

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
January 11, 1970

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mayor Miller | City Administrator Pridgen |
| Councilman Eppes | Corporation Counsel Gingerich |
| Councilman Forshee | City Treasurer Turner |
| Councilman Hutmire | Deputy Fire Chief Fickes |
| Councilman Nishimoto | Police Captain Porter |
| Councilman Roth | Dir. of Public Works Rhodes |
| Councilman Sidell | Dep. Dir. Public Works Barile |
| Councilman Webb | |

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland convened in Executive Session at 8:00 PM, January 11, 1971, in the Municipal Gymnasium, 7201 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Mayor Miller led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He called for a motion to waive reading of the minutes of the last meeting if there were no corrections or additions. Motion was made by Councilman Sidell, seconded by Councilman Eppes and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: City Administrator Pridgen reporting

1. Walter A. Scheiber, Executive Director, COG, Washington, D. C. Request to consider legislation to provide special parking privileges for severely handicapped drivers. Law Enforcement Committee
2. William B. McKinney, Montgomery County Revenue Authority, Rockville. Request for Mayor and Council approval of proposed structure of Takoma Towers applicant screening committee. Council Files
3. Carl W. Hassell, Superintendent, Prince George's County Public Schools, Upper Marlboro. Invitation to attend Board of Education bi-monthly meetings (one meeting to be held during the day on the second Tuesday of each month, and an evening meeting the fourth Thursday of each month); procedure for submitting material to or appearing before Board. Council Files
4. Kathryn T. Simpson, Chairman, Community Improvement Board, City. Resignation from TESS Citizens' Advisory Council and suggestion for successor. Housing and Code Enforcement Committee; Planning and Zoning Committee*
5. Leslie D. Adams, Recording Secretary, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., City. Season's greetings to the Mayor and Council. Council Files
6. Alfred P. Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue, City. Complaint regarding abandoned cars at the Winchester-Takoma. Housing and Code Enforcement Committee**

*Mayor Miller expressed regret that Mrs. Simpson cannot continue work with the Council

**The City Administrator stated that this matter has been reported to the Police Department who will take care of it.

MINUTES, continued

January 11, 1971

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS OF 12-31-70: City Treasurer Turner reporting

SUBURBAN TRUST--GENERAL FUND

Balance as of November 30, 1970	26,465.05	
December receipts	<u>139,915.03</u>	166,380.08
December disbursements		<u>130,660.64</u>
Balance as of December 31, 1970		<u>35,719.44</u>

SUBURBAN TRUST CO.--PAYROLL ACCOUNT

Balance as of November 30, 1970	14,362.16	
Transfers from General Funds	<u>85,583.33</u>	99,945.49
December disbursements		<u>84,849.97</u>
Balance as of December 31, 1970		<u>15,095.52</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND--GENERAL FUND

Balance as of November 30, 1970	211.31	
No transactions during December	--	<u>211.31</u>
		<u>211.31</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MD.--SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FUND

Balance as of November 30, 1970	448.69	
No transactions during December	--	<u>448.69</u>
		<u>448.69</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MD.--PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND

December deposits	750,095.83	750,095.83
Trans. to Trust A/C & Charges		700,006.89
Balance as of December 31, 1970		<u>50,088.94</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND--SAVINGS A/C TP63

Balance as of November 30, 1970	147.81	
Interest to date	<u>1.65</u>	149.46
Balance as of December 31, 1970		<u>149.46</u>

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK--GENERAL FUND

Balance as of November 30, 1970	17,005.29	
No transactions during December	--	<u>17,005.29</u>
Balance as of December 31, 1970		<u>17,005.29</u>

PETTY CASH

200.00

U. S. TREASURY BILLS

Purchased:	Due to mature:	Cost	Maturity Value
10-1-70	2-18-71	48,882.78	50,000.00
10-1-70	3-4-71	48,732.92	50,000.00
9-16-70	4-22-71	48,058.00	50,000.00
9-23-70	4-30-71	48,196.53	50,000.00
9-23-70	5-31-71	95,795.83	100,000.00
10-22-70	6-30-71	<u>95,778.89</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
		385,471.95	400,000.00

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND

Certificates of Deposit @ 5.25% interest 700,000.00

MAYOR MILLER'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Miller welcomed those present at the first meeting of the new year and expressed the hope that everyone would enjoy a happy, healthy and prosperous year. He also thanked everyone for their support during the past year and asked that citizens continue to show an interest in their community government with constructive criticism and new ideas, both of which help to improve the quality of government. He reminded the audience that the City government is the biggest business in Takoma Park and they, as taxpayers, are its stockholders, and urged them to attend Council meetings and express their opinions, discontent, etc., since this is the only way Council has of knowing their wishes. In this way both the citizens and Council are better informed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Joseph G. Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue, City. Mr. Ferrier stated that Mr. Ernest Wolfe has given up the presidency of the local NARCE chapter and he now occupies that post. However, Mr. Wolfe will continue his activities on behalf of the group and asked that Council be made aware of the fact that Group Health Association and Co-op are supporting his efforts to build another apartment house for senior citizens and a community-owned, nonprofit nursing home in the Takoma Park area.

