

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
March 8, 1971

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mayor Miller | City Administrator Pridgen |
| Councilman Eppes | Corporation Counsel Gingerich |
| Councilman Forshee | Asst. Corp. Counsel Culpepper |
| Councilman Hutmire | City Treasurer Turner |
| Councilman Nishimoto | Fire Chief LaScola |
| Councilman Roth | Captain West |
| Councilman Sidell | Police Captain Porter |
| Councilman Webb | Director of Public Works Rhodes |
| | Dep. Director Public Works Barile |
| | Code Enforcement Officer Olson |
| | Director of Recreation Ziegler |

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland convened in Executive Session at 8:05 PM, March 8, 1971, in the Municipal Gymnasium, 7201 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Mayor Miller led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, after which he 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 Webb, and carried.

Mayor Miller announced he would deviate from the prepared agenda to permit the following presentations to be made:

He stated there were two dedicated local educators among the audience--Dr. Robert Wiley, Dean of the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College, and Dr. William Fox, Professor, History and Political Science Department. He noted that Dr. Wiley has served the College in various capacities since 1963, and Professor Fox, who has been at Montgomery College for some 24 years, is also a resident of the City and has been president and member of the City Library Board. Mayor Miller then introduced Dr. Wiley, who commented on the good working relationship enjoyed by the College with the City government. He spoke of the College's 25th anniversary which is being celebrated this year, and stated that Dr. Fox had been commissioned by the Board of Trustees to write a history of the school in honor of the occasion. He introduced Dr. Fox, who thereupon presented to the Mayor and Council copies of his book, MONTGOMERY COLLEGE: Maryland's First Community College.

Mayor Miller read the proclamation described below and presented it to Steve Kramer, Jim Harrison and Doug Wolfe, members of the Cornerstone Chapter of the Order of DeMolay:

A proclamation designating March 13-20, 1971 as DEMOLAY WEEK, and calling on citizens to join in celebrating the Order's 52nd anniversary by recognizing this international youth movement's work in building citizenship, and its work toward peace and brotherhood.

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 Webb, and carried.

Mayor Miller announced he would deviate from the prepared agenda to permit the following presentations to be made:

He stated there were two dedicated local educators among the audience--Dr. Robert

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS OF 2-28-71: City Treasurer Turner reporting

SUBURBAN TRUST CO.--GENERAL FUNDS

Balance as of January 31, 1971	27,339.13	
February receipts*	<u>108,283.17</u>	135,622.30
February disbursements		<u>121,616.03</u>
Balance as of February 28, 1971		<u>14,006.27</u>

*Includes one Treasury Bill

SUBURBAN TRUST CO.--PAYROLL ACCOUNT

Balance as of January 31, 1971	15,358.02	
February transfers from General Funds	<u>77,111.53</u>	92,469.55
February disbursements		<u>80,853.93</u>
Balance as of February 28, 1971		<u>11,615.62</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND--GENERAL FUNDS

Balance as of January 31, 1971	211.31	
No transactions during February	<u>--</u>	<u>211.31</u>
		<u>211.31</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MD.--SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FUND

Balance as of January 31, 1971	448.69	
No transactions during February	<u>--</u>	<u>448.69</u>
		<u>448.69</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND--PUBLIC IMPROVE. FUND

Balance as of January 31, 1971	36,392.24	
February receipts	<u>20,000.00</u>	56,392.24
February disbursements		<u>34,000.00</u>
Balance as of February 28, 1971		<u>22,392.24</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND--SAVINGS A/C TP-63

Balance as of January 31, 1971	149.46	
No transactions in February	<u>--</u>	<u>149.46</u>
Balance as of February 28, 1971		<u>149.46</u>

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK--GENERAL FUND

Balance as of January 31, 1971	500.00	
No transactions in February	<u>--</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Balance as of February 28, 1971		<u>500.00</u>

PETTY CASH

200.00

U.S. TREASURY BILLS

		Cost	Maturity Value	
Purchased:	9-16-70	Due to Mature: 4-22-71	48,085.00	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>
			<u>287,856.25</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>

CITIZENS BANK OF MARYLAND

Certificates of Deposit @ 5.25% interest 700,000.00

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: City Administrator Pridgen reporting

1. Ronald E. Davies, Chairman, Prince George's County Municipal Association. Notice of meeting: 8:00 PM, March 18, Municipal Building, 4500 Knox Road, College Park. Request to publicize April as "Clean Up Month." Circulate to Council
2. Jesse O. Gibson, 7807 Wildwood Drive, City. (a) Query as to how long before North end of Hammond Avenue will be reopened. (b) Letter expressing appreciation for widening of Carroll Avenue near Central; request that two narrow curves in Flower Avenue be widened and straightened (at intersections with Jackson and Cherry Aves.) Public Works Committee

