

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 1974.

City Officials present:

Mayor Roth
 Councilman Faulkner
 Councilman Garcia
 Councilwoman Medina
 Councilman Ricks
 Councilman Webb

City Administrator Pridgen
 Asst. City Administrator Gilsdorf
 Recreation Dept. Director Ziegler
 Police Chief Porter
 Fire Chief LaScola
 Corporation Counsel Gingerich
 Corporation Counsel Culpepper
 Deputy City Clerk Pusti

Councilmen Forshee and Nishimoto were excused.

The Mayor and Council met in Executive Session on May 13, 1974, at 8:05 PM in the Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 22 meeting and dispense with their reading. Councilman Garcia called attention to the incorrect spelling of the name of Sgambato on the first page of the minutes. With this correction the minutes were unanimously approved.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS:

- The Mayor announced that on May 21, at 8:00 PM the planning staff of Montgomery County Planning Board will conduct a public forum in Takoma Park to brief the citizens on the Transit Impact Plan. Copies of the plan were available at this meeting and from the City Office.
- On June 20, at 8:00 PM Montgomery County Council will hold a formal public hearing on the Transit Impact Plan in the Auditorium of Montgomery Blair High School.
- Because of Memorial Day being Monday, May 27, the next Council meeting will be held the following day, Tuesday, May 28.
- The budget hearing will be held on May 29, at 8:00 PM in the Council Room.
- Mayor Roth briefly explained again the new procedure, adopted by the Council to give Councilmembers more time for important policy and financial problems by avoiding individual committee meetings, which in the past had taken up as many as 4 nights a week. The Council now operates as a Committee of the Whole. He added, that if an individual or a group wanted to discuss a problem with the Council, an appointment could be made for the 3rd Monday of every month. Otherwise the City Administrator would handle all the agenda items and submit staff reports, worked out with the help of the pertinent Department Heads. Before Council meetings all Councilmembers receive copies of staff reports, and the Mayor stressed the importance of those reports being studied carefully by the Councilmembers before each meeting. He explained that any Council agenda item - whether originating from correspondence or brought up during meetings - is assigned to the City Administrator for investigation with the help of the Department Heads concerned. If, through this procedure, the problem can be solved, this is done right away under the City Administrator's authority, and the action taken will be reported to the Council. Other items, on which Council action is necessary, are reported to the Council for action, together with a staff recommendation. In a general way this is the procedure employed by most of the larger cities in Maryland.

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CITIZENS' REMARKS:

1. Harold Sorensen, formerly 317 Lincoln Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. - now residing at 5501 Waterway Terrace, Rockville, Maryland, spoke both as an individual and as president of the Takoma Park Tenant Association.

- He approved of the new Council procedure.
- He thanked the Mayor and Council for their courtesy in listening during the past 5 months to his various complaints and entreaties.
- He reviewed briefly his personal problem: having had to move out of his apartment because of enforcement of the Takoma Park Housing Code, stressing that in this way innocent people suffered because of code violations by landlords. He stated that besides his own, there had been 10 such cases, and he urged the City to adopt landlord-tenant legislation. If this were accomplished through his eviction, he felt it would not have been in vain.
- He announced having moved out of his apartment on May 4th, but that he did not harbor any ill feelings toward the City or its Officials. He apologized if he had offended anyone; this had never been his intention. What he had wanted to do was to present constructive ideas that might help future tenants in Takoma Park.
- As to his Tenant Association, he told of it now being affiliated with the Montgomery County Tenant Association - some 300,000 tenants strong - . Since he is no longer residing in Takoma Park, he had submitted the names of Juanita O. Penn and Kevin Dwyer as delegate and alternate delegate to the TESS Commission to represent Takoma Park Tenant Association.
- He announced a meeting of the Tenant Association Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 PM at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and invited the Mayor and Council as well as other interested citizens to attend the meeting.
- In closing Mr. Sorensen again urged the City to adopt landlord-tenant legislation to make Takoma Park a better place to live for everybody. Thanking City Administrator Pridgen and Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf for assistance in the past, he stated that he was looking forward to working with them in the future to secure "First Class citizenship for the Takoma Park tenants."

Mayor Roth assured Mr. Sorensen that while their patience might have been tried at times, neither he nor any of the Councilmembers had felt offended.

2. Ed Hutmire, 21 Columbia Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, spoke as president of the Recreation Council. Referring to his statement at the April 8 Council meeting, he said that the position of the Recreation Council was still that the property at 8 Sherman Avenue should be retained for recreational purposes. He expressed appreciation that the City Council had met with the Recreation Council to discuss the matter and said that since he understands that the City is going to convert 8 Sherman Avenue to a rental dwelling, the Recreation Council is preparing certain specific recommendations for relocating the activities planned for there. He urged that the City also take steps to provide for the Municipal Building to be taken into use for a wider variety of activities, especially the 2nd floor.

- He mentioned the extensive use of the Fire Department Gym and expressed concern whether - after the County takes it over - the equipment, furnished by the City, would still be available to the hundreds of Takoma Park children regularly using the gym. He urged that it be kept in mind during the present negotiations how much the Fire House Gym means to the health and well-being

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of Takoma Park's children - especially considering that the gyms at Junior High School and at the Middle School are heavily booked, so that activities taking place at the Fire House Gym could not easily be transferred somewhere else.

- Mr. Hutmire expressed surprise that none of the requests and suggestions made in his statement April 8 had appeared on the summary agenda of May 1st - such as f.inst. the problem of the editing of the City's Newsletter by the Recreation Department staff. He said that the Recreation Council was preparing a letter to the Mayor and Council concerning the various problems.

Mayor Roth said that he fully realized what an important part the Fire House Gym played in the City's recreational programs. He declared that he would be happy to have Mr. Hutmire's letter to strengthen his position in dealing with the County. He assured Mr. Hutmire that while his suggestions had not yet appeared on the agenda, they were not forgotten. In fact he had discussed the various items and also received numerous telephone calls.

3. Clarence Smith, 61 Walnut Avenue, spoke both as an individual and as a representative of the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission. He told of asking Councilman Nishimoto about what festivities were planned for the 200th birthday of Montgomery County on September 6, 1976, and being told that Takoma Park was not planning anything. He had now come to find out whether a committee could be set up to work on plans for the celebration.

- He then spoke about health problems in Montgomery County, where he stated, that according to TV Channel 4, 50% of the children had problems with their vision; 10% the beginnings of leukemia; 35% hearing problems, and he asked the Council to look into that, and that he would like to see a committee set up to deal with such health problems and also health problems of senior citizens, to help them stay alive as long as possible. He stated to be in favor of: 1) beautifying the City; 2) finding out about health problems and what can be done about them; 3) older people taking a good look at themselves to see what their health problems may be, and 4) having a celebration at the bicentennial, when several million people may be coming.

Mayor Roth thanked Mr. Smith for his ideas and assured him that there would be celebrations and that suggestions and recommendations were expected from Councilman Nishimoto, who was a member of the Bicentennial Commission. Councilman Ricks added that he knew that the Independence Day Committee was looking forward to 1976, and while they as yet had no concrete plans, they would have. As to the health problems, he pointed out that June 2 would be a Community Health Day with free medical check-ups between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM, showing that health programs are going on.

4. Opal Daniels, 19 Sherman Avenue, spoke as an individual (not belonging to any organization) in favor of the petition from the Recreation Council for the City to retain 8 Sherman Avenue for community activities, rather than as a rental property.

- She inquired about the new procedure and how it would work, f.inst. in a case like the complaint she had lodged about people leaving their trash at the curb for several days. Mayor Roth told her that her complaint was already on the docket. City Administrator Pridgen added that there was an article in the May issue of the Newsletter, reminding citizens NOT to place trash for Wednesday pick-ups at the curb before Tuesday afternoon. He said that if that did not help, the Police Department would notify the people. Councilman Faulkner supported Mrs. Daniel's complaint about trash lining the City streets, as he had noticed it on Park Avenue.

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- Mrs. Daniels told of, what she called "a beautiful experience" - the House & Garden Tour in Takoma Park a short while ago. She hoped that this would become a yearly event, turning into a tradition, and she felt that the people who had planned it and worked on it deserved to be publicly **thanked**. Mayor Roth heartily agreed and said that last year, when the Tour was originated, he and Mrs. Roth had held a reception in their home for the participants. Such a reception had also been planned this year; but the people had begged off, being too tired to go to a reception that same evening. However, speaking both for himself and for the Council, he commended everybody who had taken part and hoped that the event would take place again.
5. Joe Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue, complained about a mailbox having been removed from Maple Avenue, near Philadelphia Avenue, and asked for assistance in getting it back. He said it might endanger some of his older neighbors to have to cross the street to mail a letter in the box in front of the Municipal Building.
- He again voiced support of the request by Gloria's Market for a loading zone in front of the store on Carroll Avenue.
 - He expressed satisfaction with the new Council procedure.
 - He stated that he thought Harold Sorensen's eviction to be wrong - regardless of the law - and hoped that the City would not have to do something like that ever again.
 - He supported retaining 8 Sherman Avenue and recalled that he had also been against getting rid of 8 Columbia Avenue.
 - He thanked the Mayor and Council - and especially Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf - for advertising the senior citizens' luncheons in the City Newsletter. This had resulted in the attendance growing from 8-12 people to 20-24, which had prompted the County to continue the program through summer.
6. Shirlee Hutmire, 21 Columbia Avenue, spoke again about the hazard of parked cars at the ~~Exxon~~ Station, corner of Carroll and Tulip Avenues, in the yellow marked cross-walk, making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross there. She suggested that in addition to the yellow stripe a sign: "NO PARKING TO CORNER" be placed there. Councilman Ricks agreed that this was a hazard and called for speedy action.
7. Dr. Faith Stern, 103 Grant Avenue, spoke as newly elected president of the Takoma Park Elementary School's P.T.A., which, she stated, would welcome some cooperation from the Mayor and Council in its work to improve Takoma Park. She presented a petition (item #240), signed by 52 residents of Grant Avenue, protesting the unkempt and deteriorating condition of vacant lots between 104 and 120 Grant Avenue, belonging to Ely & L. Weinkranz, c/o G&W Enterprises, 7667 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Occasionally these lots had been used for purposes far from beneficial to neighboring citizens, such as unauthorized sleeping by a transient couple with no regard for public decency or concern for the sensibilities of children passing on their way to school. At present the lots were used as a dumping ground for worn-out appliances, discarded machinery and abandoned or disabled vehicles, thus creating an eyesore and attracting rats and other vermin. She pointed out that the lots still have several attractive trees and could, with modest efforts, be turned into a mini-park, thereby bringing benefits to the community and its citizens. With several nearby apartment buildings without play areas or green space, such a mini-park would be very welcome both for the children and for senior citizens. She urged the Mayor and Council to take immediate steps to procure these lots and convert them

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into a mini-park. Councilman Ricks agreed that this was a considerable problem and recommended that the City have Code Enforcement look into it and have the area cleaned up.

