Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

Town Council Meeting: 9 September 2013

Final Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Benjamin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Council members Chantry, Flynn, Schulp, Wegner and Welch. Also present was Town Manager Swearingen and numerous residents.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Benjamin asked for approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved without objection.

Presentations by Residents: Members of the state legislative delegation presented a Certificate of Congratulations from the General Assembly commending the Town for its efforts in being selected as a grantee of the Safe Routes to School program.

Charles Snyder, Chair of the Archives Advisory Committee, spoke in behalf of a budget request being made by the committee. The request is for an additional $10,000 for staffing and equipment. Other residents spoke in favor of the budget request. The request was forwarded to Councilmember Chantry for consideration.

Jim Agenbroad requested that the Town Council support his complaint that the Swimming Pool Association is violating its lease with the Town due to excessive noise thereby causing a public nuisance. He further requested that the Council hold a hearing on the issue. Mayor Benjamin stated that the Council would consider the request.

Barbara Jackson, noted the deer population in town is excessive. She requested that the Town Council pass an ordinance making it illegal to feed deer within the town. Councilmember Schlupe, liaison to the Parks and Open Space Committee volunteered to work with Ms. Jackson on the problem.

Approval of Minutes: the minutes of the July 8 meeting were approved without objection.

Action

Schedule Public Hearing dates for Safe Routes to School Project.
Mayor Benjamin brought the Council up to date on the status of the safe Routes to School grant and requested the Council set the date of Monday, September 23 for the first of several grant hearings to inform the residents of all issues related to the grant project. Mayor Benjamin noted that the Town Council authorized the application for the Safe Routes to School Grant to build sidewalks though some portions of town to make walking safer for school children. We are now in the very beginning of the grant acceptance process. It is possible that we may not accept the grant once all the issues around the project are known. If we do move forward with the grant acceptance, no sidewalks will be built on private property.
Mayor Benjamin and Town Manager Swearingen will attend a grant information meeting on September 18 and will share all the documentation we receive through the town web site. We do not expect to have much information from this first meeting. We also know that there will be many issues to clear over the coming months. It will be a long process – the Council will make it as open and cooperative as possible.

Discussion

- Construction Program Update. Council member Wegner provided a status report on the project to repair and re-pave certain streets in Town. We asked Chester Engineering to review any possible overlap between this project and the Safe Routes to School project to determine whether they might be put together. It was determined the Safe Routes to School Project was going to be delayed for many months and that we did not want to delay the street repair work.
  There was also some concern about certain streets including Cambria that were left off of this project list. We used a scale of 1 through 6 with 6 being the streets in worst condition. For this project we will work on streets in the 4, 5 and 6 categories. Cambria was not considered to be at that level of disrepair.
  We hope to make a rapid decision on the bids and have the work done in the fall. Mayor Benjamin suggested that it may be the spring construction season before the work can start.

  The Request for Bids on the project was sent out to about a dozen potential bidders in mid August. The bids are due on September 26. Engineering for the project is being conducted by Chester Engineers. They are gathering data on the condition of streets and will use that information to develop an RFP for bidders on the work. Council member Schulp asked about including part of Cambria Avenue in the work to be done. Council member Wegner said that he will discuss it with Chester Engineers.

New Business

The Town Manager's Report. The Town Manager's report is attached.

The FY 2013 End of Year Financials. The report and cover memo are attached. Mayor Benjamin told the Council that the staff is still working on closing the FY 2013 books because of discrepancies that have been found with prior year numbers that impact the 2013 numbers. The final numbers will be presented to the Council at the October meeting.

Monthly Financial Report. The report will be presented once the FY 2013 End of Year Report is completed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Swearingen, Clerk-Treasurer