MAYOR MILLER'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Miller welcomed the audience and invited them to attend the next meeting of the Council, to be held at 8:00 PM, March 22, in the Municipal Gymnasium. He stated that the Mayor and Council need and welcome the ideas and constructive criticism offered by the citizens they represent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. Nathaniel White, 7515 Alfred Drive, City. Mr. White stated he had several complaints to make which relate to the poor quality of service received in return for the high taxes levied. They were: (a) Wednesday special trash pickup: Mr. White inquired about a system which requires him to make a special request, while other long-time residents on his street receive this service automatically. (b) Newsletter mailing list: He noted that, while he continues to receive tax bills with regularity, on two occasions he has been removed from the Newsletter roster, and recalled that several years ago he appeared before the Council to request that his name, along with all newcomers, be put on the mailing list. (c) Mr. White stated that he doesn't see policemen in his neighborhood, and pointed out that he had also brought this to Council's attention several years ago, and that since his neighborhood helps pay for police service, he would like to see them occasionally. (d) He also stated that he has never been given an opportunity to refuse a fire inspection, since it has never been made available to him. (e) Mr. White directed the following question and comments to the Law Enforcement Committee: Is it illegal to blink one's car lights? In this connection, he related an incident which occurred last summer in which he was reprimanded by Officer Jarnigan for blinking his headlights at him. He added that the reason for the blinking was that the policeman's car was coming toward him on his side of the road. Mr. White stated that if he committed an illegal act, he apologizes; however, if he did not, he would like an apology for the reprimand and the sarcasm with which it was delivered. (f) Mr. White expressed his concern about Council's deferral of action on a request he made, as an officer of Silver Spring Intermediate School PTA, for the institution of additional safety measures in the vicinity of that school. He felt that tabling this matter to await opening of the Middle School creates a situation in which lives of children may be endangered and one about which parents are quite concerned. Mayor Miller assigned item a to the Public Works Committee, and items c, e and f to the Law Enforcement Committee for investigation.
2. Robert Oehlaf, 7122 Maple Avenue, City. Mr. Oehlaf stated he was present to thank the Council for discontinuing the spraying of trees with DDT; that, although he realizes the purpose of spraying is to protect trees from Dutch Elm Disease, and thus far has lost two trees to this disease, he prefers to have the birds (who would have been killed by the poisoned insects).

3. James J. Jeffas, 7600 Hammond Avenue, City. Mr. Jeffas expressed his dissatisfaction with the way his request (made in January) for reopening the North end of Hammond Avenue and removing the trailer has been handled, stating that Councilman Roth has subsequently circulated a petition to abandon it, and queried: How can a citizen have a proposal brought up if the chairman of the committee involved is fighting against it? He gave the following reasons for his earlier request: He must drive several extra blocks to work; this end of Hammond Avenue is not a cul-d-sac, instead, it opens up into a multi-million dollar shopping center--the only taxable business of any size in the City. He felt that Council should be concerned with making access to it as easy as possible. Mr. Jeffas stated the developers of the building had veered somewhat from their stated plan of erecting a medical building and noted that an informal survey of the occupants revealed that out of 16 occupied offices, there are only four doctors, with the remaining offices occupied by businessmen such as architects, lawyers, insurance and real estate agents, and a systems analysis group. He also pointed out that residents of Hammond Avenue were assured that street would be reopened upon completion of building; that building is now complete and he and others wish to have it reopened and the trailer removed. He also requested that Councilman Roth abstain from voting on the issue, and that he cease to circulate the petition as a Councilman.

Councilman Roth responded by saying that he had circulated the petition at the request of his neighbors, and not in his role as Councilman, but as a resident of the street and as a private citizen; that in considering the question of reopening vs. abandonment, the Committee felt it incumbent on them to be responsive to the desires of the majority--in this case, the petitioners. He went on to point out the changes in the character of the neighborhood over the past few years: a quiet residential neighborhood has become a main thoroughfare, used not only as a route to the shopping center, but as a means of bypassing the stop lights on New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. He stated that his actions have been, and will continue to be, guided by the sentiment of the majority of the neighborhood, even if they are in opposition to his own wishes.

Mr. Jeffas stated that he is just one among several he has spoken to who favor reopening of the street. He also inquired as to why the street is not paved. Mayor Miller stated that he is confident Council will act in the best interest of the community, and also that he is sure Mr. Roth was not using his office as Councilman to persuade residents to sign a petition.

3. Kathryn B. Simpson, Chairman, Community Improvement Board, City. Mrs. Simpson thanked Councilman Hutmire for his article on the Board in this month's Newsletter; that both she and members of the Board were quite pleased with it. She also stated that she hopes Council will go ahead with the municipal building as planned, that a savings on space now might be regretted later.

Councilman Nishimoto commented on the excellent report on the National Clean-up Congress submitted by Mrs. Bussey, noting that many of the things mentioned are quite apropos to the Takoma Park situation. He made particular reference to the involvement of youth in helping with some of the environmental problems and expressed the hope that Mrs. Simpson and her group will do a little more to include the young people as active participants in tackling community problems.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Eppes reporting

1. Meeting w/Police & Fireman's Assoc. on Merit Plan revision. Councilman Eppes stated that this is primarily a function of the Finance Committee; that the only interest of the Fire Protection Committee is to assist them when it comes up for consideration.

2. Personnel--Fire Training Officer. Councilman Eppes moved that Council approve the following revised procedures for filling the position of Fire Department Training Officer: (a) that a competitive examination be administered by the University of Maryland Fire Service Extension School for this position, at the pay grade and rank of Captain, and that the examination be open to both paid and volunteer firemen and officers of the Department; (b) that the examination include the equivalent of a Fire Captain's examination, plus an aptitude test to be furnished by the University; (c) that the requirement of "at least 10 years experience as a Field Instructor," as outlined in Article 5.4.e of the Fire Department Rules and Regulations, and the required combination time within the Sergeant and Lieutenant's rank, be waived. Motion was seconded by Councilman Nishimoto. Upon question by Councilman Forshee, Councilman Eppes stated that the requirements being waived are those included in (c) above; primarily the reason for requesting the waiver is that no one is available with those requirements who is qualified in other areas. Motion was unanimously approved.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Councilman Sidell reporting

1. Proposed open space area at Jackson and Central Avenues. Councilman Sidell requested that Mr. Pridgen get information on owner of the property which is located on the northwest corner of Jackson and Central Avenues.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Webb reporting

1. Colby Tot Lot equipment. Councilman Webb requested Council approval for the purchase of equipment to get this new playground in operation. He moved that Council approve purchase of the following from Game Time, Inc.: swing set, spring animal (2), climber, park grille, picnic table. Total purchase price is \$668 net, with \$468 to be charged to A/C 19.203B2, and \$200 to be covered by donation from the Takoma Park Women's Club. Motion was seconded by Councilman Eppes and unanimously approved.