8. Deanne Esser, 125 Lee Avenue, told of that apartment house - with 9 apartments, some occupied by families with children, being turned into a cooperative and the tenants being given only 30 days' notice. She urged the City to adopt a landlord-tenant code for tenants' protection. She handed in her eviction notice, in which there was no mention of the reason for her having to move. She said she had found that out by calling the manager. Councilman Ricks found that a 30 day notice was very short - especially for families with children - for relocating and recommended writing to the landlord, asking for an extension. There was some discussion, and Councilman Faulkner asked if the present tenants had been asked whether they would be interested in buying into the cooperative arrangement. Ms. Esser said they had not been asked. There was some further discussion as to the legality of the conversion, and Councilwoman Medina felt that it ought to be determined whether the nature of the conversion corresponded with the City Code and Fire Code. Mayor Roth agreed and said that the City must make sure that not more units are put in. It was the general consensus of the Council that the City Administrator should write a letter as suggested by Councilman Ricks.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: City Treasurer Pridgen reporting.

BANK BALANCES
as of April 30, 1974.

Suburban Trust Co. - General Funds

Balance: March 31, 1974	82,492.46	
* April Receipts	<u>375,902.04</u>	458,394.50
* April Disbursements		<u>336,114.59</u>
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>122,279.91</u></u>

Suburban Trust Co. - Payroll Account

Balance: March 31, 1974	12,733.22	
April Receipts	<u>89,157.36</u>	101,890.58
April Disbursements		<u>91,241.39</u>
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>10,649.19</u></u>

Citizens Bank of Maryland - General Funds

Balance: March 31, 1974	135.43	
No transactions during April	<u>- 0 -</u>	
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>135.43</u></u>

Citizens Bank of Maryland - Special Assess Fund

Balance: March 31, 1974	196.60	
No transactions during April	<u>- 0 -</u>	
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>196.60</u></u>

Citizens Bank of Maryland - Public Improvement Fund

Balance: March 31, 1974	534.53	
No transactions during April	<u>- 0 -</u>	
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>534.53</u></u>

Citizens Bank of Maryland - Savings A/C

Balance: March 31, 1974	173.45	
No transactions during April	<u>- 0 -</u>	
Balance: April 30, 1974		<u><u>173.45</u></u>

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American National Bank - General Funds

Balance: March 31, 1974 80.73
 No transactions during April - 0 -
 Balance: April 30, 1974 80.73

Petty Cash

200.00

* Treasury Bill \$200,000 matured 4/4/74 Cost \$192,269.89

* Treasury Bill \$200,000 matured 6/21/74 Cost-196,214.67

U. S. Treasury Bills				Cost	Maturity Value
Purchased	9/25/73	Maturity Date	6/4/74	94,590.00	100,000.00
"	3/6/74	"	5/16/74	98,585.14	100,000.00
"	3/6/74	"	6/20/74	97,880.28	100,000.00
"	3/21/74	"	6/21/74	97,960.33	100,000.00
"	4/4/74	"	6/21/74	196,214.67	200,000.00
				<u>585,230.42</u>	<u>600,000.00</u>

City Administrator Pridgen announced that the Metropolitan Council of Governments was having a re-examination of the Year 2000 Policy Plan and would hold a series of public briefings to present its findings and recommendations. The one in Montgomery County will be on May 20, at 8:00 PM at the Montgomery Community College in Rockville; in Prince George's County it will be on May 22, at 8:00 PM in the Auditorium of Prince George's General Hospital, Cheverly; the hearing in District of Columbia will be on May 21st and in Northern Virginia on May 23rd.

Mr. Pridgen read a postcard from Councilman Forshee with greetings from Hong Kong.

Upon City Administrator Pridgen's request, the Director of the Recreation Department, Mrs. Ziegler, made the following announcements:

May 17, at 7:30 PM at the Firehouse Gym there will be a kiddie movie:
 CARTOON PARADE

May 27, at 2:00 PM at Veterans' Memorial Park, Memorial Day Services will be held under the sponsorship of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Takoma Post #350

Due to Memorial Day week-end, the date for the ART SHOW on the Takoma Park Library grounds, scheduled for May 26, has been changed to June 2.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:(1) Communications:

1. Item #233 - John E. Pietz, General Manager, Sound-Communications Dynamics, 7908 Flower Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20012. Request to have the timing of the light signal at the intersection of Maple Avenue and East-West Highway changed.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that Police Chief Porter had investigated this request and made certain adjustments in the timing. However, the signal was old and could not be adjusted to handle rush hour traffic efficiently. It is due for replacement this year, and a new type light should remedy the problem. This had been communicated to Mr. Pietz, and Mr. Pridgen suggested that the item be removed from the agenda. Councilman Ricks said that he would like something done at that intersection, so that south going traffic on Maple Avenue could turn onto Philadelphia without having to stop for an extended period of time. Mayor Roth said that this was pending.

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2. Item #234 - Roy B. Henderson, 1103 Haverford Road, Takoma Park, Maryland. Letter requesting raising of the curb along the west side of Wildwood Avenue, between Norwood and Haverford Drives, as well as a portion along the north side of Haverford Drive, to improve the flow and drainage of water.

City Administrator Pridgen commented that the re-surfacing of Wildwood Drive had been completed before the letter could be acted upon, but that the Director of Public Works, Mr. Barile, would observe the water run-off during heavy rains to determine whether rebuilding of the curb was required. There was some discussion, and Councilman Faulkner - who had observed the situation during the recent rainfall - felt that the request was valid. Mr. Pridgen said that if Mr. Barile confirmed this observation, the curb would be raised and that Mr. Henderson would be informed accordingly.

3. Item #235 - Bernard M. Evans, State Highway Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation. Letter concerning a program providing federal funds to correct safety hazards on roads not already part of the Federal-Aid system.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that copies of this letter had been given to the Director of Public Works and the Chief of Police for review and recommendations. The item would be kept on the agenda. There was some discussion as to how the available funds might best be utilized.

4. Item #237 - Catherine Wakelyn, Secretary, Old Takoma Park Citizens Association, Takoma Park, Maryland. Letter expressing concern about the unkempt appearance of various properties on Park Avenue.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that the letter had been referred to Code Enforcement for comments. The properties had all been cited, and in two instances there had been compliance. There was some discussion, and Councilman Faulkner pointed out that 122 Park Avenue was in even worse condition than the properties mentioned in the letter. It had been broken into, and it was suggested to board up the house. Fire Chief LaScola stated he would take care of this.

5. Item #238 - John D. Emler & Associates, 8811 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. Carbon Copy of Mr. Emler's letter to the Washington Gas Light Company concerning work done by the Gas Co. in front of 7204 - 14th Avenue, Takoma Park, Md., the Hillwood Manor Subdivision, requesting that the repair work of the street surface be completed in that area.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that the Director of Public Works had been informed by the Gas Co. that they were swamped with work but would do this repair work as soon as possible. Mr. Emler had been informed accordingly.

6. Item #239 - Blair G. Ewing, president, Sligo Park Hills Citizens' Association, 4 Park Valley Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. Letter requesting (1) improved street lighting on Mississippi Avenue and (2) one-way, southbound traffic on Hilltop Road, from Park Valley and Piney Branch to Maple Avenue.

There was some discussion as to (1) whether the available federal funds might be used for street lights, and (2) whether the suggested one-way might make it difficult for emergency vehicles, fire trucks, etc. to get in there. Mayor Roth suggested keeping the item on the agenda until the Chief of Police has had a chance to look into all the angles.

7. Board of Appeals for Prince George's County, Hyattsville, Maryland. Letter concerning public hearing on a request to appeal Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's denial of a Use and Occupancy Permit for Roat Orthopedic Appliances, 6505 Kansas Lane, Takoma Park, Md., May 20, at 8:30 PM,

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in Room 224, County Service Building, Hyattsville, Maryland.

Councilman Faulkner moved that a letter, supporting the Park & Planning Commission's denial of the Use and Occupancy Permit, be sent to the Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ricks. Councilwoman Medina found it difficult to endorse such action without having all the details of the case such as what a "Use and Occupancy Permit" entails, and what particular violations were involved. However, considering the time limit, she would go along with the idea of writing a letter as suggested. Councilman Webb stated that while he supported the principle of such action and had confidence in the Park & Planning Commission, he too would have liked to know more about the case. There was further discussion, and Councilman Ricks stated that since this was a residential zone, commercial activity was clearly in violation of the zoning, even with Special Exemption. Councilman Faulkner suggested stating in the letter that the Council would look favorably on an extension of whatever time limit might be involved for correcting the violation. There were no objections to this addition, and the motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. Mary Ann McGuire, Co-Chairman of the House & Garden Tour Committee, 1974, Takoma Park, Maryland. Letter thanking the Mayor and Council for supporting the House and Garden Tour. Over 300 people went on the tour this year. The letter expressed gratitude to Mrs. Ellen Marsh, who had arranged and coordinated the tour.

Mayor Roth complimented the Committee for doing a fine job, expressing the hope that the tour would be repeated next year.

City Administrator Pridgen thanked the Department Heads, Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf, Deputy City Clerk, Mrs. Pusti, and the office staff in general for working with him on the preparation of the new type agenda.

(2) Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:

Item #3 - Alleviation of traffic situation at Ritchie and Piney Branch Road, (poor visibility).

Upon the City Administrator's request Police Chief Porter stated that the only feasible solution for greater visibility at Ritchie and Piney Branch Road would be an automatic traffic signal. After completing a study of the intersection, however, the State Highway Administration had found the traffic volume to be low, with abt. 2 accidents per year over the last 5 years, which together did not warrant installation of an automatic signal. He said that other solutions, such as changing the landscape, would be costly. Thus the Traffic Safety Committee recommended removing the item from the agenda and continue to use a STOP sign at the intersection. Councilman Ricks commented on the report, stating, that the low volume of traffic might be due to people not being able to get across the intersection, but that he felt the residents of Ritchie Avenue were entitled to have a light there to be able to get out, and that the matter should not be dropped but studied anew by the State Highway Administration. He wondered whether the federal funds for correcting safety hazards could be used for this. Councilman Faulkner was not so sure that the residents of Ritchie Avenue would want a light as it might create another "Maple Avenue". Police Chief Porter shared his concern in this respect and said that a light might bring more traffic and more problems. He pointed to an up-coming item #177 on the agenda, which showed that already there is a problem with commercial vehicles using Ritchie Avenue and other streets as short-cuts. Councilman Ricks inquired about signs on Piney Branch Road, and when told that there were none, he suggested having a sign: DANGEROUS INTERSECTION. Further discussion ensued, and Mayor Roth asked the City Administrator and the Traffic Safety Committee

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to take a second look at this matter.

