



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Town Council Meeting: 12 February 2018

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Councilmembers Schulp, McClintock, Paczkowski, Wegner and Welch. Also present were several Town residents and Ed Lincoln representing the Bugle. Town Manager Swearingen announced his intention to resign and is providing early notice to allow the Mayor and Council time to fill the position.

Approval of Agenda: Councilmember Schulp requested that a discussion of the nomination process for Mayor and Council candidates be added to the agenda. Councilmember McClintock requested the items relating to 10810 Kenilworth Avenue be taken up prior to the discussion of the Tulip Poplar tree on Clermont. Both items were agreed to and the agenda was approved as modified.

Presentations by Residents: Several residents expressed concern about the sidewalk work being done on Strathmore by SHA and the protection of trees during construction. Other residents were concerned about the conditions around the sidewalk construction areas. A concern was raised about how the Town will communicate with people who do not have computers. The Mayor explained that we will continue to post information in the Post Office.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting were approved as presented without objection.

Action:

- Demolition Request 10810 Kenilworth Ave. After a short discussion, Councilmember Welch moved approval of the demolition request of the house at 10810 Kenilworth Avenue. Councilmember Paczkowski seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Variance Request 10810 Kenilworth Ave. The variance request was for relief from the required setback for the proposed new house. After discussion, Councilmember Welch moved approval of the variance request at 10810 Kenilworth Avenue as follows: The request by Jeffrey and Jennifer Perry for a 5.5 foot variance from the front setback requirements of the Garrett Park Code of Ordinances, to construct a porch on a new structure at 10810 to replace the existing residence having been considered by the Town Council, and for good cause shown, the request is hereby APPROVED as consistent with the requirements of Section 403(c) of the Code as

detailed in the attached opinion, findings of fact, and conclusions of law. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and was approved unanimously.

- Introduction of the FY 2019 Capital and Operating Budgets. The Council determined that there was no need to have a work session on the budget. Councilmember Schulp asked that the budget ordinance be amended to remove the Mayor's discretion to move money among subcategories within the Capital Budget. Councilmember Schulp moved approval of the introduction of the FY 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets with the recommended change. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Paczkowski and was approved unanimously.

Discussion:

- Removal of Tulip Poplar 10914/10916 Clermont Avenue. Mayor Benjamin reviewed the reports of six arborists providing their opinions on the condition of the tree and the impact that the sidewalk construction will have on the tree. The Mayor expressed concern that because the Department of Natural Resources advised that the tree be taken down immediately, the Town has a moral and ethical responsibility to remove the tree. Town residents spoke on both sides of the issue in an extensive discussion of removal of the tree or routing the sidewalk around the tree.

Town Manager Report:

- The Manager's report included a discussion of the process for selecting the new Town Manager. The Council decided to hire a search firm to assist with the selection of the new manager and appointed a committee of Councilmembers Welch, Schulp and Paczkowski to direct the search.
The January financial report is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment: Mayor Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 11:06 PM



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Swearingen".

Gene Swearingen, Clerk-Treasurer