2. Suggested annual Founder's Day celebration. Mayor Miller requested that Councilman Webb work with the Community Action Forum on this, and asked the City Administrator to notify Mr. Hammond, Chairman of the group.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

1. Merit plan review. Councilman Forshee stated that agenda items 1 and 4 are essentially the same and that the Committee hopes to have a report by the end of this fiscal year.

2. Municipal building. Councilman Forshee reported that the architect has been in touch with the two low bidding contractors in an effort to reduce cost; that a meeting is to be held this week to go over his findings. He stated to Mrs. Simpson that some means will be found to go ahead with the building.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE, Councilman Nishimoto reporting

1. Meeting w/Police and Fireman's Assoc. on Merit Plan revision. Councilman Nishimoto stated he would reiterate Mr. Eppes' comments on this, and added that it is a time-consuming process.
2. Traffic hazard at Piney Branch Road, Eastern and Takoma Avenues. Councilman Nishimoto reported that the announced meeting with the State Roads Commission, through no fault of the Police Department, did not materialize; however, the Department will continue in its effort to set up a meeting to discuss this continuing problem.
3. Personnel. Councilman Nishimoto moved that Council approve the appointment of Daniel N. Wortman, 7400 - 18th Avenue, Adelphi, to the position of police officer, effective March 15, 1971. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forshee and unanimously approved.
4. Commendations. Councilman Nishimoto commended Officer Goetz for his capture of two robbery suspects on February 23, and Officers Sherman and Boyd for their capture of a third. He asked that this be made part of the official record and stated that such performances reflect the quality of the men on the Police Force.

HOUSING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. Abandoned vehicles and debris at 7216 New Hampshire Avenue. Councilman Hutmire stated that it has been established by the Code Enforcement Division that this complaint was in fact valid and that the County inspection office has been contact since this, as a commercial operation, falls within their jurisdiction.
2. Hardsurface parking at commercial establishments. Councilman Hutmire stated that it is too early to tell whether or not the Department's cooperative efforts with Montgomery County will achieve the results desired.
3. Information booklet for new residents. This is still in progress, Councilman Hutmire reported, and will require further editing before publication.
4. Establishment of housing authority. Councilman Hutmire reported that the City Administrator has sent out questionnaires to a number of cities in Maryland who have housing authorities eliciting information which will be helpful in making a decision on the establishment of a City housing authority. He also said that members of the Community Improvement Board subcommittee have requested interviews with various County officials, and that the Committee will be interested in the results of these meetings.
5. CATV system. Councilman Hutmire reported a fruitful meeting has been held with one CATV group and that a meeting with another is scheduled for this week. He spoke of a recently introduced State Senate bill which establishes County regulatory agencies, possibly at the expense of the cities; and in which franchising authority of counties is explicitly stated, while authority of cities in this area is not clearly defined. He read an excerpt from a MML Legislative Bulletin which stated the League plans to work for further legislation to clarify municipality franchising rights, and which also included the following statements on the importance of retention of these rights by cities:

- CATV companies use city utilities facilities and streets to run their cables;
- CATV franchises are a source of revenue for municipalities;
- CATV systems, because of present and pending federal regulations, represent a major new communications tool for use by municipalities in reaching their citizens.

Councilman Hutmire stated that the Committee is particularly interested in learning more about the last item above. He moved that the League be notified of City's concern about legislation which could curb city authority by establishing regulatory agencies at the county level, and that Council supports the position of the League in attempting to protect the rights of the cities. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roth and unanimously adopted.

6. Community Improvement Board. Councilman Hutmire stated that the Chairman of the Community Improvement Board has submitted recommendations for appointment of new members to the Board and the reappointment of others. He moved that Council approve the appointments as recommended with terms of office and zone designations as indicated below:

- New appointments:
- James I. DeShields, Zone 1, 1 year
 - Duncan Wall, Zone 2A, 1 year
 - Harold Williams, Zone 2B, 1 year
 - Philip Vogel, Zone 5, 1 year
 - James Rule, Zone 5, 1 year
 - Charles Riley, Zone 7A, 1 year

- Reappointments:
- Kathryn T. Simpson, Chairman, 2 years
 - Mrs. Raymond McGuire, Zone 2A, 2 years
 - F. W. Womack, Zone 2B Chairman, 2 years
 - Mrs. William C. Giesey, Zone 3, 1 year
 - Perry Schroeder, Zone 3, 1 year
 - Melvin Hall, Zone 4 Chairman, 2 years
 - John E. Bennett, Zone 4, 1 year
 - John Becker, Zone 5 Chairman, 1 year
 - Austin T. Brown, Zone 7A Chairman, 2 years

Motion was seconded by Councilmen Nishimoto and Roth, after which Councilman Roth, on behalf of the Council, expressed appreciation to Mrs. Simpson and members of the Board for all the good work accomplished. He stated that Council is aware of the work involved on Mrs. Simpson's part in simply getting citizens to serve on the Board. Mrs. Simpson replied that this problem has diminished as the program becomes more successful. Motion to approve candidates to the Board was unanimously approved.

Councilman Hutmire stated that some of the members of the Community Improvement Board have served for five years, and it is planned to give them appropriate recognition, hopefully at the next Council meeting.

He then read a letter of resignation from Mrs. Evelyn Williams and moved that it be regretfully accepted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Eppes and carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting

1. Petition to improve Hodges Field. Councilman Roth reported that the Committee is faced with a dilemma here, one in which it is impossible to find a solution which will satisfy all sides. The problem is that the field is used for teacher parking, school bus delivery and pick-up of children, and a drop-off place for parents bringing children to school, and that all this traffic has damaged the field somewhat. On the other hand, if the field is paved, as requested, it will interfere with baseball activities. As it stands now, the Committee sees no immediate solution; however, it will do its best to redirect the traffic and clean up the ruts. Councilman Roth asked that item be retained on the agenda for a few weeks in the event someone comes up with a workable solution.