Item #14 - Winchester-Takoma (a) code violations (b) parking lot lights.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf noted as to (a) that Corporation Counsel had the situation well under control, with a surity bond of \$5000 to insure compliance with the housing code. As to (b) the parking areas on all 4 sides of the building were now sufficiently lighted. It was suggested that the item be deleted from the agenda. Councilman Ricks was against deleting item #14 (a) from the agenda because of the extremely bad condition of the building. He wanted it kept on the agenda and to be informed, at least once a month, of the progress made in having the violations corrected. Mayor Roth and Councilman Faulkner were in agreement with Councilman Ricks.

Item #19 - Progress Report on proposed fund for house rehabilitation.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf reported that by the next meeting, the Mayor and Council would be furnished copies of staff recommendations for the complete rehabilitation loan program, including guidelines and suggested approach to the administration of this program. Many policy decisions would still have to be made by the Council, but at least a recommended program would be available within 2 weeks.

Item #28 - Request for grocery store in SW section of City, and

Item #92 - Petition to rehabilitate Laurel/Carroll Avenue shopping center.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that he had several conferences with Mr. Highsmith, the franchise developer for the Convenience Food Marts, Inc. (a food chain out of Chicago), who had shown sufficient interest in Takoma Park to initiate plans for a feasibility survey. The City staff had furnished Mr. Highsmith with various types of information, but nothing had been heard from him now for several months, and it was surmised that he had been occupied with other projects in Virginia and North Carolina. Mr. Pridgen suggested taking the item off the Council agenda but keeping it as an administrative item for further development.

As to rehabilitating the Laurel/Carroll Avenue shopping center, this would be the subject of the new Transit Impact Plan, up for briefing May 21st, with a public hearing by Montgomery County Council on June 20th.

Councilman Ricks suggested writing a letter to Mr. Highsmith to let him know that Takoma Park is still interested in having his people serve the area. City Administrator Pridgen agreed with this idea and said that Mr. Highsmith should also get a copy of the new Transit Impact Plan. There was general agreement that the items be left on the City Administrator's working agenda.

Item #118 - Request to retain 8 Sherman Avenue. No report.

Item #123 - Request for a ballfield in Prince George's County.

City Administrator Pridgen stated that, according to the Director of the Recreation Department, the area had been thoroughly combed, but that to-date no suitable place for a ballfield had been found. He suggested removing the item from the Council agenda - retaining it on the Recreation Council's agenda. There were no objections.

Item #170 - Progress Report - Special Exception 2840 - psychiatric halfway house, 6819 Red Top Road.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf announced that the County would hold a public hearing on July 22, at 9:30 AM in the Council Hearing Room of Prince George's County Court House in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. City Administrator

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Pridgen added that it might be possible to obtain a staff report from the Park & Planning Commission on the matter. There was some discussion.

Item #177 - Suggested prohibition on thru trucks, Cedar, Holly and Ritchie Avenues.

Upon City Administrator Pridgen's request Police Chief Porter reported on this item: During the last 2 months, traffic counts had shown that there was no significant problem in this respect on Cedar and Holly Avenues, but that on Ritchie Avenue there is a definite problem, it being used daily by a number of large commercial trucks. The Traffic Safety Committee recommended the adoption of an ordinance providing that thru-truck traffic be prohibited on Ritchie Avenue between Maple and Piney Branch Road. There was some discussion, whereupon Councilman Ricks read the proposed ordinance - quoted below - and moved that it be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Garcia and carried by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Garcia, Medina, Ricks, and Webb. EXCUSED: Councilmen Forshee and Nishimoto. NAY: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 2308

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

SECTION 1. THAT thru-truck traffic on Ritchie Avenue between Maple Avenue and Piney Branch Road is hereby prohibited; AND

SECTION 2. THAT this ordinance shall exempt light trucks up to and including those with a chassis weight of one ton, not displaying any commercial markings or advertisements, when being used non-commercially as a passenger or recreational vehicle; AND

SECTION 3. THAT the Director of Public Works is hereby authorized to erect signs to indicate this prohibition; AND

SECTION 4. THAT the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as set forth in Section 1-17 of the Code of Takoma Park, Maryland, 1972.

Item #196 - Community Improvement Board Resolution Revision.

City Administrator Pridgen told of the Council having worked at the wording of this resolution revision for some time and recommended that it be adopted. Councilman Ricks moved to adopt the resolution revision in its present form without a reading. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by voice vote.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have adopted Ordinance No. 1946 regulating the exterior appearance and maintenance factors of buildings and structures that by reason of deterioration of material, lack of repair or maintenance are, or will become a blighting or deteriorating factor in the neighborhood, or will impair or adversely affect the value of neighboring property, AND

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have heretofore appointed a permanent Community Improvement Board to assist in the administration and enforcement of Ordinance No. 1946, AND

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received advice from the Community Improvement Board recommending a more effective order and routine of procedure guidelines for the Community Improvement Board and guidelines governing the administration of Ordinance No. 1946:

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, that the following procedure shall regulate the administration and enforcement of Ordinance No. 1946 :

(a) That a permanent Community Improvement Board be appointed by the Mayor and Council. Such Board shall consist of a General Chairman for a two-year appointment, a General Vice-Chairman for a one-year appointment and a sufficient number of Zone Chairmen to adequately represent the various sections of the City, set up somewhat along the boundary lines of the seven City Election Wards with adjustment of lines in certain sections for practical operation purposes. Appointments of Zone Chairmen shall be for alternate one and two-year overlapping terms for continuity purposes. The General Chairman together with the General Vice Chairman and Zone Chairmen shall recommend at least two assistants for each zone. The Mayor and Council shall thereafter appoint the assistants and shall designate the length of the term of one or two-year periods. Appointees shall live in or represent a business establishment in the City of Takoma Park. All terms, whether one or two years, shall expire with March 31st. All interim appointments shall expire on the next March 31st, following the date of appointment.

(b) Members of the Community Improvement Board, members of the Police and Fire Departments and other City employees are urged to report to the City Administrator any property that appears to be subject to the provisions of Ordinance No. 1946. When the City Administrator receives information from any person concerning a specific property he shall direct the Code Enforcement Officer to observe the premises and issue a report containing the defects observed, sufficient copies of such reports to be forwarded to the City Administrator. This process shall be in addition to the normal duties and inspection procedures of the Code Enforcement Division. Upon receipt of any such reports, which shall be numbered for record purposes, the City Administrator shall correspond with the property owner, enclosing therewith a copy of the report as issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. The City Administrator shall simultaneously also send a copy of such reports, with the date of mailing to the property owner noted thereon, to each of the following: Zone Chairman, General Chairman, and the City Councilman who is in liaison with the Community Board.

(c) Windshield Survey. The Zone Chairman and one or more members of each Zone Committee accompanied by the General Chairman or General Vice Chairman shall conduct within their respective zones, an annual windshield survey between January 2nd and March 1st. Each Zone Chairman shall make a report of all deficiencies within the zone, described in Ordinance No. 1946, unto the City Administrator on or before March 10th.

(1) Deficiencies other than those described in Ordinance No. 1946 in any type of structure (multiple family, commercial, institutional, industrial or public use) observed by the members of the Community Improvement Board may be reported to the City Administrator though no follow-up of these deficiencies shall be the responsibility of the Community Improvement Board or any of its members.

(2) The members of the Community Improvement Board have a responsibility to report deficiencies that come to their attention between annual windshield surveys. These shall be reported on forms provided in writing to the City Administrator.

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(3) A follow-up survey shall be done in October. A report of corrections of cases cited shall be made to the General Chairman and Code Enforcement Officer and cards of thanks shall be sent by the Zone Chairman to owners of property corrected. A report of this survey shall be provided to the Mayor and Council by the General Chairman.

(d) The City Administrator upon receiving reports from the Zone Chairman from the windshield survey or from any member of the Community Improvement Board between the periods of the windshield survey shall forward the report to the Code Enforcement Officer. Thereafter the City Administrator and Code Enforcement shall follow the same procedure described in section (b) above to notify the property owners.

(e) Responsibilities of the Zone Chairmen shall be as follows:

(1) Conduct the windshield survey as described in paragraph (c) above. Coordinate dates for the windshield surveys in their respective zones with the General Chairman. Forward results of the survey before March 10th to the City Administrator so that notice to the property owner may be mailed by April 10th.

(2) Assign an area of the zone to each member of the Zone Committee including himself.

(3) Report any unusual delays in action by the Code Enforcement Division to the General Chairman.

(4) Request the General Chairman to obtain a hearing with the City Administrator or with the Mayor and Council on matters affecting their zone.

(5) Mail out thank-you cards to those who have complied with requests to correct deficiencies.

(f) The Code Enforcement Division shall make a report to the Community Improvement Board before the November meeting of the Board on the results of the previous annual windshield survey.

(g) The Community Improvement Board shall meet at least quarterly to evaluate the program and benefit from individual experiences and refine the procedure. The Community Improvement Board shall meet at the call of the General Chairman.

(h) The members of the Community Improvement Board are to refrain from public discussion of the reports made or received.

(i) The City Administrator will assign office staff as required to the Community Improvement Board activities.

Mayor Roth took this opportunity to express his and the Council's appreciation and support of the work done by the C.I.B. and its General Chairwoman, Mrs. Kathryn T. Simpson.

Item #218 - Complaint re traffic light at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues.

Upon the City Administrator's request Police Chief Porter reported on this item. He stated that the complainant had arrived at an erroneous conclusion concerning the working of the light and explained briefly how it works. There was some discussion, and Chief Porter said that the present light is of an old type, and that the dangerous situation at that intersection might be corrected with a new type light, which is scheduled to be installed some time this year. Mayor Roth suggested writing a letter to the complainant giving him that information.

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Item #226 - Suggestions on budget preparation.

City Administrator Pridgen said that Mr. Ramsey had sent in some excellent suggestions concerning the budget. Unfortunately, time had not permitted providing in the budget the type of information requested by Mr. Ramsey; however, it might be possible to furnish some of it at the May 29 budget hearing which he hoped might suffice for this year. Mayor Roth suggested keeping a copy of Mr. Ramsey's letter for future budget preparations. Mr. Pridgen assured him that this had already been done.

Item #229 - Complaint re unkempt condition of Foley House, 7714 Takoma Avenue, Montgomery College.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf reported that this problem had been cited by C.I.B. and that Code Enforcement was in touch with the business manager who had agreed to repair the screens, paint the house trim and remove trash from the yard. It was suggested that the item be deleted from the agenda.

