

OFFICIALS TOWN OF TAKOMA PARK, Md. YEAR 1933-1934.

Mayor ⁺Lewton
Councilmen Adams
Conger
Boyer
Remsen
Sherburne
Taft

COMMITTEES

Civic Imp. Mr. Boyer, Chairman
Health ~~Mr. Remsen~~ *Adams*

Finance Mr. Adams, Chairman,
Mr. Conger, Vice Chairman
Mr. Taft.

Streets Mr. Remsen, Chairman
Mr. Boyer.

Polide Mr. Sherburne

Fire,
Light Mr. Conger

Ordinance Mr. Taft, Chairman
Judiciary Mr. Sherburne

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TOWN OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.
June 20, 1932

The Council met at 8:00 o'clock.

There were present the Mayor and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne and Ware.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Clerk and were approved.

The regular monthly report of the Treasurer, examined and approved by the Finance Committee was read and on motion of Mr. Rogers was received and filed.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Viereck and Mr. J. D. Coffman, residing on Philadelphia Avenue, requested the construction of a culvert across Holly Avenue, west of Philadelphia Avenue, in order that said street may be filled and extended to Philadelphia Avenue. Request referred to the Street Committee.

Communications and petitions were presented and acted upon as indicated, as follows:

From Mr. C. E. Mallory, 262 Maple Avenue, relative to conditions at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues resulting from recent heavy rains. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. H. E. Dodge relating to the same matter; referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. Emil Kreutzer relative to conditions on Tulip Ave. caused from the culvert under that street being too small to carry the water draining the Fern Street underpass which has been drained into the stream via Eastern Avenue. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. Ross Farrar, 14 Elm Avenue, relative to the construction of gasoline station within 1000 ft. of his property. Referred to the Civic Improvement Committee.

From Mr. C. R. Wilcox calling attention to a waste incinerator, simulating a tree trunk, a product of local manufacture, intended for and adaptable for burning refuse accumulating on public parks and streets which he thinks would be desirable for local use. Referred to the Civic Improvement Committee.

A petition presented by Mr. Walter Prichard requesting the paving of Buffalo and Albany Avenues. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. J. N. Houck requesting the grading of Sligo Mill Road. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. J. F. Noonan, 318 Cedar Avenue, requesting construction of a culvert to prevent his property from being washed away by the rains. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. Rufus Shenk, Elm Avenue, requesting immediate repair of street drain across Elm Avenue to prevent the destruction of his property. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mrs. W. J. McDaniel, 6625 Eastern Avenue, urging extension of the safety fence on Eastern Avenue, between Ash Avenue and Whittier Street, and requesting that Eastern Avenue in this section be oiled. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mrs. W. J. McDaniel, 6625 Eastern Avenue, complaining of grading on the property of her neighbor which results in drainage waters from his property flowing upon her lot and damaging it. Referred to the Ordinance and Judiciary Committee.

From Mrs. C. E. Siegler, 115 Cedar Avenue, requesting repair of a block of cement sidewalk adjoining her property. Referred to the Street Committee.

From J. N. Romm, requesting that Eastern Avenue be graded and repaired. Referred to the Street Committee.

A petition signed by R. Houston Jones and other residents on Philadelphia Avenue requesting that immediate steps be taken to construct a storm sewer along Cedar Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue to care for the increased storm water resulting from recent improvement of Saratoga Avenue and the Fern Street underpass. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Dr. Llewellyn Jordan relative to the unkempt condition of the North Takoma Parks, the unshown, waist high grass on the park area adjacent to the B. and O. tracks and along the sidewalks on Takoma Ave.; also calls attention to the occupancy of the North Takoma train shed by tramps during the night and indorses the petition for improvement of Buffalo and Albany Avenues. Referred to the Civic Improvement Committee.

From the Takoma Park Community League transmitting letters and resolutions concerning the construction of a sidewalk on the bridge across the B. and O. railroad right of way in North Takoma. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. C. A. May, 201 Baltimore Avenue, requesting that existing drainage conditions through

Brashears Avenue be remedied. Referred to the Street and Health Committees.

From W. S. Clark and other residents along Domer Avenue requesting installation of street lights and grading and surfacing of that street. Referred to Street and Police, Fire and Lights Committee.

From John Deeb and other residents along Westmoreland Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets calling attention to the almost impassable condition of that street and requesting relief. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. J. Edward Fowler calling attention to the deplorable condition of South Lincoln Avenue and asking for immediate relief. Referred to the Street Committee.