2. Wildwood Avenue storm drain. Councilman Roth stated that the City has received an unexpected gift in WSSC's recent decision to go ahead with this storm drain--a decision which was in response to a request made by the City some three or four years ago. He stated that it is the Committee's understanding that the entire expense (\$70,000) is to be borne by WSSC, and requested that a letter be written expressing Council's pleasure with the decision and the hope that work will go forward as soon as possible.

3. Proposed abandonment of North end of Hammond Avenue. Councilman Roth stated he will discuss this with his neighbors and attempt to get a consensus of opinion.

4. Request to increase height of traffic signs near sidewalks. The Department is erecting new signs at the standard DMV height, as well as those which need replacing, Councilman Roth stated. However, the expense of replacing all signs at a higher level make it prohibitive. He asked that item be removed from the agenda.

5. Use of plastic bags in garbage containers. Councilman Roth stated that Mr. Rhodes is to visit Alexandria, where this system is now in use.

6. Public hearing: Anne Street sidewalks. This hearing is scheduled for March 29, Councilman Roth stated.

7. Storm drain overflow near 1402 Erskine Avenue. Councilman Roth stated that, although the enthusiasm of Prince George's County authorities has diminished somewhat, they nevertheless anticipate they can go ahead with the storm drain.

8. Purchase of lawn mower. Councilman Roth moved that Council authorize the purchase of a Toro 70", 3-reel lawn mower by adoption of the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2151

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

SECTION 1. THAT it has been determined that the Public Works Department is in need of a new lawn mower, AND

SECTION 2. WHEREAS the repair of the present-3-reel Locke lawn mower makes such repair prohibitive, AND

SECTION 3. THEREFORE THAT the purchase of a new Toro 70' 3-reel "Professional" lawn mower is hereby authorized at a net cost of \$945 (\$1020, less \$75 trade in allowance) AND

SECTION 4. FURTHER THAT funds for the purchase of this item in the amount of \$945 are provided in Budget A/C 19.303B.

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

SPECIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

No report.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM, to reconvene on March 22, 1971, at 8:00 PM, in the Municipal Gymnasium.

Approved: George M. Meed
Mayor

ATTEST: Haynes Pridgen
City Administrator

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

March 22, 1971

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

City Administrator Pridgen
 Corporation Counsel Gingerich
 Asst. Corp. Council Culpepper
 Fire Chief LaScola
 Captain West
 Det. Lt. Dalrymple
 Director of Public Works Rhodes
 Dep. Dir. of Public Works Barile
 Director of Recreation Ziegler

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland convened in Regular Session at 8:05 PM, March 22, 1971, in the Municipal Gymnasium, 7201 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Rev. David F. Boston, Shepherd Park Christian 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, if there were no corrections or additions. Mr. James J. Jeffas, 7600 Hammond Avenue, requested that the following corrections to his statement on page 4 be made: First paragraph, line 12 should read "...there are only four doctors, none of which are physicians; instead, there are two dentists, one eye doctor and one foot doctor, with the remaining offices occupied by...." The last paragraph should include a request made by Mr. Jeffas to the effect that, if the north end of Hammond Avenue is abandoned, the street be resurfaced and equipped as a playground. Motion was made by Councilman Eppes to approve the minutes as corrected; it was seconded and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: City Administrator Pridgen reporting

1. Governor Marvin Mandel, Annapolis. Notice of appointment of Joseph G. Anastasi as liaison officer for county and city problems. Council Files to circulate.
2. Leslie D. Adams, Recording Secretary, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc., City. Letter supporting substantial upgrading of salary scale and benefits in Police and Fire Departments. Fire Protection and Finance Committees
3. E. R. Hawn, 9 Cleveland Avenue, City. Letter pointing out potential hazard of parking area near Juniper Street bridge. Law Enforcement Committee
4. Mrs. Austin Main, 6606 Cockerille Avenue, City. Complaints re conditions at 6619 Westmoreland Avenue and 6609 Cockerille Avenue. Housing & Code Enforcement Committee

MAYOR MILLER'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Miller welcomed the audience and invited them to attend the next Council meeting to be held at 8:00 PM on April 12.

He then spoke of the Community Improvement Board, its long and devoted service to the City, and stated he would presently make citations to several members who have served since the Board's inception, some five years ago. The Board, he said, is made up of a group of citizens who work on a volunteer basis in an attempt to bring about voluntary compliance with Ordinance 1946, which was designed to halt insidious deterioration of housing in the City. The Mayor said that many times the task has been difficult, since the Board members have had to cite their own friends and neighbors for violation of the ordinance. As an example of their dedication, Mayor Miller stated that two Board members were recently written up by the chairman of their own group for minor infractions and that the reproof had been accepted gracefully. He felt the record itself speaks to the success of the program.

Another frustration, Mayor Miller said, has probably been with the seeming inaction of the Mayor and Council in dealing with some of the issues CIB has brought to their attention. However, he added, this is not the case, since at least one Council committee meets every night of the week, except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and sometimes these days are not excepted. All the problems are not resolved, of course, but Council makes every attempt to do so. Mayor Miller said he was particularly pleased to honor Mrs. Simpson and her group and awarded certificates which expressed the appreciation of the Mayor and Council for their five years service on the Community Improvement Board to the following:

Mrs. Kathryn T. Simpson
Mrs. Margaret Holmes
Mr. Clifford J. Waldron

Mrs. Allen Marsh
Mrs. Mary Ann McGuire
Mr. Clarence Boatman

Mayor Miller noted that the artistic credit for the certificates goes to Councilman Hutmire. Mrs. Simpson thanked Mayor Miller and recalled that it was he who proposed the creation of the Community Improvement Board.