Item #231 - Dumping problem - Poplar and New Hampshire Avenues (Prince George's County).

City Administrator Pridgen gave a progress report on negotiations with the County and noted that the situation had improved somewhat. There was some discussion as to whether it was within the City limits.

Item #232 - Participation in MAILS program - City Library.

City Administrator Pridgen said that according to the librarian, Mrs. Barclay's, comprehensive report, there was a possibility that the City Library might be included in a federally financed program through the D.C. Libraries - a book pick-up system which - if nothing else - would save postage. There was some discussion, during which it was brought out that at present the City Library was mailing books independently of other libraries. If the new system was established, a truck would deliver and pick up the books. Mayor Roth said that he gathered from the discussion that the consensus of the Council was to have Mrs. Barclay proceed with her efforts to have the City Library included in the pick-up system.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM, to reconvene on May 28, at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED

Mayor Roth
Mayor

ATTEST

Haynes M. Pridgen
City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
 May 28, 1974

City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth	City Administrator Pridgen
Councilman Faulkner	Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilman Garcia	Recreation Department Director Ziegler
Councilwoman Medina	Police Chief Porter
Councilman Nishimoto	Public Works Director Barile
Councilman Ricks	Corporation Counsel Gingerich
	Corporation Counsel Culpepper
	Deputy City Clerk Pusti

Councilmen Forshee and Webb were excused.

The Mayor and Council met in Regular Session on May 28, 1974, at 8:05 PM in the Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Monsignor Patrick Begley of Our Lady of Sorrows Church gave the invocation. Upon Councilman Ricks' motion to approve the minutes of the May 13 meeting and dispense with their reading, seconded by Councilwoman Medina, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mayor Roth congratulated Councilman Nishimoto on being approved by one of the groups running for Office in Montgomery County.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Referring to the question of plans for the Bicentennial celebrations - brought up at the last Council meeting by Clarence Smith - the Mayor reported:

- that some time ago he had written a letter to the Montgomery County authorities asking them to designate the Takoma Park Fourth of July Parade as part of the Bicentennial activities and that this was also requested by the Fourth of July Committee;
- that the Sister City Committee was working on plans to have representatives of the Sister City in Brazil come here for the celebration;
- that the Azalea Committee has had discussions as to what might be done to beautify the City for the Bicentennial year, in particular in the areas where METRO work has gone through; and finally
- that the Takoma Park Historic Society has initiated discussions about taking visitors to some special old or historic houses here.

He hoped that a coordinating committee could be formed to bring everything together. He would be reporting on this at a later date.

Councilman Nishimoto favored appointing such a committee and said that being on the COG Bicentennial Committee and attending meetings in Montgomery County, he knew of several programs and activities planned, where a coordinating committee would be helpful.

Mayor Roth told of participating as Chairman of a platform committee for the Democratic Party in Prince George's County on the subject of municipal-County relationships. He had undertaken this job because it gave him the opportunity to make recommendations on the platform which might be helpful to municipalities in the County.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: None

CITIZENS' REMARKS:

1. Catherine C. Wakelyn, 7419 Maple Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council and especially Recreation Department Director Ziegler and the President of the Recreation Council, Mr. Hutmire, for permitting the Heffner Park Cooperative Nursery School, of which she had been treasurer this past year, for use of City property, stating that without the help of the City it would not have been possible to have such an excellent program at such low cost. She praised the nursery school and its teacher and felt it should be more widely advertised in order to fill 3 vacancies for next year - it accommodates 15 children. In that connection she asked to have an announcement in the City Newsletter and to have included in the minutes the name and telephone number of the membership chairman: Kathryn Appler - 589-4229. The nursery school is operated 3 days a week for 2½ hours each day at a tuition fee of \$22 a month. It is open to 3 and 4 year olds, is multi-national and multi-racial. Mayor Roth stated that as a general principle the City should stay out of social work and that he felt strongly that all welfare activities should come under the Counties as the City funds would never suffice. Councilwoman Medina expressed her satisfaction that Takoma Park has such a fine facility. Councilman Nishimoto suggested approaching TESS and cited that the health clinic at the Middle School was sponsored by TESS. Mrs. Wakelyn said that the nursery school had 3 scholarship children sponsored by TESS. She added that it was a private, educational, non-profit, tax exempted institution, licensed by the State as a pre-school, and that actually there was no problem in meeting expenses, so long enough children signed up.

2. Shirlee Hutmire, 21 Columbia Avenue, expressed her pleasure with the trash collections in Takoma Park. She asked that Public Works and especially Kenneth Jones be commended for the excellent job being done around the City. Mayor Roth joined in Mrs. Hutmire's praise and asked Public Works Director Barile to convey their thanks to the trash collectors.

3. Paul Davis, 12 Grant Avenue, representing TPVFD Inc., reported on recent action by the Montgomery County Fire Board. At a meeting held by the Fire Board's Emergency Vehicle Service Committee, Dr. Nelson, Director of the Emergency Room, Washington Adventist Hospital, and others had been able to drum up the support of the committee for the implementation of a paramedic program in Takoma Park. The program is now ready and guidelines are being worked out and will be presented to the Mayor and Council for approval. Four hospitals are participating: Holy Cross - Washington Adventist - Suburban - and Montgomery General, and the program should go into effect by the end of August. Upon Councilman Faulkner's inquiry Mr. Davis said that a telemetry equipped vehicle would service the Prince George's section of the City and that TPVFD would be the only organization outside Montgomery County to have such a vehicle. That there are plans for purchasing 3 such vehicles, having 2 in active full time duty and 1 reserved for training purposes. The exact area which will be covered is not clearly defined as yet; but the vehicle replacing ambulance 29 would continue to service the area as at the present time; later, perhaps, the service might be extended to surrounding locations.

4. Clarence Boatman, 133 Ritchie Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for having had NO THRU TRUCKS-signs at Ritchie Avenue. He also praised the street cleaning done by Public Works.

- As Vice President of the Ritchie Citizens' Association he reported on a problem of people congregating and loitering on Ritchie and Oswego Avenues and obstructing traffic. He felt it should be explained in a courtly way that this was not a good place for assembling but considered it a sensitive problem, hard to deal with. Mayor Roth agreed and said that it was not something which could be solved

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by issuing an ordinance, but that the area would be kept under surveillance by the Police Department. Mr. Boatman thought perhaps it would help if a neighborhood minister talked to the offenders.

5. Joe Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue, referring to the problem cited by Mr. Boatman, stated that all people have a right of free passage on public streets and highways and that the police might stress that in talking to the offenders.
- He approved of Mayor Roth being active in the Democratic Party in Prince George's County, as it was good for the City that City Officials got to be known politically throughout the Counties.
 - He told of Councilman Faulkner coming through Maple Avenue and said that he was happy to see Councilmembers truly taking an interest in the City and its citizens.
 - He read a copy of a letter that City Administrator Pridgen had written to the Post Office, requesting that a mailbox be placed at the corner of Maple and Philadelphia Avenues to replace the one removed from that location. He praised the wording of the letter which had been written in response to his (Mr. Ferrier's) request.
 - He praised the Takoma Park Police Department for having squad cars patrol the area, thus often preventing serious crimes and protecting the citizens. He urged that this be continued.
 - He recommended that in the upcoming Fourth-of-July Parade also ALLEY-CAT garbage trucks be included. He felt that the garbage collectors were such an important part of the City personnel that they ought to be represented in the Parade.
 - He pointed out that according to recent WASHINGTON POST articles, the Condominium idea was gaining impact also in this area. He thought the Mayor and Council ought to stop it from taking over in Takoma Park, as he felt this would be damaging to the citizens and should not be permitted here.
 - He told of the Suburban Bank and its 52 Maryland branches now allowing citizens over 60 to have checking accounts without charging them for checks.
 - Referring to Mrs. Wakelyn's statement about the nursery school, Mr. Ferrier said that it was for just such activities that he wanted the City to retain 8 Sherman Avenue. He felt that good publicity was often helpful and might encourage people to fund-raising activities so that City funds would not be needed for such purposes as a nursery school.
 - He was gratified to learn from Mr. Davis that Takoma Park would have paramedic units to help save lives in case of a heart attack.

Councilman Ricks addressing himself to Mr. Ferrier's remarks about condominiums, stated that he too had read the articles in WASHINGTON POST on the subject, which seemed to indicate that it was a nation-wide problem and probably should be considered on a regional as well as a local basis.

6. Mrs. James Allison, 326 Mississippi Avenue, representing Sligo Park Hills Citizens' Association, told of the president of the association sending a letter to the Mayor and Council, requesting 1) improved street lighting on Mississippi Avenue and 2) one-way traffic - southbound - on Hilltop Road. She reported that at a meeting on May 15, the citizens had voted against having one-way traffic on that street, so this item could be disregarded. She thanked Councilman Garcia and Mr. Barile for coming to Mississippi Avenue to look at the situation. She stated that the street lighting was partly obscured by foliage. The City however, was not allowed to trim the trees since they belonged to Park & Planning. She had been in contact with Park & Planning but had gotten nowhere; she therefore asked the City to intervene. Councilman Nishimoto expressed his interest in the traffic situation on Mississippi Avenue and Hilltop Road and asked whether the latter was much used by people cutting

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through from Piney Branch to Maple Avenue. Mrs. Allison replied in the affirmative and Councilman Ricks mentioned a traffic count, showing no considerable traffic increase since 1972, but more accidents in that area. There was some discussion.

7. Pearl Blacksin, 652 Kennebec Avenue, stated that she was confused as to what laws applied to Takoma Park citizens since there were two Counties, the State and the City; she particularly wanted to know whether Montgomery County Rent Control Law applied to Takoma Park, and what would happen when that Law expires, June 30.. - She told of residing, as a tenant, in Takoma Park for several years and asked for advice on what could be done about messy fellow tenants who left their trash uncovered etc.. She wondered whether new tenants could not be told - perhaps by an official notice - of City regulations concerning trash pick-up. - She also asked for advice on how to resist landlords wanting to raise the rent illegally. Mayor Roth said that the City is not under the Montgomery County Landlord-Tenant Relations Act, but is under the State Rent Control Act, and that City Administrator Pridgen would get in touch with her in a few days. Councilman Ricks suggested as to the problem with trash pick-up, that the landlords should be made responsible for informing new tenants of the rules, and that Code Enforcement might look into that.

8. Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue, pointed out that according to the suggested City budget the figures for Public Works came to \$27,000 in refuse disposal fees. If 2/3rds would go to Montgomery County, that would mean \$18,000 under the old charge, but if the dumping fees were increased from \$5 to \$8 a ton, around \$9000 would be added to the cost of dumping the collected refuse. Assuming that the proposed budget had been based on the old figure of \$5 a ton rather than the new \$8 a ton, he thought it was time to consider measures to reduce the tonnage of refuse. Montgomery County had made a survey and found that 80% of the residents were willing to separate newspapers from other refuse. He suggested that the Council consider making such separation mandatory, which would reduce the cost. Otherwise the cost would this year amount to \$36,000 just for the dumping of collected refuse. Mayor Roth said that this situation was under investigation but that no decision had been reached as yet. Mr. Vogel added that if it were possible to enforce the separation of newspapers, this would reduce the tonnage by about 15%, which would mean a considerable saving, to which could be added the income from selling the newspapers. Mayor Roth stated that an experiment is being made, and that he and the Council would consider the results in due time.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

(1) Communications:

1. Joseph Racko, 105 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter asking for a hearing on a housing code violation. City Administrator Pridgen stated that this was a legal problem and that advice had been sought from the Corporation Counsel. Mayor Roth suggested keeping the item on the administrative agenda for looking at the legal aspects.

2. Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter praising the Mayor and Council for having new street lights installed in the City; urging to have the Takoma Park Historic District established officially; and requesting that copies of the quarterly total Council agenda be made available to citizens at all Council meetings. City Administrator Pridgen reported that he had responded to this letter that all 3 points are under consideration.

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3. Mrs. Vincent Minton, 136 Grant Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter thanking the Fire Department for the "efficient and courteous way", they had treated Mr. Minton on May 14, when he had suffered a heart attack. City Administrator Pridgen reported that Fire Chief LaScola had received a copy of the letter and would convey her thanks to the firemen.

4. Mrs. Charles W. Thompson, 401 Ethan Allen Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter urging enforcement of the City ordinance concerning trash pick-ups. City Administrator Pridgen reported having responded that stricter means of enforcement would be investigated as would ways of informing newcomers to the City of the regulations. Councilman Ricks suggested writing a form letter, explaining the trash pick-up procedure, to be distributed by the police, whenever trash is observed at the curbs too early for special pick-ups. A courteous warning about City policy might go with it. Mayor Roth commented that this was a constructive idea and that he was for education before strict enforcement. There was some further discussion as to whether landlords should receive a special poster with the regulations for the benefit of new tenants. It was also suggested that landlords be advised of their duty to inform new tenants of the regulations; this might be done when apartments are registered or together with the billing for trash collection.

5. Item #237 - Elaine C. LaVaute, 240 Park Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter calling attention to the deterioration of Park Avenue. City Administrator Pridgen reported that most of the properties mentioned in the letter had been cited by Code Enforcement and would go through the general procedure - others would be looked at in more detail. Councilman Faulkner inquired whether 122 Park Avenue had been boarded up. He was assured that Fire Chief LaScola had taken care of this the very next day after it was brought up.

In another letter Mrs. LaVaute had thanked for the trees planted along Park Avenue and enclosed a contribution for tree purchases. Mr. Pridgen reported having acknowledged the contribution and credited the amount to the Tree Fund.

In a third letter Mrs. LaVaute had called attention to an article in "THE WASHINGTONIAN" magazine of May 1974, which was about the changing conditions in the Washington area. Copies of this letter with the article had been distributed to all Councilmembers.

Mrs. LaVaute had also sent a reminder about the petition submitted by Park Avenue residents concerning traffic control on Park Avenue. City Administrator Pridgen reported that this situation is still being studied and that a report will be made in due course.

6. Loren M. Simkowitz, President, Monocle Management Ltd., Kensington, Md. - (Manager of 125 Lee Avenue). Letter in response to the City Administrator's request for leniency in asking tenants to move out within 30 days. Mr. Simkowitz stated that he would allow for particular problems if a tenant would contact Mrs. Brandwein, the Property Manager of the building. This reply had been communicated to the tenant who had complained at the May 13 Council meeting.

7. Clifford J. Waldron, Corresponding Secretary, Spring Park Community Association, 600 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Letter concerning the fire prevention program, expressing concern whether Prince George's County will receive the same protection as Montgomery County. This letter had as yet not been replied to. Mayor Roth thought this had been made very clear at the public hearing. He suggested that in the reply it should be stressed that one of the premises kept in mind throughout the discussions had been THAT THE SERVICE TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WOULD BE CONTINUED and pointed out that he himself lived in Prince

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George's County. City Administrator Pridgen said that he would so respond to Mr. Waldron's letter.

8. Notice of a public hearing on an appeal by Mr. and Mrs. Widman on case A-161, scheduled for July 25, 1974 at 9:00 AM. Subject property: 7304 Willow Avenue; request for variance in side yard dimensions.

9. Allan T. Marsh, President, Old Takoma Park Citizens Association, Takoma Park, Maryland. Letter concerning parking lot at 7112 Willow Avenue. In his letter he refers to a letter from Mr. Griffith, County Zoning Officer, regarding parking for the General Conference. Not having received a copy of this letter Mr. Pridgen had telephoned Mr. Griffith and been promised a copy. In his letter Mr. Marsh inquired why this matter was not investigated and why it was removed from the working agenda. City Administrator Pridgen stated that the matter was being investigated and had not been removed from the agenda - it was item #194. Furthermore Mr. Marsh strongly recommends, that if a hearing is held on whether or not a Special Exception should be granted, making such parking legal, the Mayor and Council should oppose it. Mr. Pridgen stated that he had no knowledge of any petition for such Special Exception.

In another letter Mr. Marsh, on behalf of his association, recommends that the timing of the light at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues be adjusted so that the green light for Philadelphia Avenue traffic be at least twice as long as the green light for Maple Avenue traffic, the latter being a secondary neighborhood street. City Administrator Pridgen reported that Police Chief Porter had just recently had the light adjusted so that it now favors Philadelphia Avenue traffic. Councilman Nishimoto asked about the new lights, promised by the Highway Administration for this and other intersections in the City. Mr. Pridgen said he would check into this.

10. Nicolino Marcantonio, 916 East West Highway, Takoma Park, Md. Letter with a plea that his request for a wine and beer license be granted.

(2) Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:

Item #20 - Cable TV.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf reported that since the cost of cable TV had risen tremendously during the past 4-5 years, it was no longer considered viable in this area. Recent studies made by COG and in both Counties showed, that the raising cost and the increase in the monthly charge involved with cable TV indicated that a larger, maybe County-wide, or even regional approach, was the only economical way cable TV could be put into this area. He recommended to remove the item from the active agenda but retaining it for future policy decision. Councilman Nishimoto felt this was sad, considering the amount of work some Councilmembers had put into it, but agreed there was no other alternative. Councilman Ricks suggested to continue to be active in seminars etc., and Mayor Roth also found it a good idea to keep up with developments. There was some discussion after which it was decided to take the item off the agenda but follow developments.

Item #45 - Req. time stipulation on hiring former Councilmembers for City positions. Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf stated that this issue might have been raised at one time because it could be awkward for a Councilman, who later became a City employee, to have certain contact with programs he might have worked on as a Councilman. However, this had been thoroughly discussed and the policy of other cities checked, and the City staff had found that since the role of a Councilman is clearly defined as being one who institutes policies and programs, while a City staff person

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carries out those policies and programs, there was no basis for a real conflict. He recommended that the item be deleted from the agenda, and that former Councilmembers be given the same consideration as any other applicant for City employment. There was considerable discussion as to whether something should be stated in the Charter about this and whether a 2-3 months waiting period would make a difference. Councilman Nishimoto felt strongly that there should be something in the records about it - if nothing else a policy statement. Councilwoman Medina was not in favor of this but felt it would be better to face this problem if and when it came up, rather than trying to cover all things for all times with ordinances which might never be needed. Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf told of finding out during his investigation that a city in a neighboring State has adopted the policy not to hire a former Councilmember; this he found to be a very bad policy. There seemed general agreement that the City would not want to go that far. The Hatch Act was mentioned. Councilman Nishimoto moved NOT to take the item off the agenda but keep it for further discussion, and Mayor Roth so ordered.

Item #71 - Request for comments on Cable TV for Montgomery County.

Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf recommended deleting this item from the agenda, since the plan is nearly ready for final distribution, making any input from Takoma Park of little value. Councilwoman Medina inquired when the plan would be available and was told by Mr. Gilsdorf that it should be in the Library within 30 days. There were no objections to removing the item from the agenda.

Item #171 - Request for removal of parking meters at 7040-42 Carroll Avenue - designating it as a loading zone.

Upon City Administrator Pridgen's request Police Chief Porter stated that this request had been discussed by the Traffic Safety Committee and that, since there already was a loading zone nearby, no action was recommended. Councilman Ricks said that there was a sign there saying LOADING ZONE but not giving any time period; nor was it made clear exactly where the loading zone was. Chief Porter said that it was an old sign, not containing such details, but that the loading zone was from the sign to the drive-way, going south. Councilman Ricks felt there should be two signs. He inquired as to whether the loading zone was in front of a residential home and if so why. Chief Porter responded that an additional sign and directions were needed and would be put up by Public Works. The reason for the loading zone being in front of an apartment house was that there used to be a welfare institution at that location. Councilwoman Medina asked about the size of the loading zone and whether there were standards for the size. She was told by Chief Porter that there were standards and that the loading zone discussed was adequate. Councilman Garcia inquired as to whether the curb was painted yellow to indicate where the loading zone was. Chief Porter responded in the negative. Councilman Faulkner wondered whether it would not be better to have the loading zone in front of the stores and Councilman Ricks suggested moving the parking meters to where the loading zone is now and designating the space in front of the stores as a loading zone - in other words reversing the situation. There was some discussion and Chief Porter said he would look into that. Mayor Roth commented that the important thing was to have the loading zone where it was needed, in front of the stores, and the Council was in agreement with this viewpoint.

Item #188 - Request to permit parking 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM in the 7100 block of Cedar Avenue. Police Chief Porter reported that at present no

parking is permitted on the west side at any time since the street is narrow and there is ample off-street parking. He felt that it would be creating additional hazards if such parking were permitted. His recommendation, therefore,

was that no action be taken and that the item be removed from the agenda. There was considerable discussion about the traffic situation on Cedar Avenue, parking, accident rates etc., and Councilwoman Medina suggested that the traffic situation in Takoma Park should be looked at as a whole, taking METRO into account, and that a traffic plan should be developed. Mayor Roth said that this would be another agenda item, to which Councilman Faulkner had also addressed himself during the discussion. Councilwoman Medina said that - if this be the consensus of the Council - she would suggest to reply to the request for parking that the situation is being studied but that for the time being Cedar Avenue will have to remain the way it is. Councilman Nishimoto proposed a study by a traffic engineer, who would look at the whole area as a safety problem, and was in favor of holding the item over awaiting the completion of such a study. There were no objections from the Council to either suggestion.

