

Town of University Park
Council Committee on Public Facilities and Services
Thursday, December 19, 2019
7:30 PM
University Park Town Hall
Meeting Notes

Present

Committee members Chair Caskey, Stephen, Morrissey; Mayor Carey; Council members Brosch, Verrill; Mike Arnold (Arnold & Arnold, LLC) Town residents Victor Stone, Brandon Murray

Agenda-Town Hall Needs Assessment discussion
Meeting Began at 7:30 pm

The Chair queried Mayor Carey about the status of the 2019 funding from a Maryland State bond included in the current budget. Mayor Carey clarified that the \$200K amount was essentially a grant, that needed a Town match of \$40K to be used for design and construction funding for the Town Hall to be spent within 7 years.

The Chair queried the Committee about the preference in the study to retain the existing building with potential renovation and/or addition as opposed to demolition and/or construction of a new structure. No one spoke in favor of the demolition and replacement option.

The discussion initially focused on the cost estimates, as put forth in the study which ranged between \$4.1 and \$4.7 million. A general consensus emerged that these amounts were unrealistic in the short term. Options were discussed such as a public/private arrangement with commercial development (would require charter changes) and location of the Public Works maintenance shop on Town property (with subsequent savings on rent and personnel time)

The discussion focused on the various needs of the Town and the general consensus was that the priority items were the Public Works Department along with improvements in accessibility.

Two important points in the discussion were:

-the Town's status as a municipality should make the County approval process easier than it would be for a private development project

-the needs assessment study was flexible enough to consider options like a phased construction schedule

The Committee agreed that this was a first step, and that more meetings were needed to assess costs and alternatives in an open, transparent process in the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9 pm