He then spoke of the Community Improvement Board, its long and devoted service to the City, and stated he would presently make citations to several members who have served since

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: some five years ago. The Board, he said, is made up of a group of citizens who work on a volunteer basis in an attempt to bring about voluntary compliance with Ordinance 1946, which was designed to halt insidious deterioration of housing in the City.

1. Kathryn T. Simpson, Chairman, Community Improvement Board, City. Mrs. Simpson submitted the following proposal for approval of the Mayor and Council: That May 1 be declared "May Day" on trash, as a part of the regular clean-up program. She proposed that the Mayor and Councilmen, and other community groups, join with the Community Improvement Board in picking up trash in their areas from 10-11:00 AM, Saturday, May 1. The Board would issue sticks and CIB armbands. Mayor Miller, Councilman Nishimoto, and other members of the Council expressed their willingness to cooperate in this venture.

Another frustration, Mayor Miller said, has probably been with the seeming inaction of the Mayor and Council in dealing with some of the issues CIB has brought to their attention. However, he added, this is not the case, since at least one Council committee meets every night of the week, except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and sometimes these days are not excepted. All the problems are not resolved, of course, but Council makes every attempt to do so. Mayor Miller said he was particularly pleased to honor Mrs. Simpson and her group and awarded certificates which expressed the appreciation of the Mayor and Council for their five years service on the Community Improvement Board to the following:

Mrs. Kathryn T. Simpson

Mrs. Allen Marsh

Mrs. Margaret Holmes

Mrs. Mary Ann McGuire

2. Joseph Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue, City. Mr. Ferrier commented on the responsiveness of the City administration, citing as a case in point, the efforts of the City Administrator and Public Works Director in getting WSSC to agree to repair the roadway on Maple Ave. Mrs. Simpson thanked Mayor Miller and recalled that it was he who proposed the creation of the Community Improvement Board.

He then spoke of the Community Improvement Board, its long and devoted service to the City, and stated he would presently make citations to several members who have served since

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: some five years ago. The Board, he said, is made up of a group of citizens who work on a volunteer basis in an attempt to bring about voluntary compliance with Ordinance 1946, which was designed to halt insidious deterioration of housing in the City.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, continued, in case in point, citing as a case in point, the City Administration, March 22, 1971

Mr. Ferrier then spoke of his concern about the relatively low wage scale of the City's firemen and policemen, noting that other jurisdictions face a similar problem in which well-trained men are quickly hired by larger departments at higher salaries. He felt that in order to retain good men, they must be paid wages which are competitive, even if funds must come from a tax increase. He also requested that the system of promoting firemen be liberalized to remedy a situation in which capable men must sometimes wait years for a promotion which has been denied them because of a policy technicality; in addition, he requested that the base pay be adjusted upward and asked Council to consider these requests when the budget is reviewed.

Mr. Ferrier told of his efforts on behalf of NARCE Chapter 357 to have legislation introduced in both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate which would raise the tax exemption of retired Maryland employees from \$1200 to \$2500. A similar bill was introduced by the Charles County delegation; however, he said, there is as yet no indication of the outcome.

Mayor Miller stated that he felt the Maple Avenue situation will be corrected shortly. He also reported that through the efforts of the Mayor and Council, Carroll Avenue is to be blacktopped and curbs repaired from Flower Avenue to the D. C. line.

3. Opal Daniels, 19 Sherman Avenue, City. Mrs. Daniels spoke in support of the Recreation Department's budget requests which, she said, have been cut to the bone. She urged Council to approve the budget as requested, and as supported by the Recreation Council.

Mrs. Daniels stated she would like to see work on the municipal building go ahead as planned; if more money is needed, it should be obtained, even if the only recourse is to raise taxes. She noted that for years the City personnel have worked faithfully in dismal, cramped, inadequate quarters, and pointed out the value in having the City set the tone and act as an incentive or inspiration for other needed improvements by erecting a building which is not only functional, but impressive and beautiful.

She spoke of the trash situation, noting that apparently some of the regulations are not being enforced or perhaps the public is unaware of them, and asked if regulations governing adequate packaging could not be enforced. Mayor Miller replied that there is a need to better inform the public; that the Public Works Department is having the regulations reprinted; and that violations are referred to the Police Department for enforcement.

4. Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue, City. Mr. Vogel reported that exterior appearance at the Winchester-Takoma has deteriorated to the point of near slum conditions, and cited the following: there are a number of abandoned cars on the parking lot and debris scattered about; there are no trees and very little grass, and apparently nothing in the way of outside maintenance is even attempted. He pointed out the close proximity to the new municipal building and requested that something be done to upgrade its appearance. Mayor Miller assigned this to the Housing and Code Enforcement Committee, after which Councilman Hutmire asked Mr. Barile to check into the conditions reported. He then explained that over the years there had been periodic complaints until a tenants group was organized, after which conditions improved considerably. However, he said, if the situation has been permitted to regress, forceful action will have to be taken.

Mr. Vogel stated his opposition to the straightening and widening of parts of Flower Avenue for the purpose of easier access to New Hampshire Avenue. He felt this would only serve to move heavy traffic into one more residential area of the City.

Mr. Vogel said he had recently met Code Enforcement Officer Olson, and had been extremely impressed by his knowledge of the City and its problems, and the work he is doing. He asked that his statement be made a part of Mr. Olsen's personnel record.