From Mr. W. E. Offutt, Sanitary Inspector of the Montgomery County Health Department calling attention to an inspection made by him of the hog farm near White Oak where the Town of Takoma Park garbage is disposed of. Conditions there have been complained of by people living in the vicinity and Mr. Offutt does not think the operator of the place can abate the nuisance on account of financial circumstances. States that he has given him until the 23rd of June to make satisfactory disposal of garbage, failing which hauling of the garbage to this farm will be stopped. Town is being notified so as to make other arrangements for disposal of the garbage if found necessary. Referred to the Health Committee.

From the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Martin Iverson, President, stating that the Trustees have voted to request the Council to appropriate \$600 to the Department for the employment of a superintendent of the fire department building; that if favorably considered the employment of Mr. E. E. Blodgett for this position is recommended in case he is relieved from his duties as police officer. Referred to Police, Fire and Lights Committee.

Mr. Rogers, from the Finance Committee, presented bills examined and approved by the Committee, amounting to \$667.25 and on his motion the bills were ordered paid.

Mr. Adams, from the Finance Committee, moved that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to open an account with the Citizens Bank of Takoma Park. The motion was carried.

Mr. Iverson, from the Health Committee, stated that efforts were being made to improve conditions at the hog farm where the town garbage is disposed of so as to overcome the objections of neighbors and the

County Health Department. He stated that the apparent neglect of the North Takoma Parks will have prompt attention through the Park and Planning Commission.

Mr. Remsen from the Street Committee, submitted detailed report of routine work during the past month. The paving of Hodges Lane and Holly Avenue has been completed and the streets opened to traffic.

The Committee recommends approval of the request of Captain C. L. Boyer to use the Municipal Building for the storage of the small floats used in the annual Fourth of July celebrations upon condition that the Town assumes no responsibility for the safety thereof. Recommendation approved.

Mr. Remsen presented the written application of Mr. R. L. Houston Jones requesting that Major Fischer and the Town force be permitted to construct a culvert through the rear of his property at Chestnut and Philadelphia Avenues to join the culvert across Chestnut Avenue now being constructed by the county, Mr. Jones agreeing to reimburse the Town for the time of the Town force. Mr. Jones requested also that should the Town in the future extend this storm sewer across adjacent properties on a prorata expense to the Town that he be refunded his proportionate share upon the same basis as applied to the adjoining properties. The Committee recommended that the request be complied with upon the conditions set forth. The recommendation was approved.

The Committee recommended that the purchase of a new truck at approximately \$645.50 with an allowance of \$55 for the old one, be approved and authorized. Recommendation approved.

Mr. Ware from the Committee on Police, Fire and Lights, presented bills for repairing of lights at the foot-bridge on Carroll Avenue and of the Fire Marshal for \$6.00, all of which were ordered paid on motion of Mr. Adams.

On recommendation of the Committee it was directed that the Police, Fire and Lights Committee be authorized to cooperate with the Fourth of July Celebration Committees and be granted authority to take such action in behalf of the Mayor and Council as may be deemed necessary in the interests of the celebration.

Mr. Ware submitted to the Council written applications from Mrssrs. Grant Benton and W. A. Dowling for appointment as police officers which were ordered filed for future reference.

Mr. Ware, for the Police, Fire and Lights Committee submitted the following recommendations: That C. Earle Thomas and Albert M. Thomas be appointed as police officers at a salary of \$100 per month; that the purchase of uniforms and other necessary equipment for the three Town police officers be authorized at a cost of \$119.70. The recommendations were ap-

proved on motion of Mr. Remsen.

Mr. Ware submitted the following roster of special officers: Wm. F. Fischer, Supt. of Public Work; Oscar W. Scherger, Fire Marshal; E. E. Blodgett, Building Inspector and at-large; A. B. Joseph, Bliss School; David Cruze, Howard Drew, Washington Sanitarium; W. H. Evans, Wildwood, at-large.

On recommendation of the Police, Fire and Lights Committee, new street lights were authorized as follows: on pole No. 72439, Jefferson Avenue, northeast of Philadelphia Avenue; on pole No. 7445, Philadelphia Avenue, southeast of Takoma Avenue.

Mr. Sherburne, from the Ordinance and Judiciary Committee, relative to the resignation of J. Bond Smith as Corporation Counsel reported that since the term of town officers automatically terminate with the expiration of the period for which appointed there can be no reasonable excuse for the Council taking any action. The committee recommended, however, that the Council be guided by Mr. Smith's wishes expressed in his letter of resignation when selecting a corporation counsel for the ensuing year.

