



**MEETING OF
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4315 UNDERWOOD STREET
7:00 p.m.
January 22, 2018
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER: *Mayor Carey*

Present: Mr. Thompson, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Hess, Ms. Verrill, Mr. Caskey, Ms. Wells, Mr. Alvarez
Absent: None
Excused: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mr. Alvarez.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: To approve the following consent agenda items.

Moved by: Mr. Thompson **Seconded by:** Mr. Alvarez
Yea: 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 2 (Caskey, Wells)

**A. BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION TO REMOVE AND REPLACE
EXISTING DRIVEWAY**

(David Caskey and Mary Engler of 6800 Pineway) Ward 5

To remove and replace 35'x 10' driveway located on Lot 6, 7 & 8 and Block E at 6800 Pineway.

**B. BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION TO MOVE TWO EXISTING
WINDOWS**

(Martha and Ed Wells of 6813 40th Avenue) Ward 6

To move two existing windows located on Lot 12, Block 38 and Section 7 at 6813 40th Avenue.

Note: Mr. Alvarez has copies of rebates through Prince George's County for permeable surfaces. Mayor Carey said that he would find a way to make this information more broadly available.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A resident encouraged the Council to consider making University Park a "Welcoming Community" or a "Sanctuary Community" and that this topic should be put on the agenda for future meetings.
- A resident stated that he does not see any gain for the Town to be labeled "Sanctuary City". He does not think the jury is out yet on what the long-term impact would be on such a designation.
- The University Park Civic Association recently handed out door hangers with upcoming events. The new membership drive for 2018 is now open for those interested in joining the Civic Association.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 18-O-01: AMENDING FY 2018 BUDGET FOR EVALUATION OF STORMWATER PLANS FOR THE LANDY PROPERTY (*Introduction*)

Motion: To introduce LR 2018-O-01 to transfer \$2,600.00 from Unreserved Undesignated to General Government Line Item G12, Engineering, to cover the cost of an engineering evaluation of stormwater plans associated with a proposal for redevelopment of the Landy Property, Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-17007, along the headwaters of Wells Run upstream from University Park, as recommended by the Development Overview Committee.

The earliest this resolution may be considered is at the February 5, 2018 Council meeting.

Moved by: Ms. Wells

Seconded by: Mr. Hess

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

B. POLL HOURS AND DATE FOR THE NEXT TOWN ELECTION

Motion: Per Section 504(a) of the Charter of the Town of University Park, to set a May 1, 2018 date for General Election in the Town — for the Offices of Mayor and Councilmembers for Ward 1, Ward 3, and Ward 7 — and to approve the poll hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Thompson

Seconded by: Mr. Schultz

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 18, 2017*

Moved by: Mr. Alvarez

Seconded by: Mr. Hess

Yea: 6

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 (Verrill)

Note: Mr. Baden agreed to follow up on the question raised at the December 18 meeting on the “Construction in Progress” line item mentioned in the Audit Report.

7. DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS

A. MAYOR’S REPORT

- The Town’s new website will be rolled out on February 8. Mayor Carey said that any corrections that need to be made on the website should be emailed to Andrea Marcavitch with a copy to Mayor Carey.

B. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Alvarez asked about the status of the Public Hearing for 4103 Underwood Street that was to be rescheduled from the canceled January 8 Council meeting. Mayor Carey said that the Public Hearing was rescheduled for the February 5 Council meeting.

Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee - Mr. Alvarez

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30 at 7 p.m.

Policy, Rules, and Municipal Structure Committee - Ms. Verrill

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 31 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Public Facilities and Services - Mr. Thompson

The Committee plans to meet in the near future to discuss the tennis court and other items.

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

No report.

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

No report.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE ~ *Chief Wynnyk*

No report.

F. REPORT FROM THE TOWN TREASURER ~ *Dan Baden*

December 2017 Treasurer's Report was distributed.

G. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS ~ *Michael Beall*

- Mr. Beall informed the Council that the wife of a Public Works employee suddenly passed away. He asked that those who could attend the funeral services would be appreciated.
- Permit applications have been submitted for the playground to the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) and are being reviewed. It appears that the process should move forward fairly smoothly.
- Permit applications for the pedestrian bridge have been submitted to DPIE and are under review.

8. TRAFFIC FORUM

A. PRESENTATION

Kimley-Horn and Associates Traffic Engineers Ed Papazian and Andy Smith gave a power point presentation of the findings and conclusions from two traffic impact studies completed this fall in University Park. The first presentation was the post-development study of traffic impacts in town of Riverdale Park Station and the second was the Sheridan Street Study (paper copies of the studies were distributed). Mayor Carey informed everyone that the Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety will review the two studies at their next meeting scheduled for January 30 and make a recommendation to the Council. Residents are encouraged to attend the Committee meeting as well as Council meetings.

