



Council Workshop Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Todd Over, Mike Walker, Glenda Johnson and Kathleen Walker. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, and Town Assistant Jackie Villela.

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

MML Preliminary Program: Mayor Schomisch explained that there is finally an agenda for the Fall Maryland Municipal League Conference. He provided a copy for all to review. The meeting will be held in College Park from October 15 through October 17.

Personnel Manual Section 6 (Leave Policies) Review: Town Manager Pazmino explained that in the past, employees have been able to cash out any extra annual leave they have at the end of the year. For most employees, this would exceed the 40 hours that is stated in the personnel manual. He would like to change the personnel manual to allow employees to cash out up to 80 hours of annual leave, if their accrued leave exceeds the 240 hours that can be carried over. After a discussion, the Council decided to leave the personnel manual leave policy as written, but to allow employees to cash out up to 80 hours for this year only. The Council asked Town Manager Pazmino to give all employees a written notice explaining that starting January 2024, they will only be able to cash out up to 40 hours of accrued annual leave at the end of the year.

Dominium Apartments Traffic Study Letter Review: Mayor Schomisch explained that he included all the suggestions that the Council made for the traffic study letter. A copy of the edited letter was provided for all to review. He also included a cover letter for the County and the State. Additionally, Town Manager Pazmino created a bulleted list, per the request of Councilman Over. The Council reviewed each document and made corrections/additions. Mayor Schomisch stated he would edit the letter to include all of the items discussed today. He hopes to have a clean copy to sign at the following Council Meeting.

Mayor Schomisch asked what should be included in the packet; the bullet list, letter and cover letter? Or just the bulleted list and cover letter? The Council stated they would like all three documents included. Mayor Schomisch also asked who in the County do we want to send the letter to? Vice Mayor Ripley suggested sending the letter to Park and Planning.

Town Code Chapter 6 (Animal Control) Review: Town Manager Pazmino explained that at the previous meeting, Councilwoman Johnson asked to add an item regarding the number of pets

allowed in Town Code Chapter 6: Animal Control. Councilwoman Johnson explained that she actually wanted to look at the nuisance section of Chapter 6, which is not included in the council packets. Mr. Pazmino said he thought a good place to add regulations, like the number of pets allowed, would be under section 612: Additional Dog Regulations. Regarding the nuisance section, Mr. Pazmino explained that it does mention that the number of animals could be considered a nuisance, but there is no specified number. So, if the Council wanted to add something about the number of dogs or cats, he thinks the best place would be in section 612. Mayor Schomisch asked if the Council could get a copy of Nuisance Section 603 in order to understand what he is referring to.

Councilwoman Walker asked who enforces the animal control, is it Public Works? Chief Liberati answered that generally it is enforced by Prince George's County Animal Control, but the Landover Hills Police Department is able to write tickets for dogs at large. Councilwoman Walker asked who she would call if she heard a barking or whining dog. Chief Liberati said she could call him, and he would send an officer. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she was looking at other municipalities code and some do include the number of animals allowed in a household. Mayor Schomisch asked if she could provide copies of those Codes to Town Manager Pazmino.

Councilwoman Walker asked if the case of the resident with several dogs is still open. Mr. Pazmino explained that Town Code Enforcement Officer Mike Thompson has been handling that case. Additionally, he explained that Mr. Thompson and Chief Liberati went to the property of the resident who complained to take pictures. They did not notice any particular odor or hear barking dogs, but they did notice a small amount of dog feces in the backyard. Mr. Thompson has already sent a letter to the resident to clean the debris in the backyard. It is his understanding that the resident is now in the process of getting a hobby license. Vice Mayor Ripley explained that the resident had a hobby license, but it expired. Councilwoman Johnson said she would still like to look at the nuisance code.

The council decided to review the entire Chapter 6: Animal Control at the November Workshop. Once they have discussed all the corrections, they will send them to the Town Attorney.

Veteran's Day Ceremony: Mayor Schomisch explained that he and Councilman Williams are planning the Veteran's Day Ceremony. It is going to be a wreath laying ceremony at 11 a.m.

National Night Out: Chief Liberati reminded the Council that this Friday, October 6, will be Night Out from 5-7 p.m. At 7:30 there will be two movies; "Charlie Brown It's the Great Pumpkin" and "A Muppets Haunted Mansion." Additionally, the Faith & Blue blood drive will be at Iglesia Roca de la Eternidad from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall Clean-Up Update: Town Manager Pazmino informed the Council that Town Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, October 21, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be five dumpsters in the parking lot. Mayor Schomisch added that ID's will be checked, and the dumpsters will be delivered the day before. Public Works will use their trucks to block off the parking lot overnight.

Adjournment: Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Walker moved to adjourn the meeting and Councilman Over seconded. The October 2, 2023, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.