



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 June 2017

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Councilmembers McClintock, Paczkowski, Schulp, Wegner and Welch. Also present were Town Manager Swearingen, several Town residents and Margaret Soltan representing the Bugle. Also present were Boy Scouts from Troop 463 and their scout master, Kevin Driscoll.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Benjamin welcomed the Boy Scouts to the meeting. He then requested an amendment to the agenda. Instead of a single resolution regarding changes to the Registration, Nominations and Elections Article of the Town Charter, the Council must have a separate resolution to amend each section of the Charter that is changed. With that change, the Agenda was approved as modified.

Presentations by Residents: There were no presentations by residents.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting were approved as modified without objection.

Action:

- Introduction of Ordinance 2017-4: Technical Adjustment to Ordinance 2017-3, Fiscal Year Capital and Operating Budgets. The Mayor requested that the FY 2018 Budget Ordinance be amended to correct the handling of revenues received to be placed in restricted reserves. The Ordinance correction was introduced by Councilmember Wegner, seconded by Councilmember McClintock and approved unanimously. The introduced Ordinance is attached to these minutes.

- Introduction of Ordinance 2017-5 revising Chapter 8 – Traffic and Vehicles – of the Town Code to enhance the ability to respond to traffic regulation needs and to allow enforcement. Councilmember Wegner introduced the item and noted that the resolution introduces the revisions of Town Code Sections 801 through 904 which pertain to traffic and parking controls and municipal infractions. The Council discussed the code sections recommending both substantive and minor changes. After discussion among the Council members and questions from residents, Councilmember Wegner moved the introduction of Ordinance 2017-5 with additional recommended changes to Section 801(b), the addition of Section 802 (c) and other minor wording changes. The motion was seconded

by Councilmember McClintock and approved unanimously. The introduced ordinance is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Benjamin provided and reviewed a statement of principles for modifying changes to the Town charter, ordinances and procedures for Town elections. The changes being recommended to the charter and code will both clarify and improve the content of both documents. He stated that his view was that the charter represents the broad principles and the code includes the policies to expand upon and guide the implementation of the charter provisions. Once those changes are approved, procedures and regulations are developed to carry out the requirements of those documents. He also stated that under state law charter changes do not require action in two meetings, as for ordinances, but are approved by the Council in one meeting. The results of the council action is advertised in a local newspaper of general circulation. An additional period of time is required for residents to review and to allow for resident petition for a referendum.

- Resolution to Revise Article III – Registration, nominations, and Elections – of the Town Charter to bring it into alignment with current practices and to clarify the role of election Judges. The Council discussed the resolution and made suggestions for changes. After extensive discussion among council members and residents, Mayor Benjamin suggested that the discussion of this item be continued at the Council work session to be held on Saturday, June 24 and that he would provide the modified versions of all materials for that meeting including comparisons of existing and proposed versions.

- Introduction of Ordinance 2017-6 revising Chapter 2 – Elections – of the Town Code to bring it into alignment with current practices and clarify the role of Election Judges. The discussion of the Ordinance change was included in the discussion of the Charter change above and is to be continued at the Saturday work session.

Discussion

- Status of Sidewalk Project. Mayor Benjamin gave a brief update on the progress of the sidewalk project.

Town Manager's Report:

The Town Manager provided a financial report which included the Town's financial position through March of FY 2017. The Manager's Report is attached to these minutes.

Adjournment: Mayor Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 10:39 PM



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gene Swearingen', written in a cursive style.

Gene Swearingen, Clerk-Treasurer