



## **Town Council Meeting Minutes**

### **December 18, 2023**

**Present:** Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Kathleen Walker, Mike Walker, Glenda Johnson, Todd Over. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar, Code Enforcement Michael Thompson.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Schomisch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda. The Mayor and Council approved the agenda as written.

#### **Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

##### **a. October 23, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes:**

- Vice Mayor Ripley asked if Dominion is the correct or if it is spelled Dominion? Councilman Walker answered that it is spelled Dominion.
- Councilwoman Walker asked if after every date under the consent agenda, should the year 2023 be added? Vice Mayor Ripley answered that when the sentence starts out, the full date is spelled out, so it is fine.
- Councilwoman Walker noted that under approval of the consent agenda in the second paragraph, there is inconsistent wording for the page numbers. For some, the number is spelled out and for others it is not. She asked that it all be worded the same.
- Councilwoman Walker stated that in paragraph 2 under consent agenda, there should be an apostrophe and s after Thompson.

##### **b. November 6, 2023 Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes:** No corrections or additions.

##### **c. November 20, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes:**

- Mayor Schomisch stated that under Present, the Town Treasurers name needs to be added. On Page 2 change "Fredy" to "Town Treasurer."
- Councilwoman Walker noticed that on page 2, paragraph 7 it is says "Mayor Walker" but it should say "Mayor Schomisch."

##### **d. December 4, 2023 Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes:**

- Mayor Schomisch stated that under Landover Hills Business Directory Presentation on line 4, the word “the” should be changed to “they.”

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Walker motioned to approve the October 23, November 6, November 20, and December 4 Meeting Minutes as amended. Councilman Williams seconded. All presented voted in favor and the Consent Agenda was approved (7-0).

### **Correspondence and Announcements**

- a. **Extra Storage Community Room Agreement:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that he and Town Manager Pazmino went to visit the community room that was built in the new storage facility by the Crestview shopping center. The room is on the first floor and is separate from the storage units, it also has its own entrance. He stated that the Town was left in charge of figuring out what to do with the community room. One use for the room could be to use it for the American Job Center Community Network. They are looking at putting job centers in municipalities and this room is a perfect space for that. Another idea for use of the space is when it is election time, the Town Hall staff can work from the community room to not interfere with the election. On December 19 at 11:30 a.m. he and Town Manager Pazmino will meet with Alonzo Washington, the director of strategic partnerships with Employ Prince Georges, which operates the network in the county.

- Councilman Walker asked if we have to furnish the room in order to use it. Mayor Schomisch answered that it is already furnished. Town Manager Pazmino stated that it also has a bathroom.

- Councilwoman Johnson asked if the room is solely ours to use at zero cost? Mayor Schomisch answered yes, it is for the community to use.

- b. **Dominium Apartments Hearing Scheduled for December 22:** Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that on Friday, December 22, there will be a hearing for the Dominium Apartments via Zoom. Mayor Schomisch will not be able to attend the hearing and asked if anyone from the Council can attend the hearing.

### **Reports**

- a. **Finance:** Town Treasurer Aguilar presented the finance report. Mayor Schomisch asked if half of the money that was paid for the playground came from ARPA funds? Mr. Aguilar answered yes.
- b. **Police Report:** Chief Liberati presented the police report. He briefly spoke on the calls for service in Town.

Chief Liberati also spoke about the hearing for the property at 6545 Annapolis Road with the County Nuisance Abatement Board. He explained how the Landover Hills Police Department presented all calls for service for loud parties at that property, and any

video/picture evidence the police had gathered. Additionally, he was allowed to bring witnesses, so he brought in Officer Lewis and a resident who lives behind the property. The Nuisance Abatement board is supposed to make a decision 15 days from the hearing date.

- c. **Code Enforcement Report:** Code Enforcement officer Michael Thompson presented the Code Enforcement report. He explained that he noticed the Smile Loft dental office had water freezing on their sidewalk a couple weeks ago, so he notified them of this issue. The owner has already taken care of the problem.
- d. **Public Works Report:** The Public Works Report was handed out in advance. Town Manager Pazmino said that Public Works Supervisor Jim Schad was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but if anyone has questions let him know and he will discuss them with Mr. Schad.
  - Councilman Over asked what the meeting with Bates was about. Mr. Pazmino answered that he was not sure. He will ask Mr. Schad tomorrow.
  - Councilman Over asked if recycling and trash collection are paid separately. Town Manager Pazmino answered that they are not paid separately, it is one fee. Councilman Over said that he noticed trash and recycling are dumped together in the same truck. Town Manager Pazmino said he will discuss this with Mr. Schad.
  - Councilwoman Walker asked if the Christmas tree lights could be fixed. She noticed the bottom of the lights on Christmas tree were not working. Town Manager Pazmino said Mr. Schad has been trying to fix them but has not succeeded.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Chief Roberts, Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department:** Chief Roberts informed the Council that the Giant on Annapolis Road is blocking the exit door with shopping carts. He went to speak to the manager about this tonight, if they are not removed, he will have the Prevention Branch go up and handle the situation.

**Town Resident Oral Grant:** Main complaint is neighbors not raking the leaves on their property. He believes this is not fair to other residents who do rake leaves in a timely manner, because the leaves end up in roads and gutters. He asked if the Town could send a notice or reminder to all residents about raking their leaves.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **6545 Annapolis Rd, Nuisance Hearing Review:** Mayor Schomisch explained that Chief Liberati already discussed this earlier in the meeting.
- b. **Christmas Lights Contest Discussion:** The Christmas Parade was postponed to Wednesday, December 20 at 6 p.m.
- c. **Adoption of Ordinance O-05-2023:** Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Landover Hills Amending the Code of the Town of Landover Hills Chapter 74, Property Maintenance, Section 7402 Lot Maintenance, to add restrictions relating to outdoor storage.

Mayor Schomisch asked if there was any discussion. Hearing no discussion, he entertained a motion for adoption. Councilman Williams moved to adopt Ordinance O-05-2023 as written. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion passed (7-0).

- d. **Adoption of Resolution R-03-2023:** A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Landover Hills Amending the Personnel Manual of the Code of the Town of Landover Hills, Section 6 Leave Policies to Incorporate Provisions regarding the Maryland Safe and Sick leave act and the Family Medical Leave Act.

**Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adopt.** Councilman Walker moved to adopt Resolution R-03-2023 as written. Councilman Over seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion passed (7-0).

#### **New Business:**

**Meeting with Prince George's County Fire Chief:** Mayor Schomisch explained that the Prince George's County Fire Chief emailed him asking to schedule a meeting in January. He is not exactly sure what the meeting will be about, but he wanted to let the Council and Chief Roberts know. Chief Roberts from the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department explained that he believes this meeting is about the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department. The County has been trying to end the volunteer program at the Landover Hills station. Chief Roberts asked for the support from the Mayor and Council to help keep the volunteer department open. The Council asked Mayor Schomisch to schedule the meeting at the Town Hall. Mayor Schomisch said he will let everyone know when the meeting will be.

#### **Adjournment:**

Mayor Schomisch called for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Over moved to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Williams seconded. All present voted aye, and the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.