Mr. Sherburne for the Ordinance and Judiciary Committee recommended that the Mayor be authorized to employ competent legal counsel until a permanent Corporation Counsel be accepted as submitted which motion was carried.

Mr. Sherburne moved that orders for work to be done by any of the Town Departments shall be written in duplicate on small cards by the Town Clerk and one copy to be presented immediately to the proper Department; upon completion of the work so ordered the department head or the party having charge of the work shall write on the back of the card the disposition which has been made and sign his name. The card so signed shall be returned immediately to the Town Clerk and filed with the original copy in a file provided for the purpose. At each meeting of the Council the Town Clerk shall read all cards calling for work, if the work has not been carried out during the month. These cards shall be read before the Chairman of each committee gives his report and disposition of same entered in the minutes of the meeting. The motion was carried.

Mr. Adams from the Civic Improvement Committee moved that the resignation of Mr. J. Bond Smith as Town Delegate to the Montgomery County Civic Federation be accepted. The motion was carried and Mr. R. G. Sherburne elected as Delegate in Mr. Smith's place.

Mr. Adams moved that the purchase of five incinerators for use in public places be authorized. The motion was carried.

There being no further business the Council,
at 10:15 p. M. adjourned.

Bryan Davis,

Clerk.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TOWN OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.
July 9, 1932

At a special executive meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Takoma Park, Maryland, called by the Mayor and held at the Office of the Town Clerk and Treasurer on the above date, convening at 8 o'clock, there were present the Mayor, and Councilmen Adams, Iverson, Remsen, Rogers, Sherburne, and Ware, and Town Clerk and Treasurer, Bryan Davis, and Mr. D. N. Burnham of D. N. Burnham and Co., the firm engaged in auditing the Town books.

After the roll call the Mayor stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of receiving a preliminary report from the auditors. He also stated that Mr. Ben G. Davis, former Mayor of the Town, was requested to be present, but apparently had a previous engagement.

Mr. Burnham, at the request of the Mayor, proceeded to outline briefly from his notes and worksheets the result of his audit to date.

He stated as follows:-

That the audit was begun by his staff on May 16, 1932.

That on May 17, 1932 one of the Town records, namely the Special Improvements Cash Book was missing from the Office, and that it was among the records the day previous. That this fact was reported to Mr. Ben G. Davis, who was then Mayor. Every effort to locate the book on the part of the Mayor, the Town Clerk and others who had access to the Office, including the auditors who joined in the search, failed to disclose its whereabouts.

That the entries of "taxes paid" in the General Tax Book, which did not appear in the General Tax Day Book, amounted to \$2365.80.

That errors in addition in the Day Book disclosed a liability of the Treasurer amounting to \$1909.79.

That \$202,000.00 was collected by the Treasurer on account of Special Improvements.

That the ledger cards of the Special Improvements Account re

provements Account revealed credits for payments of but \$194,000.00.

That approximately three hundred (300) ledger cards were missing from the Special Improvements Ledger File, and that some few had been found at various places around the office.

That approximately \$18,000.00 was received by the Treasurer for Special Improvements for which there were no records or cards.

That many entries in the Day Book and a number of page totals disclosed evidence of erasures and changes in figures and totals, amounts that had been checked, approved and initialed by members of the Finance Committee of the Town Council.

That about \$37,000.00 remained unpaid on Special Assessments.

Mr. Bryan Davis was then asked to and given an opportunity to explain these discrepancies, but stated that he would offer no explanation until the audit was complete - that probably the amounts not accounted for under General Taxes were erroneously entered in the missing book.

Mr. Remsen moved that the Treasurer, Bryan Davis, be suspended until the termination of the audit. All members of the Council voted "yes" except Mr. Iverson, who did not vote.

Mr. Ware moved that the developments of this preliminary report, as well as the transaction of this executive meeting of the Council, be held in strictest confidence. Passed without dissent.

It was decided to move the Town Office at once and that as soon as possible business be resumed at the Fire House.

Mr. Sherburne offered to the auditor the use of his office at the Bliss Electrical School for the continuance of the audit. The Mayor thereupon took charge of the Tax, Cash, and minute Books of the Treasurer.

Mr. Adams moved that Mr. Rogers be made Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Sherburne. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Adams offered the Mayor and Council his assistance in the clerical work of the Assistant Treasurer. The offer was accepted.