Mr. Ferrier stated that though he appreciates the attention given his plan for a crosswalk on Maple Avenue near Sherman and understands the reasons for its rejection, the dangers for pedestrians at this spot still exist. He proposed that Council consider installation of pushbutton lights at Sherman and across Maple by the driveway of one of the big apartment buildings. Mayor Miller referred his proposal to the Law Enforcement Committee.

Snow has not been removed from sidewalk in front of the PEPCO station on Maple Avenue, Mr. Ferrier stated, and requested that they be made aware of problems it creates for school children as well as adults who must use the walk. Mayor Miller asked the Public Works Committee to check into the matter.

2. Alan B. Thornton, 1104 Kingwood Drive, City. Mr. Thornton stated that he represents a group of parents who are opposed to the transfer of students resulting from realignment of school boundaries in Prince George's County. The students involved are presently in Nicholas Orem Junior High School and would be transferred next year to the Rolling Crest school. He read a letter from the Supervisor of Pupil Accounting notifying parents of the reassignment, and presented the Mayor with a copy of a petition addressed to the Board which had been signed by some 100 persons. Mr. Thornton stated they had come before the Council for advice and support in the form of a letter expressing their opposition. Upon inquiry, Mr. Thornton stated that a meeting with the Board is scheduled for 1/20 in Upper Marlboro (time as yet unknown). Mayor Miller requested the City Administrator to prepare a letter to the Board of Education to relay the objections of the group and stated that, if they wish, a City representative would appear at the January 28 meeting. He added that, while City is glad to offer its help, it cannot assure that it will get the desired results.

3. Mrs. Roderic Davis, 703 New York Avenue, City. Mrs. Davis stated she wished to register a complaint against the Animal Warden for attempting to remove her dog from his own yard.

She then inquired about a request she had made in the spring for the screening of Montgomery College parking lot, adding that on contacting the College business manager she was told he had no knowledge of it. Upon inquiry by Mayor Miller, the City Administrator stated a letter had been sent relaying her request shortly after it was made. Mayor Miller requested that it be checked into.

Mrs. Davis then referred to a statement made by former Councilman Geib [in July 1970] regarding Montgomery College's stance on acquisition of nearby property for expansion. She thought it had not been completely factual, particular in its reference to condemnation. She felt the threat of condemnation is still present and, despite assurances made that the process is not presently contemplated, there is no assurance that such a policy might not be pursued in the future.

Mrs. Davis inquired as to whether or not Council would be represented at the College's budget hearings on Thursday night to make a presentation or recommendation. Mayor Miller stated that no notice had been received. She then asked if the Council would assign a committee to work with the people in the neighborhood and the Board of Trustees to help alleviate some of the problems and keep area residents informed as to what is happening or contemplated. She also stated that she and her neighbors have queried residents of adjacent blocks re their feelings on College's expansion plans and have found them to be as opposed as those with property immediately adjacent to school. Mr. Ferrier commented that he felt she would find additional support if a similar threat existed in other neighborhoods.

4. Kathryn Simpson, Chairman, Community Improvement Board, City. Mrs. Simpson reported that the Board has begun its annual windshield survey of the City. She indicated one zone had been surveyed over the weekend and was found to be much improved when compared with a year ago.

5. James J. Jeffas, 7600 Hammond Avenue, City. Mr. Jeffas stated that he and his neighbors find it very inconvenient to have the north end of Hammond Avenue closed and asked if it can be reopened now that building is completed. He also stated that a trailer is parked alongside the road and asked if it can be removed. Mayor Miller asked the Public Works Committee to see what can be done.

