



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

**UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET**

**7:30 PM
April 20, 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 as modified.

Moved by: Mr. Cron

Seconded by: Mr. Gekas

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Concerned that the current budget is being discussed at different meetings. In the past, there was an opportunity for a forum and discussion with the public. It was suggested that there be a budget committee. The concern with the present budget is health care benefits. Do part time employees get health care and do the employees pay towards the benefits? When was the last time that the health care was negotiated? The town code states that an inventory is done by the treasurer every year and updated every three months. Is this information available to the public? What is the break down of legal costs for the town and where can this information be found?
- A follow up on the resident who complained about the amount of time it took for a 911 to respond to an emergency call - the response from the county was that this rarely happens and there is no apparent reason why it happened to this resident.

5. PRESENTATION: PEPCO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- A.** Vice President Jerry Pasternak and Pepco Forester Marty Lieb spoke regarding Pepco plans to prune and remove public and private trees in town.

Council will consider a special utility permit for this project at a later Council meeting.

- The reason for the work being done by Pepco is that in 2011 the General Assembly passed a reliability statute requiring the Public Service Commission, which regulates the utilities in Maryland, to adopt regulations to improve reliability.
- Trees will either be pruned or removed.
- Pepco works collaboratively with the public works director and the town arborist to reach an agreement on the scope of work for each tree.
- Trees that need attention on private property will be contacted personally by a Pepco representative. If the homeowner is not home, a door hanger will be left with contact information.
- Trees will not be removed from private property unless the homeowner gives written permission.
- Pruning of trees on private property does not require written permission.
- Cases where homeowners do not give permission to have work done on their property must be documented to the state.
- Stumps will be removed by the town.
- A tree voucher is offered for trees removed from private property or Pepco will directly plant the tree, depending on what the homeowner prefers.
- On public property, Pepco will replace every tree that is removed.
- Door hangers have been distributed to the homeowners that require work on their property.
- Letters will be mailed to every customer whether work will be done on their property or not.
- Information can be found on Pepco's website under tree trimming 101.

6. PERMITS

A. PERMIT REQUEST TO REPLACE AN EXISTING DRIVEWAY (David and Rosemarie Tully, 4320 Underwood Street) Ward 4

Motion: To approve the request for a building permit to replace an existing driveway that is 680 sq. ft. located on Lot 30, Block 23, Section 6B at 4320 Underwood Street.

Moved by: Mr. Verrill

Yea: 7

Seconded by: Mr. Thompson

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

B. PERMIT REQUEST TO DEMOLISH STAND-ALONE ONE CAR GARAGE (Paul Stolarik, 4310 Van Buren Street) Ward 4

Motion: To approve the request for a building permit to demolish and remove the stand-alone one car garage located on Lot: 25, Block: 24 at 4310 Van Buren Street.

Moved by: Mr. Verrill

Yea: 7

Seconded by: Mr. Hess

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

**C. PERMIT REQUEST TO INSTALL A DRAIN PIPE
(James Neher, 6712 41th Avenue) Ward 6**

Motion: To approve the request for a building permit to install a covered 60-foot ditch with pipe and gravel within the boundaries of the property along the north side of the house located on Lot 16, Block 38, Section 7 at 6712 41th Avenue, with the condition that the town engineer approve details of the ditch prior to construction and approve it upon completion.

Moved by: Mr. Cron

Seconded by: Mr. Verrill

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

**D. SPECIAL UTILITY PERMIT FOR CALVERT TRACT LLC RE: SIGNAL
LIGHT INSTALLATION AND ASSOCIATED SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**

Motion: To approve a special utility permit for Calvert Tract LLC to install a new traffic signal and associated sidewalk improvements at Van Buren Street and Baltimore Avenue involving some work in the town right-of-way as itemized on the permit and with the conditions as proposed.

Moved by: Mr. Cron

Seconded by: Mr. Gekas

Yea: 6

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 (Hess)

7. CONTINUING BUSINESS

**A. LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 15-O-08 Amendment of 2015 FY Budget
(Second Reading)**

The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is May 4, 2015.

Motion: To approve the adoption of Legislative Resolution 15-O-08 Amendment of 2015 FY budget to add a part time position for a bookkeeper, enabling the treasurer to take on additional duties including project management and applications for grants needed to fund infrastructure and other projects in town.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Yea:

Nay:

Abstain:

B. LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 15-O-07: Fiscal 2016 Budget (Second Reading)

Motion: To approve the adoption of Legislative Resolution 15-O-07: Fiscal 2016 Budget.

The earliest date this motion may be considered for passage is May 18, 2015.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Yea:

Nay:

Abstain:

i. PANEL OF CIVIC GROUPS

Connie Visnic, University Park Civic Association

Becky Widman, University Park Elementary School Parent Teacher Association

Kristi Janzen, Azalea Classic

Each civic group gave a brief presentation explaining their need for financial support from the town.

The town attorney said that generally when money is given to an organization, the town should request from the group a release from liability or “hold harmless.”

ii. REVIEW OF PUBLIC WORKS AND POLICE LINE ITEMS

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST THAT THE TOWN ENGAGE THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION REGARDING STORMWATER ALONG BALTIMORE AVENUE AND VAN BUREN STREET

Motion: Resolved that the mayor request that SHA design the regrading and repavement of Baltimore Avenue so that stormwater at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Van Buren run into storm drain at north side of Van Buren near intersection with 44th in conjunction with work already scheduled to be done.

Moved by: Mr. Hess

Seconded by: Mr. Thompson

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

9. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. MAYOR’S REPORT

- Arbor Day is scheduled for April 24 at UPES.
- The Anacostia Watershed Society tree planting is scheduled for April 25.
- The town is scheduled to plant trees in Ward 5 on May 2.

B. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Alvarez - The Veterans Memorial Design Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30.

C. REPORT FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY ~ *Suellen Ferguson*

None

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

- A Ward 5 candidate is pending approval from the election judges.

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

March 2015 treasurer’s report was distributed.

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

March 2015 crime report was distributed.

- Attended the Azalea Classic

- With the mayor, met with the potential buyers of the Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

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

- Electronics recycling is scheduled for next Saturday from 9:00 - 1:00 pm at University Park Elementary School.

10. ADJOURNMENT by consent at 10:00 p.m.