With reference to Mrs. Simpson's comments on the METRO parking lots, Mr. Vogel said he understands the position of the no-parking-lot proponents is not to oppose parking lots, per se; instead, they propose that the lots be built away from stations and that riders be bussed in, thus sparing their neighborhoods of unsightly acres of parked cars. Mayor Miller and Mrs. Simpson pointed out that the Takoma Park parking area is not large, consisting only of several lots on the D.C. side. Mr. Andrew Buzik, 216 Grant Avenue, stated that he has been in transportation for 20 years, and that one of the major problem areas has been lack of easy access to transit lines, that is, parking facilities near boarding area. He further stated that rapid transit can never be successful if parking areas are not provided at the station itself.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilman Roth reporting

1. University Boulevard sidewalks (1000 block). Councilman Roth stated that there had been no objections at the public hearing on this item, though there had been a request to place sidewalk adjacent to the curb. He reported that this has been deemed unfeasible because of light poles and guy wires and moved that the project be undertaken as outlined in Ordinance 2140. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hutmire and carried.

Councilman Roth then moved that the City Administrator and Public Works Director be authorized to advertise and get bids on a contract for construction of the sidewalk. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forshee and passed unanimously.

2. Carroll Avenue street resurfacing. Councilman Roth reiterated Mayor Miller's earlier statement concerning the resurfacing of Carroll Avenue from Flower to the D. C. line. He added that Council was delighted that the State Roads Commission has agreed to do a lot of curb work at the same time.

3. Metro station parking. With reference to Messrs. Vogel and Buzik's and Mrs. Simpson's statements, Councilman Roth said all would be taken into account, and stated it is good to have varied points of view expressed. He added his own view that in planning for limited parking areas at each station, no one neighborhood will be beset with the problem of a mammoth parking lot; he agreed with Mr. Buzik's statement that the success or failure of the whole system could hinge on arrangements for parking. Councilman Nishimoto invited Mr. Buzik to attend tomorrow night's meeting on the METRO station and present his views.

4. Hammond Avenue: reopening vs. abandonment. Mr. Jeffas' request for landscaping the end of Hammond Avenue will be considered, Councilman Roth stated.

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Councilman Eppes reporting

1. Fire inspection--Alfred Drive area. Councilman Eppes gave the following report: This area was inspected in August 1970; however, Mr. White's home may not have been included; it is the policy of the Department that an inspection be requested or assented to (if there is an apparent need). Captain West, in response to Mr. White's complaint, visited his home and, in the absence of Mr. & Mrs. White, left a card to be returned if an inspection were

2. Carroll Avenue street resurfacing. Councilman Roth reiterated Mayor Miller's earlier

FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE, cont.

5

March 22, 1971

desired; to date, there has been no response, but the offer stands. Captain West in his report indicated that the area is in excellent condition. Councilman Eppes asked that the item be removed from the agenda.

2. Commendation. Councilman Eppes read a letter from Mrs. James Gordon, Jr. of Hancock Avenue, in which she commended the Fire Department for its efficient handling of a recent fire, with particular reference to their care in saving so many items of value.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: Councilman Sidell reporting

1. Open space at Jackson and Central Avenues. Councilman Sidell reported that the City Administrator has provided information on ownership and the Committee will proceed from there in its investigation.

2. Open space at Elm, Heather, Larch and New Hampshire Avenues. The Park & Planning Commission's feasibility study on acquisition should be available soon, Councilman Sidell stated.

3. TESS area tour. Councilman Sidell stated he was among a group who made a East Silver Spring Citizens Association-sponsored tour to observe the general condition of the TESS area. The group included, among others, the City Administrator, Councilman Hutmire, Mrs. Holmes of CIB, and Montgomery County Council members Wilcox, Garrott, Scull and Potter. He indicated that the City fared much better than East Silver Spring, though that is not to say that problems do not exist in Takoma Park.

4. METRO station. Councilman Sidell invited everyone to attend the Metro show dealing with the Takoma Park station tomorrow night and participate by asking questions and expressing their own particular views. He announced that a Park and Planning Commission workshop on the impact of METRO as it relates to the Master Plan has been arranged for this week. In addition, there is a public hearing scheduled for March 30 at 7:30 PM (Park and Planning Commission Auditorium) on the Silver Spring METRO station.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Councilman Webb reporting

1. Proposed Founder's Day celebration. Councilman Webb stated a tentative meeting with the initiator of the proposal has been set up for the middle of April; and that it is possible such a celebration may come about next fall.

2. Petition to improve Hodges Field. The Committee has asked the Public Works Department to repair the backstop and ready the field for use next month, Councilman Webb reported.

3. Proposed community bulletin board. This will be deferred until such time that it can be coordinated with the needs of the new municipal building, Councilman Webb said.

4. Maryland Open Space Program. Councilman Webb requested that this item be removed from the agenda until the feasibility study results are available from the Park and Planning Commission.

March 22, 1971

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

Municipal Building contract award. Mayor Miller stated that he felt this was a very historic occasion and the culmination of many years of planning. He thanked members of the audience who had expressed their support of the project. Councilman Forshee reported that the final plans incorporate some changes--a few costly items eliminated, and other items added--but it is basically unchanged. He read the ordinance below and moved that it be adopted, explaining that two items included in the amount stated are still being considered: the seating in the council chambers and some of the decorative touches on the exterior, the exclusion of which could alter the final figure by about \$10,000.