6. Mary Farley, 7317 Wildwood Drive, City. Mrs. Farley spoke of the piled up snow on New Hampshire Avenue between the A&P and Larch Avenue, explaining that the snowplows had simply pushed it from the road to the sidewalks. Upon inquiry, Mr. Rhodes stated that the State Roads Commission is responsible for clearing roads and property owners or residents are responsible for sidewalks; however, once the snow is on sidewalks it requires a great deal of effort to remove it. Mr. Farley stated that the situation has existed for seven or eight years and doesn't improve; it applies to both sides of the road and creates a very dangerous situation for children who must walk either on a mound of ice or in the road. He asked if the problem could not be brought to the attention of the Commission and residents, and corrected. Mayor Miller asked the City Administrator to see what can be done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Miller announced that he would deviate from the agenda to allow Councilman Eppes to make his report first, since he had to leave early to keep another appointment.

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Eppes reporting

1. Revision of Article 4, Municipal Code. This is a continuing item, Councilman Eppes reported, and he can only report that some progress has been made; however, he hoped to have some substantive progress to report at the next meeting.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Nishimoto reporting

1. Designation as one-way north end of lane between Heather and Sligo Creek Parkway. Councilman Nishimoto asked that this be removed from agenda, since the Police Department had previously opposed a one-way designation and a STOP sign was provided as an alternative.

2. Improvement of safety for Silver Spring Intermediate School children. The Police Department is making a thorough study of this situation and will have some recommendations shortly, Councilman Nishimoto reported.

3. Traffic hazard at Piney Branch Road, Eastern and Takoma Avenues. Councilman Nishimoto stated no progress has been made as yet, however, he expects to be in touch with the State regarding the situation.

4. Maryland Police Training Commission directive regarding training of part-time policemen. Councilman Nishimoto reported a letter has been received from the Commission which states they plan to study the functions of part-time officers further and "Until this has been done, you may consider that the Police Training Act is not applicable to your special force." He asked that the item be removed from the agenda.

5. Personnel. Councilman Nishimoto moved for Council approval of the appointment of two Special Police Officers--Chester P. Lutman and Berthol J. Harbrandt--both of whom were formerly members of the City's regular police force. Motion was seconded by Councilman Webb and unanimously approved.

6. Personnel. Councilman Nishimoto moved that Council approve the probationary appointment of Paul A. Wilson to the regular police force, effective January 15. He noted that Mr. Wilson possesses the educational attainments which the Department now seeks, i.e., a high school diploma and some college credits. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forshee and unanimously passed.

7. Renovation of police station. Councilman Nishimoto commended Captain Porter and the men of the Police Department for the renovations made in the station, noting that most of the work had been done by men on the force and, as a result, the station is more attractive and more secure.

Mr. Eppes was excused by the Mayor at this time.

HOUSING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. Proposed hardsurface parking at commercial establishments. Councilman Hutmire stated this is still a matter of interest and occasional study and that it is possible something might be developed and added to the already existing codes.

2. Information booklet for new residents. This is being done in the City Administrator's office, Councilman Hutmire stated, and is nearing completion.

3. CATV system. Councilman Hutmire stated that response has been slow to City's invitation to submit proposals for operation of a CATV system; however, the time period allotted is still open.

4. Establishment of housing authority. This is a matter of continuing study and Committee is still interested in the possibility of creating a housing authority, Councilman Hutmire stated.

5. Division of Licenses and Inspections. Councilman Hutmire stated that Mrs. Simpson's observations support the reports of the Code Enforcement Division and cited an article in the forthcoming Newsletter which gives some specific comparative data on progress made in enforcing the City's housing code. He added that it has been achieved through cooperative efforts of citizens and Code Enforcement Officers.

6. Purchase of cameras. Councilman Hutmire moved that Council approve the purchase of 2, Model 330, Polaroid cameras @ \$57.20 each (total \$114.40), to be purchased from Haynes Camera Co., Silver Spring, and charged to A/C 11.313. He stated that, among other uses, the Code Enforcement Officers will use them in preparing evidence for court cases, where photographic evidence is increasingly used. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sidell. There was some discussion among Council members as to whether or not best price had been obtained, but on assurance by Mr. Barile that price quoted was the discount price, motion carried unanimously.

7. Animal Warden's activities. Councilman Hutmire stated he felt sure the dog catcher is aware that the ordinance covering his activities permits him to capture dogs only on public property, but that he will see that any misinterpretation of his authority is cleared up.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting.

1. Proposed use of plastic bags in garbage containers. Councilman Roth stated a small-scale experiment is being conducted by the Mayor and Council. If they feel use of the bags is worthwhile, the reactions of a neighborhood will be sought. He also mentioned that Councilman Eppes has prepared a MTAS report on the experiences of other cities with plastic bags which indicates that, though the system is not without problems, it is worthy of further investigation.

