



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

**UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET**

**7:30 PM  
February 23, 2015  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: *Mayor Lenford Carey* at 7:30 p.m.**

**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. Thompson

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Mr. Cron

**Seconded by:** Mr. Gekas

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*(Note: Responses from Council Members or the Mayor are italicized.)*

- Resident expressed the wonderful things that University Park offers and explained in detail the issues that have occurred recently and pointed out that these incidents are not the best of University Park.
- What is the sudden need of the Mayor and some Council Members to want to change the current editors of the newsletter? As representatives of the residents, the Council should take to heart what has been expressed by the residents as a matter of importance.
- Strongly encourage the Council to award the current Newsletter Editors a contract as was recommended by a Council Member.
- Many residents do not support the proposed Charter change.
- The Newsletter is a wonderful asset to the community and this is not the time to change. Who has a contract in town? Why is it important to bid out \$ 11,000 for a Newsletter Editor, but not \$ 240,000 for trash trucks?
- A. *Council Member Hess clarified that the email that was sent out in reference to the Town trash trucks was incorrect, the trucks were competitively bid.*
- A. *The ordinance requires that any amount spent over \$10,000 be bid competitively, but the Council can waive that and has.*
- Town residents are happy with the current Editors.
- Let's be a community and not fight over this issue.
- Consider having the Town vote if they would like the current Editors to continue for another three years.

- Disappointed to hear the Mayor and some Council Members stating they know of residents who are interested in the Editors position. This is not professional.
- If a Charter amendment is made, there should be a limit on the Mayors authority to terminate contracts conditioned on Council approval.
- Written public comments made should be included in the Newsletter or posted on the Town Website.
- Newsletter Editor needs to be a Town resident.
- No Mayor or elected Town official should be the final overall Editor of the Newsletter content or grammar. The Editor should have the final say with the approval of a couple of Council Members.
- Contracts should never come due the same year as a Mayoral election.
- Articles for the Newsletter not received by the due date should not be published until the next month.
- Concerned about the involvement of the Council when hiring and firing the current Editors.
- Disappointed that this issue has been going on for so long.
- Current Editors are being mistreated.
- What has changed from the previous Editor and the current Editors?
- A. *In 2011 the amount paid for editing the Newsletter went above the \$10,000 cap established in Ordinance, above which expenditures were to go out to bid. Previous University Park Newsletter Editors have worked without a contract and they should be under contract.*
- A. *The proposed amendment to the Charter is simply to insert the words “Town Newsletter Editor” so therefore the Council gets to approve the contract. This amendment would also make it very difficult for the Mayor to fire the Editors without consulting with the Council.*
- A. *In full support of giving a contract to the current Editors.*
  - Change the \$10,000 cap to \$15,000 and the problem will be resolved.
- A. *The problem is that the \$10,000 cap is in the Ordinance.*

**Motion:** That the Council reorder the Agenda and take up consideration of item 5B before taking up item 5A and that regardless of the result of the vote on item 5B, item 5A should follow.

**Moved by:** Ms. Sorensen

**Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

## 5. CONTINUING BUSINESS

### A. TO INSTRUCT THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE INCUMBENT NEWSLETTER EDITORS

**Motion:** To approve Resolution 15-R-05. A Resolution of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of University Park to continue the contract with incumbent Newsletter Editors.

WHEREAS, the Town entered into a verbal contract with Bridget Warren and Todd Stewart to act as Editors for the Town Newsletter; and



**B. 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 as amended.

**Moved by:** Mr. Thompson    **Seconded by:** Ms. Sorensen  
**Yea:** 7                                **Nay:** 0                                **Abstain:** 0

**C. 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**  
*(Introduction)*

**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, and to provide that the Newsletter Editor serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

**Moved by:** Ms. Sorensen    **Seconded by:** Mr. Thompson  
**Yea:** 7                                **Nay:** 0                                **Abstain:** 0

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS** *(Introduction)*

**Motion:** To approve the introduction of the budget adjustments recommended by the Town Treasurer as outlined in the February 19, 2015 memo to the Mayor and Council after striking Sale of Asset and Street Rebate WSSC/WGL.