Mr. Remsen moved and Mr. Rogers seconded the

motion, empowering the Mayor to employ legal counsel for advice in connection with the irregularities disclosed by the audit.

The Council then adjourned.

JNO. R. ADAMS
Clerk, Pro tem.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TOWN OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND.
July 18, 1932

The Council met at eight o'clock in the Fire House.

The following were present: Mayor Lewton, John R. Adams, I. H. Ware, R. G. Sherburne, M. F. Iverson, P. Remsen, H. E. Rogers.

Bills were presented, approved by the Finance Committee, amounting to \$1,679.49, and by vote, payment was ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Communications and Petitions were presented as follows:

C. C. Pulver, regarding storm water above Carroll Avenue Bridge. Referred to Street Committee.

From A. L. Wilson, regarding curb at 320 Spring Street, referred to Street Committee.

From W. W. Swett, 212 Maple Avenue, regarding the parking of Autos on Maple Avenue, referred to Police Committee.

E. C. Molander, of Chaney Terrace, regarding the refuse dump on Chaney Terrace, referred to Health Committee.

W. J. McDaniel, 6625 Eastern Avenue, regarding the Potomac Electric light pole, making it difficult to secure entrance to his driveway, referred to Police Committee.

H. E. Jenkins, 104 Carroll Avenue, regarding dust on Chaney Terrace. Referred to Street Committee.

W. A. Mellen, regarding condition on Sligo Mill Road; Mr. Remsen to report later.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

The Street Committee submitted a report in which they reported regarding the work done, in response to requests received at the former monthly meeting.

The report of the committee recommended that they be authorized to **expend** \$200 from their budget to install proper culvert to Brashears Avenue, installing it in such a way as to **cover** the pipe without causing

inconvenience to adjoining properties, or the damaging of any trees in the property of the Town. This recommendation, was, by vote, approved.

The report also recommended the purchase of a Ford Truck for the sum of \$615.15. This report was also adopted.

Regarding the request of A. L. Wilson to lay a curb at 320 Spring Street, the committee recommended that permission be granted Mr. Wilson to lay this portion of the curb, and to approve such apron to sidewalk as may be necessary at his own expense, and under the supervision of the Public Works, and that Mr. Wilson be notified of this action.

POLICE, FIRE AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE

The Police, Fire, and Lighting Committee recommended that a pole be installed, pole number 76655, on Domer Avenue, at an annual rental of \$19.95. This recommendation was approved by vote of the Council.

The Committee also recommended that signs be erected on Maple Avenue, that for a period of sixty days, parking be prohibited on the West side of that Avenue, from the District line to Philadelphia Avenue. This was likewise approved.

Mr. Ware reported that since June 1 to July 15, the department had received eighty complaints, involving the loss of children, suicides, stolen autos, etc. These have been cared for.

REPORT OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Civic Improvement Committee reported regarding the use of the building at 405 Tulip Avenue as a garage. This street has been zoned as residential, this business, of course, is now being conducted at that point.

Mr. J. A. Stevens and Mr. G. A. Goodman, 500 and 502, Tulip Avenue, spoke in opposition to this business being carried on in a residential district. The Mayor was instructed to address a letter to the Zoning Commission, requesting them to take some action in the matter, stating that the Council protested against the granting of permission for such use.

Mr. Adams reported that the playground at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues was opened July 1, with a competent instructor. In the past eleven days, two of which were rainy, there were over four hundred children present.

The Town has purchased thorough athletic equipment, and this is proving to be a valuable asset to

the Town.

Mr. Adams reported that Spring Park at Elm and Poplar Avenues has been cleaned up, and an incinerator installed there, and the people have learned to burn their refuse in this.

The same is true with reference to the Park at Prince Georg's and Elm Avenues.

REPORT OF HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee, through Mr. Iverson, reported with reference to the Town dump, and stated that Major Fischer has promised to do the necessary work with reference to keeping it in sanitary condition.

The dump at Chaney Terrace will probably be closed in another year, but the complaint occurring to Mr. Molander's land, would be taken care of.

STOP SIGNS TO BE ERECTED ON TULIP AVENUE

On motion of Mr. Sherburne, it was voted that stop signs be erected on both sides of Tulip Avenue, at the street intersection, and that Willow Avenue become a through street.

Meeting at 9:15 o'clock adjourned.

F. L. LEWTON, CHAIRMAN

H. E. ROGERS, SECRETARY
pro tem.