2. Storm drain overflow near 1402 Erskine Avenue. Prince George's engineers are studying this situation and have determined that most of the water originates from outside City limits, Councilman Roth reported. The possibility of a solution is more favorable now than it has been for many months.

3. Consideration of engineering and surveying services. Councilman Roth stated the Committee will be in touch with a representative of the firm in question to set up a meeting.

4. Sidewalks in 1000 block of University Boulevard--Public Hearing. Councilman Roth stated that Committee has agreed this project must proceed and moved that Council approve the ordinance below which outlines the project and sets time and place for a Public Hearing:

ORDINANCE NO. 2140

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT in the interest of public safety, health and welfare, the Mayor and Council have under consideration improvement of the 1000 block of University Boulevard, between Anne Street and Merrimac Drive, by the construction of concrete sidewalk, four inches (4") thick on a prepared compacted subgrade, four feet (4') wide, parallel to the Service Drive on the entire length of the block, approximately seven hundred, sixty feet (760'), the cost of which is estimated to be approximately THREE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$3,800.00) AND

SECTION 2. THAT it is proposed the total cost of the project, including advertising, inspection and clerical work and other miscellaneous expenses in connection with said project, be assessed against the property to be specially benefited thereby according to the lineal frontage of said property as below listed:

Block 14, New Hampshire Gardens:

<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Front Footage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
14	1001-03 University Blvd., East	108.4	\$542.00
25	1005 " " "	72.4	362.00
26	1007 " " "	72.0	360.00
27	1009 " " "	72.0	360.00
28	1011 " " "	72.0	360.00
29	1013 " " "	72.0	360.00
30	1015 " " "	72.0	360.00
31	1017 " " "	72.0	360.00
32	1019 " " "	72.0	360.00
33	1021 " " "	74.4	372.00

AND

SECTION 3. THAT February 18, 1971, 7:30 PM, Heffner Community Building, 42 Oswego Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, has been set as the time and place for a Public Hearing before the Mayor and Council when owners of the properties proposed to be assessed may express their opinions concerning the proposed project, AND

SECTION 4. THAT notices of this proposal and Public Hearing be mailed to each property owner at their last known post office address of record and a summary of this Ordinance be published two times in the Prince George's Post and the Suburban Record, the last publication of which to be not less than three days prior to February 18, 1971.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Forshee and adopted by roll call vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Forshee, Hutmire, Nishimoto, Roth, Sidell and Webb. Nay: none. Excused: Councilman Eppes.

5. Public Hearing--Anne Street. Councilman Roth stated that Committee will proceed with plans for a Public Hearing which will be reported at the next meeting.

6. Other Comments. Councilman Roth stated that clearing the streets after the recent snow storm had cost the City some \$3200, but that he felt a good job had been done with notable speed. He pointed out that streets off Flower Avenue on the City side had been cleared by 2:00 on New Year's day, while those on the County side had not been. The same situation was observed along the D.C. line. Mr. Ferrier suggested reminding citizens to clear snow away from fire hydrants and it was brought out that such a reminder will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter. Councilman Roth indicated that the Department is a little behind on trash pickup, but should be back on regular schedule this week. He also stated that new street lights are being installed in the Lincoln, Boyd, Elm and Jackson Avenue area.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Councilman Sidell reporting

1. ZAP F-636, 6839 Eastern Avenue, R-60 to C-1 or C-2, Jenkins et al., applicants. Councilman Sidell reported that Committee recommends denial of this application for the following reasons: it would be a case of spot zoning--a process which is highly undesirable;

the District of Columbia has requested that approval be denied. He asked that Council approve Committee's recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roth, and unanimously approved.

2. Reconsideration of objection to Langley Professional Building sign. Committee proposes that representatives of this group be invited to attend their next meeting on February 10 at 7:30 PM, 8 Sherman Avenue, to discuss this, Councilman Sidell stated, and requested the City Administrator to notify them. He also invited any interested members of the Council to attend. Councilman Sidell explained that the group wishes to deviate from the standard 25 square ft. sign and erect one of 100 sq. ft. size.

3. Prince George's County zoning ordinance revision. Councilman Sidell stated the Committee favors approval of the revision; that it contains many new provisions which are worthwhile; e.g., submission and approval of specific plans for site development and revocation if there is deviation from approved plan or failure to proceed within a specified time period. He moved that Council approve notification of the Planning Board Staff that it is in agreement with the intent of the revision. Motion was seconded by Councilman Webb and, after some discussion on various points in the ordinance, was unanimously approved.