Police Chief Porter reported that on May 29th the Assistant City Administrator and he would meet with District Engineer Galtrider of the State Highway Administration in Greenbelt to discuss the following agenda items, which necessitated action by the State Highway Administration:

- Item # 3 - Alleviation of traffic situation at Ritchie and Piney Branch
- " 6 - Req. for left-turn arrow at New Hampshire Ave. and Sligo Creek Pkway
- " 129 - Req. for ped. all-direction signal at Philadelphia and Maple Avenues
- " 130 - Req. for ped. all-direction signal at Phila. and Piney Branch
- " 176 - Req. for traffic light at Takoma and Philadelphia Avenues
- " 192 - Yield sign for southbound traffic from New Hampshire Avenue unto Sligo Creek Parkway.

Furthermore the discussions would include:

- Proposed installation of an automatic signal at Carroll Avenue and 410;
- Rebuilding of the traffic signal at Maple Avenue and 410;
- Rebuilding of the traffic signal at Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues;
- Installation of a light signal at Larch and New Hampshire Avenues.

Councilman Garcia suggested having a push type light at Larch Avenue, so that it would only be activated during school hours and church service. Councilman Ricks inquired whether also the request for a light at the intersection of Carroll and Flower Avenues could be included in the discussions. There seemed to be some disagreement as to whether such a light was needed and Mayor Roth made the ruling not to bring it up before the State Highway Administration before it had been decided what the Council wanted.

Upon City Administrator Pridgen's request Recreation Department Director Ziegler reported that the Bulletin Board Committee had met several times and hoped to have a recommendation ready for the Budget Hearing on May 29, 1974.

She made the following announcements:

- Saturday, June 1 - from 1 to 5 PM - Takoma Park Elementary School PTA Spring Festival will be held at the school;
- Sunday, June 2 - from 1 to 5 PM - Art Show on the Municipal Library grounds. In case of rain, it will be held the following Sunday;
- Sunday, June 2 - from 10 AM to 4 PM - Community Health Day at the Piney Branch Middle School - free to the public.

Councilman Ricks asked Mrs. Ziegler how the "vandal proof" boxes in the parks were standing up. He was concerned because equipment was usually stored in the boxes during summer. Mrs. Ziegler said the boxes had all been vandalized and the doors removed, and that vandalism in the parks seemed worse in winter.

Public Works Director Barile was asked what could be done. Mr. Barile replied that nothing could be done short of erecting a permanent building. He said that he did not think the vandalism was done by children. Councilman Ricks suggested having a educational meeting about this problem. Councilwoman Medina wondered what could be done about the erosion problem on the playground in Jeque Park; she praised the slide facilities but felt the slide was placed too high over the sandbox. Mayor Roth asked Mrs. Ziegler and Mr. Barile to look into this and see what could be done.

Item #201 - Request to support the Washington Ear Inc. Program.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that this item came from a copy of a letter explaining the program, through the City Clerk of Alexandria, Virginia. The City Council of Alexandria had adopted a resolution endorsing the concept of closed circuit radio service for the visually handicapped and resolving to consider a contribution as an extension of the local library service to handicapped persons. A survey had been made of other local city governments, and it appeared that there was no overwhelming support for this program by other jurisdictions. It was suggested that a resolution endorsing the concept, similar to the Alexandria format, but without mention of any financial support or budgetary consideration, would be in order, but that this would be up to the discretion of the Council. Councilwoman Medina stated that the Library had limited programs for the handicapped; she suggested endorsement in principle. Mayor Roth did not feel that the City could say: no money, but we want to be on the Board of Directors. Councilman Ricks asked whether the Library has books for the blind and was informed by Councilwoman Medina that the Library has LARGE PRINT books. Councilman Nishimoto moved that a resolution be adopted to the effect that the City endorses the concept. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Resolution attached)

Item #211 - Illegal parking in the Montgomery College area - May 17 status report.

City Administrator Pridgen stated that Chief of Police Porter had reported a total of 163 summonses since the survey was instituted; between April 17 and May 17 there had been 43 summonses. Councilwoman Medina commented that this being in her area she had made a survey of her own and found that it was very difficult to determine where parking was legal and where not as the painted lines had been erased by the construction work. She suggested making the situation clear by means of signs and paint. Mayor Roth discussed this with Public Works Director Barile who pointed out that crosswalks were painted white while the City usually waited to paint the yellow curb markings for NO PARKING during summer, when NYC boys could be employed to do this. Upon request Councilwoman Medina stated that while the issuance of summonses had not eliminated the parking problem, it had made the students aware of the situation. According to the residents in the area the police had been very helpful in removing illegally parked cars. Mayor Roth said that the survey would be continued.

Item #217 - Request to use the Sister City Shop as business operation.

City Administrator Pridgen reported having responded that the agreement with the State Highway Administration, from whom the City rents the building, did not permit this. Mayor Roth asked for comments from the Council; there were none.

Item #220 - Complaint--incident with police officer.

City Administrator Pridgen stated that this item would be kept on the agenda awaiting further information on the special report already provided the Mayor and Council.

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Item #225 - Code amendment to prohibit possession of fireworks.

City Administrator Pridgen suggested the insertion of the word POSSESS in the ordinance concerning prohibition of fireworks and Councilman Nishimoto moved that the ordinance, as quoted below, be adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2309

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

SECTION 1 THAT Section 8-61, "Fireworks prohibited; exceptions", of Article 4, of the Code of Takoma Park, Maryland, 1972, be amended to read as follows:

No person shall possess, sell, deliver, discharge, or set off fireworks or noise-making explosives; firecrackers or fireworks of any kind or description, which contain powder or other explosive composition. This Section shall not prohibit the discharge or setting off of the above-mentioned fireworks on occasions of public celebration and exhibition where a permit so to do is first obtained from the State Insurance Commission and the Fire Chief.

The motion was seconded and carried by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto, and Ricks. NAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilmen Forshee and Webb.

For the purpose of having the record show that the City could still have its Fourth of July fireworks Councilman Ricks asked whether a permit had been obtained from the State Insurance Commission. Mr. Pridgen replied in the affirmative.

Item #227 - Resolution supporting activities of Afro-American Bicentennial.

City Administrator Pridgen reported that prompted by a memorandum from COG, expressing support of the activities of the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation, the attached resolution had been drafted. Councilman Nishimoto moved that the resolution be adopted; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Item #238 - Unfinished Gas Company work in the vicinity of 7204 - 14th Avenue.

City Administrator Pridgen stated that according to Public Works Director Barile this project had been completed and could be deleted from the agenda. There were no objections from the Council.

Mayor Roth commented that it might facilitate matters if in the future the City Administrator would incorporate all traffic problems under one agenda item, so they could be viewed as a whole. Councilman Nishimoto agreed and added that in his opinion the impact of METRO warranted a thorough traffic study and that a cost estimate should be obtained. Mayor Roth thought this a good idea but that it should be explained to such a traffic engineer exactly what the City wants to accomplish and what the problems are traffic-wise. The importance of getting the right man for the job was stressed.

SPECIAL REPORTS : Councilman Ricks made the following announcements:

- June 2 - 10 AM - 4 PM - Community Health Day at the Middle School
- June 5 - 8 PM - TESS Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting, held at Park & Planning Commission
- June 10- 8 PM - WMATA hearing on the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's application for project TRIP vehicles

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- June 19 - 8 PM - TESS Master Plan Advisory Committee has another meeting at Park and Planning Auditorium.
- June 20 - 8 PM - County Council's Public Hearing on Takoma Park's Sector and Sectional Map Amendment at Montgomery Blair High School on Wayne Avenue.

Councilwoman Medina referred to a memo received from Mrs. Simpson of the C.I.B., calling attention to the Federal ban on "throw-aways" and including an article concerning a Senate proposed bill, sponsored by Senators Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood, to ban the shipment and sale of non-returnable beverage containers and prohibition of flip-top cans. She moved that the Mayor and Council send a letter to the senators, endorsing the concept of this legislation and encouraging Congress to pass it. The motion was seconded. Councilman Nishimoto cautioned that it might be dangerous to endorse such a bill without knowing all the details of it. Councilwoman Medina pointed out that her motion had been for endorsing the CONCEPT - not the entire legislation. Mayor Roth said that he would like the minutes to show that the City Council had asked COG to study and recommend such legislation for the Metropolitan area and that the motion was in harmony with that position. Councilman Nishimoto was in favor of also stating this in the letter to the senators. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Councilwoman Medina suggested that the Mayor and Council also write a letter to Frank Christensen and Effie Jones, Principal and Assistant Principal of Takoma Junior High School, who were both leaving at the end of this year. She thought they should be commended for their efforts on behalf of the Junior High School youths. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ricks and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Councilman Garcia reported that the stop signs had been removed from the corner of Glenside Drive and Jackson Avenue. Public Works Director Barile said that he knows about it and will have them replaced. There was some discussion about what to do to prevent such vandalism. Mr. Barile said that the signs were placed in concrete, which was the best that could be done.

Councilman Nishimoto read for the record an article from BULLETIN, a publication put out by the State of Maryland Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (No.27, May 7, 1974) :

"TAKOMA PARK CRIME CONTROL TEAM: An evaluation covering the first two years of operation of the Takoma Park Crime Control Team shows that the Team has been successful both in reducing the number of Part I offenses in Takoma Park and also in educating and advising area citizens concerning the incidence of crime and crime prevention techniques.

The project completed its second year of funding on April 30, 1974. The Crime Control Team consists of three full-time officers who patrol the areas of Takoma Park. The goal of the project is to reduce crime through aggressive patrol techniques with concentrated efforts on high crime areas at times of highest probability of occurrence.

Part I offenses reported in Takoma Park from July through December, 1971 (the year previous to project implementation used as the baseline year) compared to the same period in 1973 showed a decrease in total index crime of 15.9 per cent.

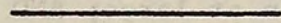
Team members visited every commercial establishment in the City and many of the homes in their efforts to gain information relating to crimes that had been committed and to solicit the help of interested citizens for

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observation purposes. Citizens and businessmen were also advised of crime prevention techniques."

Councilman Nishimoto added that he thought Police Chief Porter should be congratulated for his efforts, and that the good result should be considered when the question of funding this project comes up again in 1975. Mayor Roth joined in praising the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM, to reconvene on June 10 at 8:00 PM.



RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Takoma Park is concerned with the need for identifying and developing approaches for improving the quality of life for handicapped persons; AND
- WHEREAS, an estimated twelve thousand persons in the Washington Metropolitan Area, many of whom may live in the City of Takoma Park, cannot handle printed materials and therefore are deprived of information which is available to the population at large; AND
- WHEREAS, educational radio transmission for blind persons on subcarrier frequencies has proven to be a feasible and desirable way of reaching visually impaired persons with material not immediately available through traditional sources; AND
- WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, upon recommendation by the Human Resources Policy Committee, has endorsed the concept of closed circuit radio service for the handicapped who cannot handle printed materials, and has recommended this concept to member governments for their support.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, does hereby endorse the concept of closed circuit radio service for the visually handicapped and the program of The Washington Ear, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to providing this service in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that copies of this resolution be sent to The Washington Ear, Inc. and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council, May 28, 1974

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on the occasion of a Fourth of July celebration in the last Century in Rochester, New York, Frederick Douglass opened an address to citizens of that city as follows: "Fellow Citizens: Pardon me, and allow me to ask, why am I called upon to speak here today. . ." He continued, "I am not included within the pale of this glorious anniversary. . . . This Fourth of July is yours, not mine." AND

WHEREAS, the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation, since 1970, has been engaged in activities which would help to eradicate the conditions which evoked these words by organizing projects to rediscover and commemorate the heritage of Black Americans as a part of the over-all Bicentennial effort, the major focus of which has been the identification of sites illustrative of the contribution of Black citizens to the development of the District of Columbia; AND

WHEREAS, the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation has made application to HUD for funding to expand its work into jurisdictions surrounding the Nation's Capital, including the Maryland Counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; AND

WHEREAS, Maryland has a rich Black heritage dating back to 1638, continuing into the Revolutionary period, when some 60 members of the 2nd Maryland Brigade were Blacks, and thereafter. The State can count among its sons and daughters such illustrious names as: Benjamin Banneker (1721-1806, born in Ellicott City), scientist, and associate of L'Enfant in the planning of Washington; Josiah Henson (1789-1883, Charles County), author and lecturer; Frederick Douglass (1817-1895, Talbot County), writer, lecturer, diplomat; Harriet Tubman (1815-1913, Dorchester County), known primarily for activities in the Underground Railroad; the John H. Murphy family (Baltimore), founders (in 1890) and present-day publishers of the Afro-American newspaper; and Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, born in Baltimore in 1908; AND

WHEREAS, it is probable that the lives and works of these Black citizens, and others as yet undiscovered, have touched and left their mark on the Counties of Prince George's and Montgomery in Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, do hereby associate themselves with the goals of the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation and endorse the application submitted for funding to expand their work into the suburban areas of Washington, D. C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the permanent records of the City of Takoma Park and that a copy be forwarded to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council, May 28, 1974

APPROVED: John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST: Haynes M. Pridgen
City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

PUBLIC HEARINGProposed Budget for 1974-75

May 29, 1974.

Present at the hearing were the following City Officials: Mayor Roth; Councilmembers Faulkner, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto, and Ricks; City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen; Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf; Fire Chief LaScola; Police Chief Porter; and Recreation Director Ziegler.

Mayor Roth opened the meeting at 8:00 PM, welcoming the audience and inviting suggestions and comments on the proposed budget, copies of which were available at the hearing. He asked City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen to present the budget.

City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen talked briefly of the reasons for the delay in presenting this year's budget proposal: 1) the reduction of property assessments, ordered by the Governor, from 60% to 50% of the market value, which had made it necessary to recompute the assessment of each property account, and 2) the Fire Department situation which had been in an uncertain state until the early part of May. It was pointed out that pages A-5 and A-6 of the budget proposal had been left out, as they would have carried the Fire Department figures. Starting with page SR, this showed the total anticipated revenue as \$1,617,100, from which - according to the Charter - 5% must be deducted for the emergency fund, leaving new funds available in a net amount of \$1,536,245. The proposed tax rate was \$1.30, representing a decrease in the tax rate of 25 cents. The surplus (General Fund) was \$52,101, and there was a reserve fund of \$70,000. From the sale of 8 Columbia Avenue the City had received \$25,000, and there had been a couple of windfall receipts during the year - rebate from the Counties - bringing the Total Funds Available to \$1,736,245. He commented on some of the budget items, explaining

- that under account 1.393 (page R-1) no more fire tax will be received, since the collected fire tax will go to the Consolidated Fire District of Montgomery County;
- that the State Shared Income Tax (1.52 on page R-1) had been adjusted because the City had been notified by the State Income Tax Office that it had received money, to which it was not entitled, because many people had erroneously stated on their income tax returns that they were living in Takoma Park. As a result, the City had to pay back the excess thus received.
- that the income from Summonses and Forfeitures (2.10 on page R-2) had been increased because more fines and parking tickets are being issued now than in the past and can be collected directly - before it had to come through the Court;
- that account 4.11 (page R-2) Interest and Dividends, had been doubled, as more money would be earned on U.S. Treasury Bills since adopting the policy of putting as much as possible into Treasury Bills;
- that account 5.94 (page R-2) had been deleted because fire service would now no longer be paid to the City;
- that, under the new program, \$50,000 (5.96 on page R-2) are expected from the two Counties in compensation for services rendered by the City instead of the Counties;

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- that there is a significant increase in the amount proposed for Government Administration (page A-1), as it was found that a larger and more competent staff was needed;
- that it was necessary for the City to maintain a Fire Prevention Program involving operating expenses and salary for one person (page A-1);
- that most of the increases under the various Departments were in salaries and for purchases of necessary equipment;
- that the Total Miscellaneous (page A-12) had been reduced by \$30,800, due to the fact that the Fire Department is no longer included, reducing such items as Social Security, Retirement, Group Hospitalization and Workman's Compensation Insurance;
- that the repayment to the two Counties of over-payments received by the City (page A-12) will be made in installments over 10 years.

The hearing was then opened to the citizens for suggestions and comments.

1. Ed. Hutmire, 21 Columbia Avenue, speaking as president of the Recreation Council, noted that the proposed budget for the Recreation Department, for which he praised Director Ziegler, amounted to 4-5% of the total City budget.

- He asked that \$2000-\$2500 be set aside for outdoor johns in the recreation parks. This had already been suggested last year by the Recreation Council, and he pointed out that the activities during summer in Spring Park, Forest Park and Jeque Park, involving hundreds of children, were greatly hampered because of the lack of such facilities. He said that Prince George's Park System had put up portable johns but that the Recreation Council had something more permanent in mind and hoped to get \$2500 into the budget for that purpose.
- He read from last year's presentation by the Recreation Council, pointing out what was thought to be an error in the budget, which had not been corrected in the 1974-75 budget proposal, namely that \$7,000 (19.202F, page A-11) were placed on the Recreation Department budget for Fourth of July expenses, while actually only a few hundred dollars were used by the Recreation Department for that purpose. The rest went to the Public Works Department for man-hours etc. and to the Police Department. He felt that people might question such a large amount on the Recreation Department's budget and hoped it could be distributed where it was spent.

There was considerable discussion about this, during which it was pointed out that it was more convenient to have the entire expense for the Fourth of July in one account, and Mayor Roth stated that under the "program concept" of budgeting - as opposed to the "departmental concept" - the procedure followed was correct, it being a recreational activity. He suggested that possibly a break-down by departments could be shown in a footnote.

2. Robert Mandel, 7003 Woodland Avenue, wondered whether the 13% increase in the gas and oil budget for the Police and Public Works Departments was not too optimistic, judging from the prices charged by local gas stations. Mr. Pridgen explained that the City was privileged in getting gas and oil in drums at whole-sale prices.

Mr. Mandel, referring to the fact that Montgomery County would be paying for the Fire Department, asked what would happen to the Prince George's County part of the City, as it could hardly be expected that Montgomery County would pay for fire protection for Prince George's County, unless in some way it was reimbursed.

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Mayor Roth responded that during the discussions with the Fire Department - the results of which would be published - one of the obligations was that fire protection service be provided to the Prince George's County part of the City on the same level as at present. As to payment for this service, Prince George's County will continue with its contributions, as it has in the past; last year they amounted to \$69,000 - this year they will hopefully amount to \$75,000 - which will go to Montgomery County.

3. Shirlee Hutmire, 21 Columbia Avenue, wondered why postage (page A-1) had not been increased. She also asked about Lease of Office Equipment (10.442G, page A-1) which showed a considerable increase. City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen explained that the increase was foreseen because the present leased xerox machine was not meant for the heavy work load it gets and would have to be replaced by a more efficient type xerox machine.

Mrs. Hutmire asked whether it would be possible this year to get a retaining wall in Spring park to prevent erosion. She had been asking for this for the last 10 years but hoped that with the help possibly of Public Works, it could be done at a very low cost. Mayor Roth suggested including it in the agenda and finding out how much it would cost in man hours and material if the Public Works Department could do the job. Councilman Ricks wondered whether it could be paid from revenue sharing funds.

4. V.H. Rodes, 1101 Lancaster Avenue, wondered whether in an inflationary period it was realistic to show a budget going down - taking into account, of course, the \$370,000 saved because of the Fire Department no longer being in the budget. - He also wondered how the fire service would be paid for, and how it would affect taxes. Mayor Roth said that it had been expected that the entire Fire Department expense would go off the budget when the Fire Department was paid for by the County; now it turned out, however, that the City would still have to pay for Fire Prevention (A-1). As to the fire tax, that would be paid by the residents. Councilman Nishimoto added that he, as a resident of Montgomery County, would have to pay 31 cents in Consolidated Fire District Tax, meaning 5 cents more than now, while the City tax is being reduced from \$1.55 to \$1.30.

5. Evelyn Ferry, 24 Hickory Avenue, referring to the property tax reduction for people over 65, who - according to the latest Census - comprise 21% of the population of Takoma Park, over 4000 people, stated that in Montgomery County the real estate taxes were graduated, meaning that the higher the income - up to \$10,000 - the lower the tax reduction; in Prince George's County there is a flat cut-off at \$7,500, and in the City of Takoma Park at \$6000. She wanted to know whether this cut-off level would be raised to \$7,500 for the entire City.

- She also asked for an estimate of the City's revenue share this year.
- As to the Firehouse Gym, she was concerned that the residents of Takoma Park, who had paid for the equipment of the Gym, also in the future should have the right to use it.
- She inquired about the revolving house rehabilitation fund of \$50,000 and why it was not included in the budget.
- She also wondered about an amount of \$25,000 to help older people to keep up their grounds, and why that was not in the budget.

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Mayor Roth told her that the City had applied for getting youth help to work on older people's grounds during the summer from Prince George's County, but that this had not yet been approved. As to the Gym, this matter was under control according to the last meeting with the TPVFD.

Mrs. Ferry asked about having the yellow curb lines repainted to keep people from parking their cars there, and was informed by Mayor Roth that the City had applied to Montgomery County for youth help to repaint the curbs and also work in the parks. This had been promised, and it was hoped to get not only boys but also girls - it all depended on the Summer Youth Program.

