



Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2024

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Council Members Kathleen Walker, Mike Walker, Glenda Johnson, Todd Over. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, and Town Attorney Karen Ruff.

Excused Absence: Councilmember Joe Williams.

Call to Order: Mayor Schomisch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department: Mayor Schomisch explained that he received a letter from the Prince George's County Fire Chief announcing that the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department would no longer have occupancy at the fire station. He contacted Councilmember Eric Olson regarding this issue. Mayor Schomisch turned the topic over to Chief Roberts with the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Roberts explained the following items:

- They will meet with their attorney tomorrow to go over their legal options;
- Compliance with the use agreement indicates the volunteer department cannot go under five volunteers;
- The number of current volunteers;
- The equipment owned by the volunteer fire department;
- What actions he has taken to bring in more volunteers.

Mayor Schomisch suggested that in order to keep the volunteer organization going, the Landover Hills volunteers can merge with another volunteer department, such as West Lanham Hills.

Chief Roberts explained if he had a crew with at least five people, then yes, he could go to West Lanham Hills station and be their second crew.

Mayor Schomisch asked Chief Roberts what is the status of the contribution that the Town had made to the volunteer department. Chief Roberts answered that it has not been allocated to anything yet and it went into their general funds. He believes it will be used to pay for their legal fees.

Councilman Walker asked what the status was of a meeting the Fire Chief suggested having with town in early December. Mayor Schomisch answered that although the town responded

affirmatively to having a meeting, no meeting was scheduled. The Council agreed that a meeting should be scheduled with Prince George's County Fire Chief to discuss this decision.

Annexation Update: Mayor Schomisch gave the floor to Town Attorney Karen Ruff.

Ms. Ruff said that last week the complete boundary survey was received. She presented the annexation resolution to the Council. The resolution proposes to increase the Town's boundaries by 17.20252 acres and to annex properties on the South side of S.R. 450 (Annapolis Rd.), which are commonly referred to as: CVS Pharmacy, Community Shopping Center, Ebenezer Church of God, Ascension Lutheran Church, the Post Office, Taco Bell, the Medical Center, Bank of America, parcel C, portions of Ardwick Ardmore Road, Buchanan Street, and Chesapeake Road.

Ms. Ruff explained the following items:

- The process and requirements of annexing
- A public notice of the annexation must be published at least twice. The first can be advertised on January 25 and the second on February 1.
- Once the annexation resolution is introduced, a letter of the annexation must be sent to the County, Park and Planning and State Planning. Additionally, a notice must be sent to all of the property owners informing them of the public hearing.
- Suggested that Town Manager Pazmino contact a city clerk who has done this type of work, to provide a template of the annexation letter.

Mayor Schomisch brought up that they need to decide when the next newsletter will go out, so that the public hearing can be advertised there.

Mayor Schomisch presented the following:

- Annexation Resolution will be introduced on January 22.
- Notices of the Public Hearing will go out on January 25 and February 1.
- The Public Hearing will be on February 20.
- A letter will go out to the property owners explaining this schedule.
- A notice will be added in the newsletter to notify Town residents.

Councilman Walker mentioned that Ascension Lutheran Church stated that they did not want to be a part of the annexation. He asked if they can be removed from the annexation list or if they will be notified of this decision. Mayor Schomisch explained that they are already in the final survey and to remove them, the town would have to pay for a new boundary survey. Vice Mayor Ripley stated that they will receive a letter explaining this decision.

The Council agreed to move forward with the annexation process as presented.

Stop Sign Camera Pilot Demo: Chief Liberati explained that the pilot start date for the stop sign cameras will be April 1-May 17, at three separate locations over a six-week period. Vice Mayor Ripley asked if the police will be able to issue tickets from the cameras. Chief Liberati

explained that not directly from the camera, but they can use the data to issue the tickets themselves, or they can use the video as evidence for tickets.

Councilwoman Walker asked how many cameras will be put out. Mayor Schomisch explained that it is one camera that will be used for two weeks at three different locations. The exact location of the cameras will be decided later.

Christmas Lights Awards: The Council discussed homes for the annual awards. Councilwoman Walker headed the discussion as she had noted home addresses during the Santa parade. The Council determined the best decorated homes were:

- 7104 Shepherd St.
- 4401 68th Ave.
- 4605 72nd Ave.
- 4216 71st Ave.
- 4111 Fairfax St.

Each winner will receive a \$25 check.

2024-2025 Budget Schedule: Mayor Schomisch said it is time to begin discussing the next fiscal year budget. He explained that at the next Council Meeting, the Town Treasurer will present the six-month financial update. Additionally, he stated that it is also time for the evaluations of the Town Manager and Chief of Police.

Chief Liberati asked what date they want to do the evaluations. Mayor Schomisch suggested doing it the first workshop in February.

Additional Comments:

Mayor's Scholarship: The Council discussed making the Mayor Scholarship available in the upcoming newsletter. Mayor Schomisch stated that he received an email from a college freshman asking if they qualify for the scholarship. The Council decided that yes, college freshman can apply for the scholarship as well.

Town Manager Pazmino asked what is the amount of the scholarship? Mayor Schomisch answered \$1,000.

Councilwoman Johnson asked how many scholarships are given out? Mayor Schomisch answered usually around two scholarships.

Long-term Lane Closure Veterans Parkway: Mayor Schomisch informed the Council that on or about February 5 the north bound lane of Veterans Parkway will become a single lane heading north due to Purple Line construction.

Preapplication for Neighborhood Meeting: On January 30 there will be a meeting at the Cheverly Community Center to discuss the redevelopment of the old Prince George's Hospital building.

Dedication Ceremony: Councilwoman Walker brought up having a dedication ceremony this spring or summer for the mural and new playground. Town Manager Pazmino stated he understood the Town was going to wait until the LED entrance signs were completed.

Guest Speaker: Former Landover Hills Mayor Lee Walker addressed the Council concerning the Town's Veterans' Day Ceremony. He noted the speaker for the ceremony revolves between the U.S. Military Services and that this year, the speaker should represent the U.S. Army. Mayor Walker volunteered to help the Town secure a speaker for this year's ceremony.

Adjournment: Mayor Schomisich adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.