ORDINANCE NO. 2152

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

- SECTION 1. THAT WHEREAS Ordinance 2141, adopted January 11, 1971, authorized advertising for bids to be opened on February 18, 1971, for the construction of a Municipal Building on Maple Avenue adjacent to the City Library, AND
- SECTION 2. THAT WHEREAS the two lowest bids received, \$764,000 and \$766,000, respectively, far exceeded the anticipated cost, AND
- SECTION 3. THEREFORE, the Architect, Philip W. Mason, was authorized to negotiate with the two low bidders for new prices upon the deletion of certain items that had been specified in the bid proposal, AND
- SECTION 4. THAT as a result of such negotiation, the low bid as submitted by Martin Bros., Inc. is considered to be acceptable, AND
- SECTION 5. THEREFORE THAT the contract be awarded to Martin Brothers, Inc., 2045 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, Maryland, in the amount of \$668,265 (SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS), AND
- SECTION 6. THAT the City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the AIA Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor for the stipulated sum of \$668,265 (SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS), AND
- SECTION 7. THAT The cost of construction, including architects fees, be charged to the Special Building Fund Account.

Motion was seconded by Councilmen Nishimoto and Sidell and the ordinance adopted by roll call vote recorded as follows: Aye: Councilmen Eppes, Forshee, Hutmire, Nishimoto, Roth, Sidell, Webb. Nay: none. Excused: none. Mayor Miller stated that the contractor anticipates completion of the building in about ten months, and noted that it will provide the first office he has had during his tenure as Mayor.

Councilman Nishimoto suggested that a groundbreaking ceremony be considered, and it was agreed that this should be looked into.

Councilman Forshee stated that some of the other items on the Committee agenda will be incorporated into the forthcoming budget.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE, Councilman Nishimoto reporting

1. Response to Mr. Nathaniel White's requests. Councilman Nishimoto reported that Captain Porter has checked on Mr. White's complaints in an attempt to work out some of the problems. He reported that Alfred Drive is on a regular patrol route; and that orders have been posted to ensure that this area is covered during each shift. With reference to agenda item 1(b), Councilman Nishimoto stated he regretted the incident had occurred; that, unfortunately, it cannot now be resolved to anyone's satisfaction since the policeman involved is no longer employed by the City and is not now in police work. As a general rule, he said, it is considered unlawful to have lights on the high beam when facing traffic; however, it may have been entirely proper in the case of Mr. White. Mr. White has also been contacted with reference to the Silver Spring Intermediate School safety problems and, as a result, he is to meet with Officer Sherman and the school principal to discuss means of obtaining a stop light at East-West Highway. Councilman Nishimoto pointed out that LEC can only give supportive help here, since East-West Highway is a State road. He indicated that Committee will continue to discuss other safety measures with Mr. White.

2. Police & Fireman's proposals re Merit Plan revision. This will be reviewed in conjunction with the Fire Protection and Finance Committees, Councilman Nishimoto stated.

3. Traffic hazard at Piney Branch Road, Eastern and Takoma Avenues. Another meeting to discuss this with the State Roads Commission has been scheduled for March 24, Councilman Nishimoto stated.

4. Training. Councilman Nishimoto announced that all members of the Department will participate in the following seminars as part of the continuing in-service training program of the Police Department: a bomb control seminar, to begin April 14; and a 3-day drug abuse seminar. Councilman Nishimoto stated that six men have completed the latter, and it is anticipated that by December, the entire force will have done so. He noted that participation in various training programs is encouraged so that all members of the Department can keep abreast of new developments in police work.

HOUSING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: Councilman Hutmire reporting

1. Abandoned vehicles and debris at 7216 New Hampshire Avenue. This situation has been brought to the attention of County authorities, Councilman Hutmire reported, and will be followed closely by the Code Enforcement Division.

2. Hardsurface parking at commercial establishments. A system of cooperative enforcement of the Montgomery County zoning ordinance is being tested, Councilman Hutmire stated, which, if not sufficiently effective, may have to be supplemented by a municipal regulation.

3. Information booklet for new residents. The manuscript has been taken to a printer for advice and a cost estimate, Councilman Hutmire reported. The booklet should be useful not only to newcomers, but also for residents of long standing, for example, the City would be able to disseminate information of the type mentioned by Mrs. Daniels.

4. Housing authority. Councilman Hutmire said that responses to a questionnaire sent to various cities with already established housing authorities, as reported at last Council meeting, will be summarized for study by the Council.

March 22, 1971

HOUSING & CODE ENFORCEMENT
COMMITTEE, continued

5. Training. Councilman Hutmire reported that Mr. Barile is attending a two-week seminar held by the Prince George's code enforcement division--a group whose operation is similar to the City's, but on a much larger scale.

SPECIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Councilman Forshee reporting

No report

Councilman Forshee announced that a hearing on the FY-72 budget will be held at 8:00 PM, Tuesday, April 13, in the Gymnasium, and invited all to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM, to reconvene at 8:00 PM, April 12, 1970, in the Municipal Gymnasium.

Attest:

H. August M. Ridgman
City Administrator

Approved:

George M. Miller
Mayor

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK
8 Columbia Avenue
Takoma Park, Md. 20012

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Sidewalk, East side of Anne Street
from Carroll to Kennewick Avenue
March 29, 1971

Present at the hearing were: Mayor Miller; Councilmen Eppes, Forshee, Hutmire, Webb, Nishimoto, Roth and Sidell; City Administrator Pridgen and Public Works Director Rhodes.

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order and stated its purpose: to hear the opinions and ideas of residents of the Anne Street area who will be affected by the provisions of Ordinance 2147. He stated that, since this comes under the aegis of the Public Works Committee, Chairman Roth would conduct the hearing.

Councilman Roth stated that the question of sidewalks for Anne Street has been on the agenda for a number of years; was there, in fact, when he became chairman of the Committee; and that a number of ideas have been advanced toward the solution of problems arising from increased traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian), and the absence of sidewalks on Anne St. He stated that the proposal for a sidewalk, as set forth in Ordinance 2147, is but one such idea, and that the hearing has been arranged to hear reactions to the proposal. He then invited members of the audience to speak.