4. Council jurisdiction in zoning. Councilman Sidell stated that as has previously been explained, the City has a strong recommendation voice in zoning matters by authority of Acts of the General Assembly in recent years whereby a two-thirds majority of a District Council is required to override recommendations made by the City. This now means a vote of 5:2 in Montgomery County and 8:3 in Prince George's County. This State Legislation was a great step forward in protecting local autonomy. He pointed out that the Park and Planning is a bi-county agency responsible for planning and recommendation only. Mr. Ferrier stated that Takoma Park is one of the most important cities in the area and should have its own right to set zoning; that he does not like other groups to override what should be a City prerogative and that efforts should not be relaxed. Mayor Miller pointed out that there is a current discussion concerning a reorganization of the planning and zoning procedures and that if this should occur, possibly Takoma Park could obtain a special exception due to its bi-county nature.

5. Proposed apartment building in Manor Circle-Carroll Avenue area. Councilman Sidell stated that owner of three lots in this area has asked whether or not Council would look with favor on an apartment building at this site. He stated that Committee does not favor it, since it is a very small section of land in the midst of R-60 zoned property. He moved that Council approve Committee's recommendation that initiator of request be notified that Council does not favor his plan.

6. Special Exception 2430, operation of repair shop, 6703 New Hampshire Avenue. Councilman Sidell stated this property is located outside City limits and Committee does favor granting the special exception; however, the hearing was held on November 18. He asked that item be deleted from the agenda.

7. Proposed designation of open space at Elm, Heather, Larch and New Hampshire Aves. There was considerable discussion regarding the possibility and feasibility of acquiring this parcel of land under the Maryland Open Space Program. Included in the discussion were: its location in proximity to other park lands, the probable high cost of acquisition, development in view of the rugged terrain, and the practicability of ownership by the City as opposed to the Parking and Planning Commission. Decision was that the City Administrator communicate with the Park and Planning Commission and request a report on the feasibility of acquisition.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Webb reporting

1. Progress report on proposed bulletin board. Councilman Webb reported that Mr. Hammond is working on a mock-up of the bulletin board; however, he has some question about whether original plans are now appropriate in view of the construction of the municipal building. He indicated Mr. Hammond will be in touch with persons responsible for coordination in this area.

2. Boy's Club building. Councilman Webb stated he is waiting for Mr. Wickline to contact him and set up a meeting.

3. Purchase of film projector. Councilman Webb reported the distributor has made some suggestions and the Department may decide on a different type projector.

4. Activities

"The 13 Clocks" January 15, 7:15 PM, Junior High Auditorium, Free
Montgomery College Music Department; Music Theater Workshop

Classes (fee)

Advanced Cake Decorating
Art
Slinnastics
Drama for children over 9
Dance for elementary age children
Baton
Guitar--beginners and advanced students
Drawing and painting

Basketball and Volleyball at Gym (free)

Males over 19, Wednesdays, 7-10 PM

Girls, junior and senior high school, Wednesdays 4-6 PM

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

1. Personnel. Councilman Forshee moved that Council approve the appointment of Mrs. Martha V. Paull, 7201 Cedar Avenue, to the position of Cashier-Asst. Bookkeeper on a three-fourths time basis to be prorated at annual salary rate of \$5830; appointment to be effective January 18. Mrs. Paull will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Judy Levine. Motion was seconded by Councilman Webb and unanimously approved.

2. Bids on construction of municipal building. Councilman Forshee, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, moved for adoption of the ordinance below which authorizes the City Administrator to advertise for bids on the construction of the new building:

ORDINANCE NO. 2141

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT whereas Ordinance No. 2107, adopted July 27, 1970, authorizes an agreement with Architect Philip W. Mason to prepare design and structural drawings and specifications for the construction of a Municipal Building on Maple Avenue on land adjacent to the City Library, AND

SECTION 2. THAT whereas such drawings and specifications are nearing completion and can be released to bidders on or before January 29, 1971.

SECTION 3. THEREFORE THAT the City Administrator be hereby authorized to advertise such project for bids to be opened on February 18, 1971, 4:00 PM, S.T., at 8 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland

Motion was seconded by Councilman Nishimoto and adopted by roll call vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Forshee, Hutmire, Nishimoto, Roth, Sidell and Webb. Nay: none. Excused: Councilman Eppes.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM to reconvene on January 25, 1970, at 8:00 PM, in the Municipal Gymnasium.

