



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: 8 January 2018

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Councilmembers Schulp, McClintock, Wegner and Welch. Also present were several Town residents and Ed Lincoln representing the Bugle.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

Presentations by Residents: Several residents expressed concern about the removal of a tulip poplar tree on Clermont Avenue as part of the sidewalk project. The residents believed that the tree could be saved and felt that the Town had not considered all possible options for saving the tree. Mayor Benjamin noted that design options which would avoid the tree had been considered but that none of them could stay within the Town Right of Way and adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for the slope of the sidewalk. After much discussion, the Mayor suggested that the Town would have outside arborists inspect the tree and provide their opinions on the health of the tree and what impact the sidewalk construction would have on the tree. He also agreed to have the engineers produce several engineering drawings for alternative alignments for the sidewalk and indicate the impacts of those alternatives. Those materials would be shared with the Clermont residents. He further stated that the Town will notify residents prior to any action being taken relative to the tree. The Mayor requested that the Council allow these activities to be charged to Town accounts, rather than the sidewalk project, since they are not included in existing approved sidewalk project contracts, and the Council agreed informally.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting were approved as presented without objection.

Action:

- Variance Request, 4501 Clermont Place. The owner of the property, Chris Keller, argued that the shape of the lot, the curvature of the right of way of Cambria Street and the offset of the house on the lot created peculiar and unusual circumstances for building a deck that complements the architecture of the house. The Council considered the extremely minor impact of the project as proposed to be de minimis. Councilmember Wegner moved approval of the variance request at 4501 Clermont Place; Councilmember Schulp seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Appointment of Karen Theil to the Archives Committee. Mayor Benjamin made the appointment and the Council approved unanimously.

Approval of the FY 2018 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment. Councilmember Wegner moved approval of the budget adjustment; Councilmember McClintock seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The approved FY 2018 Mid-Year Budget is attached to these minutes.

Town Manager Report: In the absence of the Town Manager, Mayor Benjamin provided the financial report for November. The Mayor also gave special recognition to the town crew for their work in clearing streets and sidewalks during the very cold and icy days of the past two weeks. The Manager's Report is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment: Mayor Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene Swearingen".

Gene Swearingen, Clerk-Treasurer