Themistocles Papajika, 7908 Kennewick Avenue, stated he was opposed to having property owners bear the cost; that since sidewalk is for all citizens of the City, and since the City would use his land for the sidewalk, he felt the City should bear the cost. Councilman Forshee explained that if the sidewalk were built, it wouldn't be on land belonging to owners of adjacent property; that ownership doesn't extend to the curb line. Mayor Miller stated that there is a public right-of-way provision for every house. Mr. Papajika, in response to questions posed by Councilmen Roth and Forshee, stated he would not be opposed to the construction of a sidewalk if he did not have to pay for it. He also stated that taxes are being increased in Prince George's County, but he cannot in turn raise rents in his apartment building.

Mrs. G. Wolkowitz, 7907 Lockney Avenue, inquired if it is true that construction of a sidewalk is assessed as a property improvement and thereby a tax increase. Mayor Miller stated that this is the normal procedure--any sidewalk that is laid was originally paid for by the property owner; after that the City assumes responsibility for upkeep.

Arthur D. Cruze, 7912 Lockney Avenue, stated he doesn't appreciate the public need and would prefer to replant grass each year instead of paying for the sidewalk and being taxed for it as an assessable improvement. Mr. Cruze stated he favors making Anne Street one way south and restricting parking to one side of the street, thereby creating adequate space for walking which could be marked off; that unless a further study reveals a very real need for sidewalks, he opposes such a plan. Mr. Cruze further stated that Anne Street has become a race track for cars and the primary pedestrian route to the shopping center.

Rolland W. Belden, 7907 Glenside Drive, stated he favors the one-way street as petitioned; that he and others had requested some changes several years ago, but the only improvement made was to install STOP and SLOW signs, which aren't too effective. He noted the increased number of speeders in recent years.

Samuel R. Morris, 909 Anne Street, requested that the one-way street be tried prior to assessing a few people on one side of the street for a sidewalk to be used by everyone. He noted that this suggestion had been made some years ago. He felt that foot traffic has not increased to any great degree, but that vehicular traffic has, and that accidents have involved the collision of moving and parked cars, rather than pedestrians. He pointed out that the street is used as a short cut to and from the main arteries of traffic.

Morton Krakow, 8001 Wildwood Drive, proposed that parking be banned on both sides of Anne Street as an alternative to sidewalks. He stated that both pedestrian and vehicular traffic have increased and that accidents have occurred, and felt that additional STOP signs would not act as a deterrent. He pointed out the absence of a crosswalk on Carroll Avenue at Anne Street, and suggested that this too is dangerous for pedestrians. An even greater hazard than lack of sidewalks, Mr. Krakow stated, is the very narrow section at the intersection of Carroll and Anne Street. He also proposed a stop sign at Anne Street and Glenside. Upon question by Mayor Miller, Mr. Krakow stated he could not commit himself to the proposed one-way street, north to south, since it would create a hardship for many persons. Mayor Miller then inquired as to the sentiment of the neighborhood with respect to banning all parking. Mr. Krakow felt that few would be inconvenienced, since most have driveways, and pointed out that several parked cars have been struck by motorists. Councilman Roth stated that there is some evidence to indicate that motorists tend to drive faster on a street with no parking. Mr. Krakow did not agree with this.

Mrs. Morris R. King, 7911 Wildwood Drive, stated she did not favor off-street parking; and expressed her approval of designating Anne Street one-way from north to south. She also stated that accidents continue to occur despite STOP signs.

John E. Duvall, 7908 Wildwood Drive, stated he felt sidewalks should be constructed, but with residents of both sides of the street being assessed. He further stated that he favors a one-way street, but going north; and that STOP signs should be erected at every corner to help eliminate use of the street as a short-cut to the shopping center. He felt that one-way going south would be too hazardous for pedestrians.

Karsten Aasheim, 7907 Cole Avenue, stated he had circulated the petition and, though he is in sympathy with pedestrians, he feels instituting one-way south should be tried, since this would divert the bulk of traffic to Carroll Avenue. He stated that the designation, New Hampshire Gardens, is something of a misnomer in view of the heavy traffic the residents must contend with.

Mrs. Shaffer, representing Mrs. Lola Spence, 811 Anne Street, stated that Mrs. Spence is not in favor of sidewalk construction, unless the whole community finances the cost. She also stated that because of the angle of her driveway, she would favor the one-way south plan.

B. W. Hopkins, also representing Mrs. Lola Spence. Mr. Hopkins spoke in support of Mrs. Shaffer's statements, and added that he felt the City was at fault for not having required sidewalks when the development was opened. Mayor Miller pointed out that this had occurred prior to the time of the present Mayor and Council.

Mrs. John Duvall, 7908 Wildwood Avenue, stated she would like sidewalks, but proposed that the cost be divided among residents of both sides of Anne Street. She said she is probably the only regular pedestrian among those present, and that she can vouch for the need for sidewalks. The STOP signs are useless, she stated.

Another member of the audience felt it potentially dangerous to designate Anne Street as one way, feeling that the new designation would go unnoticed. Mayor Miller replied that the usual way is to have a policeman stationed there to direct traffic for the first week or so, or until most motorists become aware of the change.

Another person thought the one-way south designation would be an unfair hardship on persons going to the shopping center, particularly those from the southern end of the City who don't even have a grocery store in their area

Councilman Roth asked for a show of hands on how many would agree to sidewalks if the City were able to pay for part of the cost. However, before a full show of hands or a tally could be taken, someone brought up another point for discussion.

Mayor Miller than asked if anyone were flatly against sidewalk construction. One person responded that he was opposed only because he wanted a one-way street tried first.

Mayor Miller thanked those present for their fruitful suggestions and stated that Council will make every effort to come up with a solution the the problem once and for all. He assured them that Council is not trying to put the burden on one group, but will seek an equitable resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Attest: *Haynes M. Pridgen*
City Administrator

Approved: _____
Mayor

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