Approved: George M. Miller
Mayor

Attest: Haynes M. Priddy
City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
January 25, 1971

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Miller
Councilman Eppes
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Hutmire
Councilman Roth
Councilman Sidell
Councilman Webb

City Administrator Pridgen
Corporation Counsel Gingerich
City Treasurer Turner
Fire Chief LaScola
Deputy Fire Chief Fickes
Police Captain Porter
Director of Public Works Rhodes
Dep. Dir. Public Works Barile
Director of Recreation Ziegler

Excused: Councilman Nishimoto

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland convened in Regular Session at 8:00 PM, January 25, 1971, in the Municipal Gymnasium, 7201 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Rev. John O'Neil, Grace Methodist Church, gave the invocation, after which Mayor Miller led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Miller called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting if there were no corrections or additions. Motion was made by Councilman Sidell, seconded by Councilman Eppes and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: City Administrator Pridgen reporting

1. John C. Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, Montgomery County Chapter, Maryland Municipal League. Notice of general membership meeting, 8:00 PM, January 28, City Hall, Gaithersburg. Council Files
2. Mrs. William Aitkenhead, Chairman, Safe Home Program, Takoma Park Elementary School PTA. Two letters reporting on School's Safe Home Program with an expression of appreciation to Police Department for cooperation and particular praise for Officer Sherman's support and rapport with children. Law Enforcement Committee
3. G. E. Salliotte, 7305 Baltimore Avenue, City. Complaint of parking practices in front of home and request for NO PARKING sign. Law Enforcement Committee
4. Albert V. Ceconne, 6513 Westmoreland Avenue, City. Complaint that traffic signs are too close to sidewalks and create a hazard for pedestrians and cyclists on Westmoreland, Old Eastern and Allegheny Avenues. Law Enforcement Committee
5. Suzan Miller, 7505 Hancock Avenue, City. Letter commending Officer Householder for his courteous and efficient help after a recent accident. Law Enforcement Committee; Personnel Files
6. Barbara L. Snyder, 816 Easley Street, Silver Spring. Request for reimbursement for battery stolen from car while in City impounding lot. Law Enforcement Committee; Finance Committee

7. Petition from ten residents of Hammond and Jackson Avenues requesting abandonment of north end of Hammond Avenue. Planning and Zoning Committee; Public Works Comm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Fred L. Dawson, formerly of #1 Montgomery Avenue, City. Mr. Dawson stated that he is one of a group of four former residents of this address (and the only one present) who wished to request an investigation of the handling of the recent fire at #1 Montgomery Avenue. He added that they felt the fire should not have been permitted to continue to the point of destruction of the house and, in the process, all the personal property of the residents. Mayor Miller suggested that he get in touch with Fire Chief LaScola and have him set up a meeting with the Chairman of the Fire Protection Committee.

2. E. J. Roberts, 1111 Sligo Creek Parkway, City. Mr. Roberts stated that he is the owner of the furniture store at 1111 Sligo Creek Parkway, the operation of which has caused many problems for the Council. He stated that since July he has made a conscientious effort to maintain the property so that its appearance is acceptable, though he had not always been successful in this goal. However, he has replaced some employees and anticipates that he can continue to comply with the requirements. He then asked if Council would consider interceding on his behalf to prevent his having to appear in court on the 29th. Mayor Miller referred his request to the Housing and Code Enforcement Committee and the Corporation Counsel. He stated that Council has instructed Mr. Gingerich to pursue the case because of the many complaints received from neighbors; however, the Code Enforcement Committee will have to make the decision about Mr. Roberts' court appearance.

3. Joseph Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue, City. Mr. Ferrier spoke of the fact that City has had no fatal accidents in four years and urged that Council seriously consider the proposed pushbutton traffic light on Maple near Sherman Avenue as one effort toward maintaining this record.

He also commented on the agenda item "Request for analysis and survey of the merit plan," as it relates to difficulty of civil employees to intercede on their own behalf; inequities in promotions and periodic raises, stating that he understood these things were particularly troublesome in the Fire Department. He expressed the hope that policy might be liberalized in favor of employees as a means of strengthening morale.

Mr. Ferrier stated that he had attended the Montgomery College budget hearings where Mrs. Roderic Davis made an appeal for cessation of intimidation and other devices in persuading property owners to sell their homes to the College, and that he had seconded her request. He felt they had been given a fair hearing which was well accepted.

In his role of legislative representative of the local NARCE chapter, Mr. Ferrier stated he had been in touch with Mrs. Sweinhaut who informed him that she will support any worthwhile project beneficial to older persons. He offered his own assistance and cooperation to the Council in this area. Mr. Ferrier announced that a TESS representative would speak on food stamps at the NARCE meeting on next Wednesday (2:00 PM, Presbyterian Church) and invited all interested persons to attend.