Account Name	Increase	Decrease
Prior Years Surplus	183,613	
Insurance	4,500	
Legal Fees	34,000	
Transit Costs	6,500	
Accreditation	1,000	
Gasoline – Police		1,000
Park Activities		2,000
Upkeep of Park	2,000	
Street Lights		5,000
Street Tree – Maintenance	5,000	
Fuel – Public Works		5,000
Vehicle Maintenance – PW	5,000	

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

**B. DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS RE:  
DSP-13009/05 REVISIONS**

**Motion:** To support Limited Minor Amendments to Cafritz Property DSP-13009/05, Revision to Street Lights, Reduction of Parking Spaces by 2, Expansion of Outdoor Seating, Minor Grading, and Installation of a Retaining Wall, with conditions as follows:

1. To include and support the condition from the Town of Riverdale Park to remove two trees instead of the requested three trees, and to add one light at the western end of parking lot 6A, as per revised Sheets L1-01 and 04, attached.
2. Support the addition of and change to design of streetlights and parking lot lights on condition they meet all current DSP required photometric and cut-off optic requirements.
3. That for the two trees removed, two additional trees will be planted on the acreage encompassed by this DSP.

And to direct the Mayor and Town Attorney to prepare and send a letter consistent with this motion to respond to the referral dated February 2, 2015 from Susan Lareuse, Urban Design, M-NCPPC.

**Moved by:** Mr. Alvarez                      **Seconded by:** Mr. Hess  
**Yea:** 6    **Nay:** 0    **Abstain:** 1 (Sorensen)

**C. HOUSE BILL NUMBER 376 ELECTRIC COMPANIES – VEGETATION  
MANAGEMENT – LOCAL LAW, RULE, OR REGULATION**

**Motion:** To approve the recommendations from the Committee on Trees, Parks, and the Environment supporting the legislation HB-376 in the Maryland House of Delegates and to authorize the Mayor and Town Attorney to draft and submit a letter to all appropriate state legislators stating the Town’s position.

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

**7. RESOLUTION 15-R-04 TO SUPPORT THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED  
SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR A GREEN STREETS GRANT**

**Motion:** To approve the adoption of Resolution 15-R-04 to support the Anacostia Watershed Society Application for a Green Streets Grant.

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

**8. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES: February 2, 2015**

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

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 2, 2015***

**Moved by:** Mr. Cron

**Seconded by:** Mr. Alvarez

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**10. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**A. MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Pepco Vegetation Management
- Testimony on HB 376
- Green Eggs and Ham - Cooking breakfast at UPES on March 6.
- A complaint has been received through the Maryland Attorney General's Office alleging a violation of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on November 3-6 in regards to the Council vote on the Town's position on Cafritz signage.
- The Mayor has asked County Council Member Glaros to arrange a meeting re: possible elimination of the storm water holding facility under the Whole Foods parking lot on the Riverdale Park Station (Cafritz) site.

**B. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- Ms. Sorensen - Council Committee on Policy, Rules and Municipal Structure will meet on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**C. REPORT FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY ~ *Suellen Ferguson* - No Report**

**D. REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK ~ *Tracey Toscano***

- Time to sign up for the MML Convention, which will be held on June 28 - July 1, 2015 in Ocean City, Maryland.

**E. REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER ~ *Dan Baden***

Distributed the January Financial Report

**F. REPORT ON POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES ~ *Chief Wynnyk***

Distributed the January Crime Report

**G. REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ~ *Michael Beall***

- The trucks are not ready to be put in service.
- WSSC and Washington Gas are doing work in town.
- Compost volume has increased, though fewer people are putting out compost each week. Would consider adding people to the list.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** by consent at 10:10 pm.