Hoffman noted that the Council approved a curbside food waste program at the December 2024, Council Meeting with Ecology Services, and that the food waste will be taken to the Maryland BioEnergy Center in Jessup, Maryland.

Andrew Cassilly and Vinnie Bevivino from the Maryland BioEnergy Center provided an overview of the facility and the anaerobic digestion process, in which the facility uses anaerobic digestion to convert the food waste into methane gas for renewable energy. Acceptable items for composting include produce, meat, dairy, baked goods, grease, coffee grounds, cooked foods, spoiled foods, and food inside packaging. Unacceptable items for composting include yard waste, wreaths, Christmas trees, paper or cardboard, food packaging without food, pet waste, diapers, glass, large plastic bags, rope, soil and any other non-biodegradable materials.

In response to questions, Mr. Cassilly and Mr. Bevivino noted the following: oil can be put in with the food waste or in a gallon container for a large quantity; the facility operates a large-scale process and is not able to provide organic soil back to residents at this time; the soiled part of a pizza box would not be able accepted with the food waste; the facility is required by law to have no more than 4% contamination; and a tonnage report with the volume of food waste converted and the carbon reduction score can be provided to the hauler.

Noyes Children’s Library Foundation

Mayor Furman noted that the County Executive has requested a supplemental appropriation within the County’s CIP for an additional \$3 million to cover the additional construction costs for the Noyes Library project. The project will be phased into two contracts over the FY25 and FY26 budget years in order to allow the project to proceed. The Noyes Children’s Library Foundation will be asked to raise an additional \$1 million to help offset the supplemental appropriation, and Mayor Furman requested that the Council consider donating \$40,000 to the Foundation’s efforts, which would be moved from the Town’s Community Art and Mural program. The Town previously donated \$75,000, through three separate \$25,000 contributions. The Council supported contributing \$40,000 this fiscal year. See Council Actions.

Mayor and Council Reports

Council Member Crimmins noted two separate water main breaks within the Town (Farragut Avenue and Lexington Street), and reminded residents to report break/leaks as soon as possible to WSSC; reported that the Parking Task Force met and has begun working on the mission statement and guiding principles and will be meeting with the parking division of the County and contacting a parking consultant; and noted that County Councilmember Will Jawando has requested that the County pause the Attainable Housing Strategy Initiative due to concerns over the scope being too broad and not providing affordable housing and housing closer to transportation.

Council Member Engle reported the Pedestrian and Bicycling Access & Safety Working Group and Mobility and Traffic Committee will be meeting on January 13, 2025, and Sustainable Kensington will be meeting on January 21, 2025.

Public Appearances

Joe Campbell requested more information on Councilmember Will Jawando’s pause for the Attainable Housing Initiative and commended the Town crew on the excellent snow removal.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations

Ordinance No. O-01-2025 – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Property located at 3420 Plyers Mill Road, Kensington, Maryland, that is no longer needed for a public purpose was introduced. The Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-01-2025 – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Approving a Variance at 10609 Wheatley Street to allow a driveway width of 17 feet, 8.5 inches in accordance with Section 5-107, “Driveways and Parking Surfaces - Single Family Residential Zones”, of the Town Code was presented. See Council Actions.

Council Member Engle questioned if the Resolution should reference the condition that the apron should be concrete or concrete substrate in accordance with Montgomery County standards.

Town Manager Hoffman stated it will be added as a condition on the permit.

The next Town Meeting will be on February 12, 2025.

Council Actions

Council Member Crimmins moved to approve the Town Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to reallocate the \$40,000 from the Economic Development and Commercial Revitalization Community Arts Mural Line to a new line item for the Noyes Library Foundation in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Engle moved to Introduce Ordinance No. O-01-2025 Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Property located at 3420 Plyers Mill Road, Kensington, Maryland, that is no longer needed for a public purpose and set the Public Hearing for February 12, 2025, at 7 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Crimmins moved to adopt Resolution R-01-2025 Approving a Variance at 10609 Wheatley Street to allow a driveway width of 17 feet, 8.5 inches in accordance with Section 5-107, “Driveways and Parking Surfaces - Single Family Residential Zones”, of the Town Code. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm. The motion passed unanimously.