4. Mrs. Joseph Simpson, 7300 Cedar Avenue, City. Mrs. Simpson thanked the Fire Department for its help and efficient handling of a small fire in her home on Sunday.

5. Robert M. Teates, 7223 Garland Avenue, City. Mr. Teates stated he was present to make a further plea for repair of the curbing in the 7200 block of Garland Avenue, having made the same request last October. He felt that this block had been abandoned by the City insofar as curb repair and resurfacing of streets is concerned, since the surrounding area has been kept in good repair, while his section of Garland Avenue has been neglected. He stated that he had been informed that no bids were received for street work last year, but would like to know when the work will be done and be given some assurance that Garland Avenue would be given priority. Mayor Miller, Councilman Roth and Mr. Rhodes explained that the City does not have personnel to rebuild curbs and completely resurface streets, that they must rely on contractors and, although no contractors submitted bids last year, they felt sure some would be received this year, since it is planned to advertise early in the spring. It was also brought out that Garland Avenue had been resurfaced with tar and chips some two or three years ago, and Mr. Teates was assured that this street is at the top of the list for this year's project. Mr. Teates stated that he certainly had not intended to impugn the integrity of Mr. Rhodes and the Public Works Department, who have always been most cooperative, but that taxpayers have a right to expect some return in City services and he wanted to express his dissatisfaction with street and curb repair.

6. Barbara L. Snyder, 816 Easley Street, Silver Spring, Md. Miss Snyder stated she wished to acknowledge her presence at the meeting and to inquire if her request for reimbursement [Correspondence, Item 6] would be acted on. Mayor Miller responded by explaining the procedure for Council action to Miss Snyder and others present: action will be taken by the Committee to which a request or problem has been assigned and the person involved will be notified through the City Administrator's office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

1. Request for over-all analysis of merit plan. In response to Mr. Ferrier's comments, Councilman Forshee stated that, although the Committee met to discuss this item during the past week, he could not report on it since there are still many things to be considered. However, he added, there will be a report which will clear up some of the problems which have been raised.

2. Tax levy increase, Montgomery County fire protection area. Councilman Forshee moved that Council adopt the ordinance below which provides for an increase in the tax rebate from Montgomery County for City fire service in the 22nd Precinct, an area outside in City boundaries:

ORDINANCE NO. 2142

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SECTION 1. THAT whereas the cost of operating the municipal fire department is increasing annually AND

SECTION 2. THAT by authority of Chapter 42-1 of the Montgomery County Code (1965 edition) a tax is levied within the Twenty-second Precinct of the Thirteenth Election District, as constituted on November 10, 1947, lying outside of the incorporated City of Takoma Park, at a rate not to exceed twenty cents on each one hundred dollars assessed value of all real and personal property for fire protection rendered by the City of Takoma Park Municipal Fire Department, AND

SECTION 3. THEREFORE THAT the Montgomery County Council be requested to amend Chapter 42-1 of the Montgomery County Code to provide for a tax rate not to exceed twenty-five cents (25¢) on each one hundred dollars of the assessed value of all real and personal property within the Twenty-second Precinct, AND

SECTION 4. THAT such amendment be enacted by the Montgomery County Council to become effective as of July 1, 1971.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Roth. Councilman Forshee explained that, though the ordinance authorizes a 25 per cent tax increase, it does not necessarily mean the City will immediately exercise this option by collecting the full amount. There was some discussion as to whether the amount of the increase were sufficient, and it was agreed that it is adequate and the most acceptable rate for the present. Ordinance was adopted by roll call vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Eppes, Forshee, Hutmire, Roth, Sidell and Webb. Nay: none. Excused: Councilman Nishimoto.

3. Purchase of check protector. Councilman Forshee moved that Council approve the purchase of one Model KBPE Check Protector, list price \$306.00, one year's warranty, from the Headman Company. He explained that funds had been appropriated for this item a few years ago, but since purchase was never made, funds reverted back into general funds. For this reason the purchase will now have to be made from the Reserve Fund. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roth and unanimously approved.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

1. Personnel. Councilman Forshee stated that Officer G. R. Cooley has submitted his resignation, effective January 15, and moved for Council acceptance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Eppes and carried.