6. Kathryn T. Simpson, 7300 Cedar Avenue, asked whether the \$50,000 for rehabilitation of houses had been considered in the budget. City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen replied that the amount was not in the budget as such, but was planned to come from revenue sharing. No ordinance had been adopted as yet. Councilman Ricks inquired whether the \$50,000 from Revenue Sharing (5.96 on page R-2) was an estimate. Mr. Pridgen replied in the affirmative.

7. Mrs. Robert Mandel, 7303 Woodland Avenue, asked on what basis the salary increases were calculated, and how the negotiations about the Fire Department were progressing. Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf responded that all job classes had been reviewed and compared with what neighboring jurisdictions were paying. The result had been that all City employees would get a pay increase of at least 10%. The final Fire Department figures had not been made known as yet, but would after July 1st 1974 be within 1 or 2% of the Police Department's scheduled salaries. Mrs. Mandel inquired whether the employees had been consulted as to whether they would be satisfied with the increase, so that the City would not again have to face a crisis as with the firemen. Mr. Gilsdorf said that there had been personal contact with the Police Department, and that they had accepted the tentative proposal. The negotiations had not been conducted on an individual basis, and while it would not be possible to satisfy everybody, the over-all result seemed fair. Mrs. Mandel said that she would never recommend negotiation on an individual basis but thought the City should consider having a company union or have its employees join one of the municipal unions, so they could negotiate as a group. She felt this was something which ought to be faced if the employees were not relatively happy.

- Mrs. Mandel termed the increases in the proposed budget as unrealistic, compared with prices of today.

- Speaking for the Library Board, she urged that the recommended increase for the Library be approved, as all books and periodicals had gone up tremendously since 1969. She felt that the proposed increases reflected neither the increase in population nor in purchase prices. Mayor Roth pointed out that the budget proposal followed the Library's recommendation.

8. Dr. Stephen S. Hiten, 7 Hickory Avenue, spoke as a member of an ad hoc committee, appointed by the late Mayor Miller, working on the project of getting a Bulletin Board for the Municipal Building. Last year \$800 had been allotted to this item, but now a frame and mounting as well as a stone base in harmony with the building was needed. According to an estimate from a contractor, the base would cost \$950. The frame would cost abt. \$350. He felt, however, that with the help of Public Works, which might at least be able to build the cement base for the stone mason to work on, the cost could be gotten down to abt. \$1000 (the actual expense probably abt. \$7-800). He hoped the Mayor and Council would find ways and means to procure this

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amount. Mayor Roth recommended that the City staff consider whether the money can be found in this year's budget, or the project will have to be included in next year's budget.

- Dr. Hiten expressed his gratitude that Public Works had put down sod in front of his house recently.

9. Allan Marsh, 7405 Maple Avenue, spoke as president of Old Takoma Citizens' Association and declared himself in favor of the Library budget. In the opinion of his association, the increase was a modest one, considering the escalating prices of books and periodicals, books having gone up as much as 100% during the past 3 years. He expressed concern that the budget showed no increase whatsoever under items 19.102A5 through 19.102G (page A-10) and suggested that a 5% increase would be in order. He praised the library service and its excellent librarian and closed by urging the Mayor and Council to approve the Library Section of the proposed budget.

10. Ellen Marsh, 7405 Maple Avenue, spoke about the \$20,000 (page A-9) proposed for street and curb repairs. She thought the up-keep of curbs and sidewalks to be most important and stated that for years she had been irked by this problem along 410 especially. She felt that all apartment buildings should have sidewalks in front of them and that if the property owners refused to pay for them, the City should put them in, as had been done on Anne Street. She complained of the condition of Philadelphia Avenue between Carroll and Maple Avenues but did feel that the planting of trees had helped. She wondered what had happened to the petition from Maple Avenue residents for new curbs but said she was willing to wait with that if only 410 could be given priority, as people driving through got their impression of Takoma Park from the condition of 410. She pointed out that Arlington County had a program for renewal of the public portion of its older neighborhood and suggested that the City investigate how this was accomplished.

11. Mary Roth, 7608 Hammond Avenue, asked why an amount budgeted for the Azalea Committee (page A-9) was raised from \$100 to \$420, when - as secretary of the Azalea Committee - she knew for a fact that they had never asked the City for a penny, as they were self-supporting. City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen explained that several years ago it was suggested that an amount be set aside for the Azalea Committee, that it had not been used, but was carried in the budget. He did not know why it had been raised. There was some discussion as to whether work done by the Public Works Department in connection with azalea sales had been paid by the Committee or by the City. It was decided to take up the matter with Public Works Director Barile.

12. Donald Ramsay, 8300 Flower Avenue, stated that he had said most of what he had to say about the budget in his letter and thanked for his comments being considered. Referring to Dr. Hiten's report about the Bulletin Board, he wondered - assuming that the Board would also be used by the general public and that it would only be seen by pedestrians - whether it would warrant the great expense and whether the same notices could be placed in the City Newsletter. He stressed the importance of having good communications between the City Government and the citizens.

- He urged that the City's street sweeping machinery be used as much as possible.

- He pointed out that according to the budget proposal almost as much was spent on azaleas as on park maintenance and stressed that it was also important for the general looks of the City that the grass be cut neatly and weeding be done around the azaleas. He suggested having boy scouts help maintain the small parks.

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- Referring to the Mayor's comments about "program budgeting" he said this meant different things to different people. He stated that he was concerned to have some sort of systematic review, such as a meeting with the citizens, precede the actual budget hearing, with the citizens offering their opinions as to what ought to be done or not done, and he suggested having a systematic, comprehensive review of all the City's programs.

Councilman Ricks voiced his concern about the City having to pay back to the Counties over-payment, and suggested that perhaps the City had rendered services in the past for an equal amount and never been compensated. He suggested that the Counties might be persuaded to drop their claim. Councilman Nishimoto cited a similar case in Rockville, where the City Manager had fought about such a problem with the County and lost.

As to the Bulletin Board Councilman Nishimoto felt that it should have a decent base. There followed a lengthy discussion about the cost of a frame, a base and electric installation for the Bulletin Board and Mayor Roth concluded by stating that it should be discussed with Public Works Director Barile in order to determine how much of the work could be done by Public Works, and how much money should be set aside for the project.

Mr. Garcia asked about an amount for Radio Equipment (12.2031 on page A-8) and was answered by Mr. Pridgen that this was for radios for the trucks, one of them portable so that when a man was out in the field, he could carry it along and be reached.

Councilman Ricks asked whether over-time would be paid with time and a half, f. inst. for people working in the parks in connection with concerts etc., and whether that was part of the budget. Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf replied that it had been ordered by the Federal Government that after May 1, 1974, over-time had to be paid at the rate of time and a half, and that this was reflected in the proposed larger salary accounts. Councilman Nishimoto inquired about prior approval of such over-time work and was answered in the affirmative.

13. Robert Mandel, 7003 Woodland Avenue, referring to Mr. Ramsay's remarks, stated that since the art of walking seemed to be a thing of the past, and it seemed that Bulletin Boards attract vandalism, he would suggest that the Bulletin Board be put up in the lobby of the Municipal Building thus saving the money for a base and - hopefully also saving the Board from vandalism. Councilman Nishimoto, however, said that the Bulletin Board would have large lettering so that it could be seen not only by pedestrians but also by motorists driving past, and that the ideal location for it was in front of the library, where now a temporary sign is placed. There was some discussion about the problem of vandalism, which the Mayor conceded exists, but it was decided to take that risk - as Councilman Nishimoto put it: The Bulletin Board would be an attractive nuisance.

14. Donald Ramsay, 8300 Flower Avenue, declared himself in favor of having the Bulletin Board for the use he now understood it would have. He stressed, however, that he still felt that the Newsletter could contain notices also of non-official events.

Mayor Roth requested information as to the cut-down in estimated State Shared Taxes from \$360,000 last year to \$330,000 and wondered whether this was a safe estimate. City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen said that he thought it was safe. He referred to Assistant City Administrator Gilsdorf for more details. Mr. Gilsdorf stated that as to State Shared Taxes there was an immediate reduction in the income tax, based

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on the re-defining of the City's service area, and that as yet it was unresolved. The estimate, however, was a conservative one.

Mayor Roth asked whether the question of a property tax reduction for people over 65 would have to be resolved before the tax bills go out - that would mean before the June Council meeting. Mr. Pridgen thought that would be helpful. There was some discussion and Councilman Nishimoto stated that last year the cut-off was raised from \$5000 to \$6000. Mr. Pridgen pointed out that Social Security Benefits and other public retirement funds were not included in the \$6000. Mrs. Perry asked that it be made clear in the applications that those things were not included in the cut-off, since for the Counties everything had to be listed. Mr. Pridgen assured her that it would be made clear on the application forms.

Mayor Roth pointed out that items 6.21 - Protective Inspection Fees - and 6.42B - Multiple Family Refuse Collection - on page R-3, according to Mr. Pridgen had not been changed since 1967 or 1968. He suggested that a study should be made for next year's budget, comparing commercial charges for refuse collection f. instance with the City's cost. Councilman Ricks added that dumping cost had also been increased. There was some discussion.

Mrs. Hutmire asked whether a retaining wall for Spring Park could not be paid out of revenue sharing funds and be included in the budget. Mr. Pridgen said that this item was on the agenda and would be looked into. As to the revenue sharing funds, they would have to be used for curbs and sidewalks. Mrs. Hutmire suggested that the school next to the park might be prevailed upon to help financially, as their grounds were also eroding. Mayor Roth stated that the first step should be to get a cost estimate for the retaining wall.

* Councilman Nishimoto wanted to know what would happen to the Crime Control Team after March 1975. The Federal Aid at present was \$21,700 (page R-2). He suggested that the Chief of Police be asked to submit his thoughts on this. Mayor Roth stated that Chief of Police Porter wanted it kept and that it should be kept on the docket and brought up again at the end of the year, when more thought had been given to it.

Mrs. Hutmire said that she had noticed on 9 out of 10 parking meters around the City that the red flag was up and that nobody checked on that, which meant less fines to the City. She suggested employing a meter-maid, at least part-time. City Administrator-Treasurer Pridgen replied that the Police Chief had been looking into possibly getting a meter-maid, but that it was a question of legality. Mayor Roth felt this question could be solved as Rockville and the County had meter-maids. He pointed out that the City does get revenue both from parking meter violations and from Summonses and Forfeitures (\$11,000 - see page R-2). There was some discussion as to whether it might be too costly to get a meter-maid, and Councilman Nishimoto suggested a cost/benefit analysis to determine this.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

ATTEST Harvey M. Pridgen
City Administrator

APPROVED John Roth
Mayor