Questions and comments for the Cafritz Study: (answers from traffic engineers)

- How can you tell if there is normal traffic growth vs. cut-through traffic?
If your major roadways, Adelphi and Baltimore Avenue are growing due to development, then you may see increases in traffic through town.
- Could the increase of traffic on Pineway and Route 1 on Saturday mid-day be due to the new development with cross-through traffic?
It is hard to say if Riverdale Park Station itself is the cause. It could be a multitude of factors including apps like, "Waze", "Google Maps", etc.
- Data indicates an increase of incoming and outgoing traffic at the same intersection, which happens to be at Adelphi Road, explain "cut-through traffic".
If there was a major increase in cut-through traffic, it would be evident from the traffic counts. A sizeable increase at several of the entry locations and a corresponding increase at the exit locations. The engineers just do not see that.
- The biggest percentage increase is Underwood and 44th Avenue. The reason may be residents do not want to turn left onto Van Buren any longer, so they turn left on Underwood or Wells Parkway and that is driving a lot of left turns onto very narrow streets with extra stop signs that people just go

through.

Some people will avoid Van Buren due to the signal.

- Riverdale Park Station has a lot of development left to go, are there plans to continue the traffic study in the future?
Mayor Carey said that as of now, there are no plans to continue the study, but it would be an open possibility.
- It would have been useful to make a comparison not only to the cut-through streets, but to the streets where one would not expect to see cut-through traffic.
For the purpose of this study of evaluating the effect of the shopping center on cut-through traffic, what they did was the valid methodology.

Questions and comments for the Sheridan Street Study:

- A resident asked if the sight distance of 108 feet is generous enough to measure when there is traffic.
- Has it been considered to install a traffic light at Sheridan Street and Baltimore Avenue?
State Highway Administration (SHA) does not allow for traffic signals that are close unless there is a specific reason.
- Reported traffic accidents on Sheridan Street were mentioned in the study. Is there data on the traffic accidents at the intersections of Tuckerman and Wells Parkway?
The two mentioned streets were not looked at as part of this study, but they could request this information.
- Out of the six accidents at Sheridan and Baltimore, three of the accidents had nothing to do with the intersection, one of the accidents was caused by an illegal turn, so this leaves only two accidents in a three year period, not six. It is not the Town's responsibility to protect any citizen who wants to drive poorly.
- Has there been any discussion about increasing the line of sight at that intersection as opposed to closing the street? As a resident on Tuckerman, there is extreme concern about increased traffic on the street.
No firm conclusions have been made as far as closing Sheridan Street.
- Wells Parkway and Baltimore Avenue have a history of automobile crashes where cars drive into the creek and even fatalities.
- Were residents interviewed as part of the study?
No, this was not a part of the study. There were discussions with the employees at Town Hall.
- There will be a lot of crazy traffic moving around if Sheridan Street is closed.
- Can written comments be submitted for the January 30 Committee meeting?
Mayor Carey said that comments can be sent to him and to send a copy to your Councilmember representative.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

- A resident on Clagett and College Heights noted that there is a dramatic increase of the character of traffic. An inexpensive solution could be additional signage and cars should not be routed through the neighborhood with "Waze" and "Google Maps".
- The traffic has increased very dramatically on Pineway as well as the speed and very few people stop for stop signs. The Town needs to do something so that it is not worth cutting through University Park to save time. Need an increase in police stopping cars.
- A resident on Tuckerman Street said that it would make sense to stall any decisions about Sheridan Street until the development in close proximity to University Park is completed.
- A resident on Pineway, near Amherst, is in favor of speed humps since they are effective.
- The "no left turn" on Sheridan Street is not effective. School buses, utility trucks, etc. ignore the sign daily. The intersection has always been dangerous when making a left turn from Town onto Route 1.

- A suggestion was made to use a convex mirror to help improve the vision at Sheridan Street or ask the homeowner to redirect the wall at the end of his property.
- A possibility would be blinking stop signs or cameras for those who go through the stop sign at Clagett and Clagett Pineway.
- Would like to see the study that was done with just the raw numbers of vehicles instead of percentages.
- The flashing speed sign seems to slow vehicles down. Add signs “25 mph” at the beginning of a block where there is a long straight stretch of road.
- A concern with children walking to school and traffic on the roads without sidewalks.
- The whole town has traffic problems, not only Sheridan Street.
- The study does not reflect the issue with the morning southbound cut-through in town.
- Chief Wynnyk responded to some of the comments. He pointed out that a lot of the people who run the stop signs and speed live in town. A significant number of tickets and warnings are written which requires the officers having to spend time in court and less time on the streets. He encouraged residents to continue calling him with concerns and the police department will do what they can to address this problem. He asked residents to get the tag numbers of the buses, postal workers, etc. that are speeding and he will contact their employers.
- Additional suggestions were made to slow vehicles down: no thru traffic signs, traffic circles, narrowing lanes, stop lines.
- The Town needs to work on pedestrian safety as well as the traffic issues.
- University Park needs to create a maze.
- Mr. Beall pointed out that boundary roads, Route. 1, Adelphi Road and East-West Highway, will require agreements or permissions from State Highway and or the County for potential solutions.

Mayor Carey reminded the residents that what happens next is in the hands of the Council and most importantly before that the Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety. The Committee will bring a recommendation to the Council.

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

Submitted by: _____
Lenford C. Carey, Mayor