2. Training. The Police Department has requested that two officers participate in University of Maryland supervisory seminars sponsored by the Maryland Police Training Commission, Councilman Forshee stated. He moved that Council approve a total expenditure of \$250 in fees and the enrollment of Sgt. Walter and Cpl. Starkey in the seminars, scheduled for March 8-12 and April 26-30, respectively. Motion was seconded by Councilman Webb and unanimously approved.

HOUSING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. Appointment of representative to TESS Citizens Advisory Council. Councilman Hutmire stated a decision will be made on this at the next Committee meeting.

2. Hardsurface parking at commercial establishments. This item is still under the study, Councilman Hutmire reported.

3. Information booklet for new residents. Councilman Hutmire said he hopes to meet with the City Office staff at an early date to tie up loose ends.

4. Report on housing authority for City. This continues to be an item of study, Councilman Hutmire stated.

HOUSING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT
COMMITTEE, continued

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January 25, 1971

5. CATV system. Councilman Hutmiere reported that several proposals have been received from CATV entrepreneurs and that after their relative merit has been determined a recommendation will be made.

6. Division of Licenses and Inspections. Councilman Hutmiere called attention to an article in this month's Newsletter which is in essence a progress report on the achievements of the Code Enforcement Division in administering the City's housing code.

7. Complaint of abandoned cars at Winchester-Takoma. In response to Mr. Alfred Vogel's request that something be done about cars and debris in the Winchester-Takoma parking lot, Councilman Hutmiere reported that the Police and Public Works Departments have had them removed.

8. Personnel. Councilman Hutmiere stated that Code Enforcement Officer Thorowgood submitted his resignation on January 19, and Department has recommended that it be accepted. However, Mr. Thorowgood subsequently asked to have it withdrawn, but unfortunately, the request came too late for action at this meeting and would have to be deferred until the next Committee meeting, to be held later in the week.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting

1. Clearing sidewalk in front of Maple Avenue PEPCO station. Councilman Roth stated that after considerable effort on the part of the Department, the accumulation of snow and ice has been removed.

2. Request to reopen Hammond Avenue and remove construction trailer. Councilman Roth stated that the Committee is now faced with two requests from Hammond Avenue residents which will require some study, since it obviously cannot accommodate both: the first is that North end of Hammond Avenue be reopened and the second that it be abandoned. He felt that since the petition for abandonment was signed by ten people, while the request to reopen it was made by a single person, the petition should appear as the agenda item after the next Council meeting.

3. Proposed use of plastic bags in garbage containers. Councilman Roth stated that the trial use by Councilmen and some of the City staff reported at the last meeting will continue for six weeks or so.

4. Public Hearing on sidewalks in 1000 block of University Boulevard. The hearing is scheduled for February 18, Councilman Roth stated, and requested that all Councilmen who are free attend, since a vote will be required.

5. Public Hearing--Anne Street sidewalks. Councilman Roth stated the Committee is in the process of setting up a hearing.

6. Report on snow and ice control. Councilman Roth stated that several questions have been raised as to Department's assignment of priorities during snow storms, and gave the following listing as being representative of a nonemergency plan: (1) keep streets open and traffic moving; (2) plow the area used by Fire and Police Department personnel; (3) Library; (4) 8 Sherman Avenue; (5) Kass parking lot, erect barricades on sledding streets, clear sidewalks and steps of City property; (6) sand and salt slippery areas on plowed streets; (7) widen plowed areas at intersections. Councilman Roth stated that it has been suggested that City haul away snow, but that Department is not equipped for this and the need is not great in this area.

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Eppes reporting

- 1. Revision of Article 4, Municipal Code. Councilman Eppes reported that work is in progress on this item.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Councilman Sidell reporting

- 1. Request to reconsider Council objection to Langley Professional Building sign. Councilman Sidell stated that the attorney for the owners has been invited to attend the next Committee meeting for discussion of their proposed use of a 100 sq. ft. sign instead of the standard 25 sq. ft. type.
- 2. Proposed designation of open space at Elm, Heather, Larch and New Hampshire Aves. Councilman Sidell reported that a letter has been sent to the Park and Planning Commission requesting a study of the feasibility of City acquisition of the tract.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Webb reporting

- 1. Boy's Club building. Councilman Webb reported that a meeting was held with a representative of the Club and, as a result of the discussion, the needs of the club will be re-evaluated and submitted at a later date. He asked that the item be removed from the agenda until a resubmission is made.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM, to reconvene at 8:00 PM, February 8, 1971, in the Municipal Gymnasium.

ATTEST: Haynes M. Pridgen
City Administrator

APPROVED: George M. Meeler
Mayor

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