



**MEETING OF  
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL**

**UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET**

**7:30 PM  
February 2, 2015  
MINUTES**

**AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS CALLED AT 6:30 PM TO CONSIDER MATTERS THAT RELATE TO NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO THE COMCAST/TIME WARNER FRANCHISE AGREEMENT.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: *Mayor Lenford Carey***

**Present:** Mr. Thompson, Mr. Gekas, Mr. Hess, Ms. Verrill, Ms. Sorensen, Mr. Cron, Mr. Alvarez  
**Absent:** None  
**Excused:** None

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Mr. Alvarez.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** as modified.

**Moved by:** Mr. Cron                      **Seconded by:** Mr. Alvarez  
**Yea:** 7    **Nay:** 0    **Abstain:** 0

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- The current newsletter editors do a superb job. Why would the town consider putting the newsletter out to bid when we have the best we could have now?
- A follow-up from the January 12 Council Meeting regarding the required process that Cafritz would have to follow in order to add a third commercial sign along Rt. 1. Factual information was presented showing that Cafritz can add a third sign as long as certain guidelines are followed. A copy of the resolution with this information was distributed.

**5. PERMITS**

**A. PERMIT REQUEST FOR A DRIVEWAY EXTENSION AND PATIO AND TO REPLACE EXISTING GARAGE DOORS WITH FRENCH DOORS (Fangjen Lin, 6935 Pineway) Ward 5**

**Motion:** To approve the request for a Building Permit to add a 15' x 26', 13' x 22', 18' x 21' driveway extension and an 11' x 22' patio, and to replace existing garage doors with two (2) 6' x 6' x 8' French doors, located at Lot 1 and 2, Block A, at 6935 Pineway.

**Moved by:** Ms. Sorensen  
**Yea:** 6

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson  
**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 (Cron)

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE HEROLD AND ED LEE AS SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS.** *Per Chapter 5, Section 502 (a) "Supervisor of Elections" from the Town Charter, the Mayor and Common Council shall appoint two qualified voters to the positions of Supervisors of Elections. The Supervisors shall serve for two-year terms beginning on March 1 and ending on the last day of February on the next even-numbered year. The current Supervisors of Elections are Ms. Stephanie Herold and Mr. Ed Lee.*

**Motion:** To approve the appointment of Stephanie Herold and Ed Lee as the Supervisors of Elections for the term ending March 2016.

**Moved by:** Mr. Alvarez  
**Yea:** 7

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson  
**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

## B. POLL HOURS FOR THE NEXT ELECTION

**Motion:** To approve the poll hours of operation for the Town election on Tuesday May 5, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Moved by:** Mr. Thompson  
**Yea:** 7

**Seconded by:** Mr. Gekas  
**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

## C. RESOLUTION 15-R-01 APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST OF MARYLAND, LLC.

**Motion:** To adopt resolution 15-R-01 and approve the Settlement Agreement in substantially the form attached and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess  
**Yea:** 7

**Seconded by:** Mr. Gekas  
**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

## PUBLIC COMMENT (Scope of Work for the Newsletter Editor)

- Has it been considered to have an e-newsletter instead of a printed newsletter? This would not only save costs but it could have links as well as track what materials are most interesting to the readers.
  - A. *It was determined that there are a number of town residents who do not use computers often and would prefer to receive a paper copy. The newsletter is available in a PDF format on the town website.*

## D. SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Motion:** To approve the Scope of Work for the Newsletter Editor part of a request for proposals.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Motion:** To adopt Alt. 1 (The editor is required to be a Town resident) and to strike Alt. 2 (While not a requirement to bid, residence in the Town is preferred).

**Moved by:** Ms. Sorensen

**Seconded by:** Mr. Gekas

**Yea:** 6

**Nay:** 1 (Alvarez)

**Abstain:** 0

**Note:** Correction: The newsletter in current format is an 8.5 by 11 inch size, not 8 and 54 by 11 inch size.

## **E. RESOLUTION 15-R-03 TO ADOPT A TOWN NEWSLETTER POLICY AND EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

**Motion:** To approve resolution 15-R-03 adopting a Newsletter Policy and Editorial Guidelines.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess

**Seconded by:** Ms. Sorensen

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

**Abstain:**

**Motion:** To approve the proposed amendment to replace the last sentence under II. Policy, B. Compilation and editing: Request the changes to the final draft that require significant reformatting, editions that require more pages or substantial editing will be delayed until the next months issue unless there is a compelling reason why such changes cannot wait. Any disagreements regarding such changes shall be decided by the Newsletter Review Board.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson

**Yea:** 1

**Nay:** 6

**Abstain:** 0

### **PUBLIC COMMENT: (Proposed Editorial Policy)**

- As far as the newsletter editor and printer reporting to the Mayor, what is the role of the Council? When it is exclusively reporting to the Mayor, doesn't see as much checks and balances in the process of publishing.  
*A. The Charter delegates the Mayor to be involved with Administration which includes the Newsletter editor.*
- Concerned that the Mayor will be able to make decisions and that the Council does not lose their connection to the newsletter.
- Suggested a newsletter committee which would include a Council member in order to facilitate recommendations for the newsletter.
- Limited time needs to be allowed for the Mayor or the Review Board to make critical changes. As a town citizen, would prefer to have the newsletter on time. The Editor is a

professional and should make the decisions for the newsletter. The Mayor and Council members are busy and should not be into the micro-management of the newsletter.

- Suggested having a three member committee with a Council member for editing. Putting this responsibility on the Mayor's desk could be a problem.  
A. *The Newsletter Review Board is not intended to have an editor role at all.*
- The newsletter is factual, it is not something that has editorial content. The Mayor is only looking for errors. It is always better to have more than one person to look at it.

**Motion:** To approve the proposed amendment to replace the first sentence under III. EDITORIAL GUIDELINES, E.: An author or source of content must not represent the views or opinions of others.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess                      **Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson  
**Yea:**    **Nay:**    **Abstain:**

*This motion is tabled.*

**Motion:** To approve the proposed amendment to add to the last sentence under IV. COMPLIANCE WITH EDITORIAL GUIDELINES: if the Editor cannot resolve the issue with the content source.

**Moved by:** Mr. Hess                      **Seconded by:**  
**Yea:** 7    **Nay:** 0    **Abstain:** 0

**Motion:** To adopt Alt. 2 and exclude Alt. 1 under V. NEWSLETTER REVIEW BOARD

**Moved by:** Mr. Gekas                      **Seconded by:** Mr. Hess

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Sorensen - Yea  
Ms. Verrill - Nay  
Mr. Cron - Nay  
Mr. Thompson - Nay  
Mr. Gekas - Yea  
Mr. Hess - Yea  
Mr. Alvarez - Nay

**Yea:** 3    **Nay:** 4    **Abstain:** 0

**Motion:** To adopt Alt. 1 and exclude Alt. 2 under V. NEWSLETTER REVIEW BOARD

**Moved by:** Mr. Thompson                      **Seconded by:** Ms. Verrill

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Sorensen - Nay  
Ms. Verrill - Yea  
Mr. Cron - Abstain  
Mr. Thompson - Yea

Mr. Gekas - Nay  
Mr. Hess - Nay  
Mr. Alvarez - Yea

**Yea:** 3

**Nay:** 3

**Abstain:** 1 (Cron)

**Mayor votes - Yea**

**Motion:** To approve the proposed amendment under V. NEWSLETTER REVIEW BOARD: The Newsletter Review Board should be replaced with the full Council.

**Moved by:** Mr. Alvarez

**Seconded by:**

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

**Abstain:**

**Mr. Alvarez withdrew this motion.**

**F. CHARTER CHANGE 15-CR-02 AMENDING SECTION 618, "PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS", TO ADD THE TOWN NEWSLETTER EDITOR AS A POSITION APPOINTED BY MAYOR AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Motion:** To approve the introduction of Charter Amendment 15-CR-02 to repeal and re-enact Article VI, "Finance", Section 618, "Purchasing and Contracts" of the Charter to add the Town Newsletter Editor as a professional service position to be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council.

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**Yea:**

**Nay:**

**Abstain:**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *January 12, 2015***

**Moved by:** Mr. Cron

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson

**Yea:** 6

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Note:** Mr. Alvarez was not present for this vote.

**8. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Participated in the University Park Elementary School Science Fair.
- Will be attending the Maryland Mayors Association Meeting in Annapolis.
- The town has applied for a Maryland Heritage Areas Association (MHAA) grant to create and implement a bike plan in University Park.
- The Town election will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at Town Hall.
- Reminder to file the financial disclosure statements. Candidates for election must file the statement with their petition for candidacy. Elected officials must file the statements by April 30.

- There is a Stream Committee vacancy. Mr. Tom Stickles has resigned from the committee. The Mayor invited the Committee on Public Facilities and Services to work on an appropriate resolution to recognize Mr. Stickles for his services.

## **B. COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Mr. Gekas - Stream Committee**

The Committee met on January 22, 2015. The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) met with the committee regarding planned efforts regarding storm water quality and quantity. The presentation touched on the Tennyson Road and Queens Chapel Road demonstration already permitted by the Town.

### **Ms. Sorensen - The Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure Committee**

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT** by consent at 10:00 p.m.