

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
Meeting of the Mayor and City Council

September 13, 1976

City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilman Faulkner	Asst. to the City Administrator Nichols
Councilman Forshee	City Clerk Pusti
Councilman Garcia	Police Chief Porter
Councilwoman Medina	Recreation Director Ziegler
Councilman Nishimoto	Public Works Director Barile
Councilman Ricks	Asst. Corporation Counsel Culpepper
Councilman Webb	

The Mayor and Council met on September 13, 1976, at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 1976, meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Roth commended the Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts over the Labor Day weekend in a drive to raise funds for Muscular Distrophy. In 24 hours the crew climbed ladders approximately 2700 times (possibly setting an international record). Funds collected were around \$3000.

The Mayor read a letter from Stephen S. Bedi, Principal of TPES, stating that since 1972 citizens have testified before the County Council, Supt. of Schools, and the BOE concerning the need to renovate and improve TPES. Studies have been conducted and alternatives proposed. There was concern that if construction was attempted on the present site students would be transferred to another school until construction was completed. On July 13, the BOE passed a resolution providing \$60,000 for architectural planning for a 16 room school on Hodges Field. As a result of the resolution those concerned worked together to design a new TPES. The planning committee feels that a new school on this site would offer a vibrant education for the children of Takoma Park. Mr. Bedi urged the Council to support construction of a new school on Hodges Field reminding them that this can only be a reality if the Council reaches an agreement on the property transfer plans.

A petition was received from several Prince George's County Citizens requesting recognition for Postman Albert Collins, who will be retiring soon. Mayor Roth said a proclamation would be prepared for presentation at the next Council Meeting.

The Mayor asked that the City Administrator report on the Federal Funds that have been received by the City.

Councilman Nishimoto complimented Mr. Barile, Public Works Director, for paving the sidewalks on East-West Highway.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Mary Ann Leary, 7301 Takoma Avenue received news from the Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection, Zoning Appeal Section, that the petition of Woodrow C. Miller, 7311 Piney Branch Road, Case #247 (operation of boarding house) is open for reconsideration. A public hearing will be held Sept. 21 at 10:45 AM. Mrs. Leary asked that the Council appear at this hearing to restate their opposition to the continuance of this operation.

2. Sammie Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue pointed out that the August 23 minutes reported two rapes in the City when actually three incidents occurred. Mayor Roth responded by saying that a letter to the citizens did report accurate figures. Mr. Abbott opposed construction of I-66 and expressed dissatisfaction with Mayor Roth's support as a member of COG's Board. He noted that Councilwoman Medina had opposed it on a COG Transportation Planning Board Meeting. Mr. Abbott asked that the Council go on record against I-66 at the next hearing on October 2 (Departmental Auditorium, Constitution Avenue). There followed a dialogue, in which the Mayor spoke of his reasons for casting a favorable vote, with Mr. Abbott stating his reasons for disagreeing.

3. A.J. Fahey, 510 New York Avenue said he would not like travelling by subway. Asked if Mr. Abbott had any financial interest in METRO. Mr. Fahey was displeased with the recently passed permit parking for North Takoma Park. He received a ticket and when making an attempt to purchase a permit found that the hours for purchasing such an item conflicted with working hours. Felt that the school has a problem with parking which should be solved, but not be restricting citizens from parking on the street. The streets belong to all the citizens. Mr. Fahey stated that he would fight permit parking and plans to get his money back from the ticket he received. Attributed a lot of the problems in this area to City's lack of zoning authority. Mayor Roth said it was important that young people get an education to combat low income, but at the same time the majority of residents in the Montgomery College area have complained of the lack of parking space in front of their homes. The Mayor said he was aware that not everyone would agree with permit parking but it has had some good results; County funds have been set aside to buy the Wilson Pontiac lot on Fenton Street for parking though negotiations are not completed. Mayor Roth said it was encouraging to hear that there has been an increase in use of the minibus by students. In response to Mr. Fahey's remark, Mayor Roth said that, as he understood it, the State Legislature assigned zoning powers for the bi-county area to Park & Planning at the time it was established (about 1927-28), with the exception of a few municipalities.

4. Russell Romer, 702 Chaney Drive asked the Mayor and Council to put the entire question of Charter reform on the agenda. Felt the City has a charter that is antiquated. He urged the scheduling of a public hearing to hear views on getting this issue on the next election ballot so citizens can vote on appropriate amendments to the charter. Noted several problems with the present charter such as (1) no recall system, (2) no separation of the legislative and executive departments, (3) at large elections, and (4) only one polling place (Mr. Romer felt that there should be a polling place in each ward and that each ward should elect its own representative). He added that the possibility of a full time Mayor and Council with suitable salaries should be explored. Mayor Roth said the Council would take his remarks under consideration. He said that many Councilmen from other cities have remarked on how they would prefer elections at large rather than by wards because often candidates concern themselves with problems from their own ward rather than serving the City as a whole.

5. Walter Bratton, 400 Circle Avenue (not in City) pointed out that Woodland Avenue, South of Elm but North of Circle, was in need of maintenance. Said he had called Prince George's County and was told this street was in Takoma Park. Mr. Bratton asked if Prince George's Co. was responsible for maintaining this street. Mayor Roth answered in the affirmative. Upon request, Mayor Roth, instructed the City Administrator and Public Works Director to discuss this with Mr. Bratton.

6. Frances Phipps, 7210 Holly Avenue Noting the condition of the Welu and Miller properties on Piney Branch, Mrs. Phipps felt there were zoning enforcement problems rather than code enforcement. Suggested that the new Director of the zoning office be invited to talk with the City about certain aspects that come under his jurisdiction where the City has no control. She discussed the problem of halfway houses; pointed out that a house on Eastern Avenue between Cedar and Holly and one on Westmoreland that were downzoned in the Sector Plan and asked for enforcement. Mrs. Phipps asked that the Master Plan clearly state that the bridge to replace the Juniper Street Bridge is to be a pedestrian bridge. She was pleased to see City plans for a block grant proposal. Said the Block Grant Advisory Committee will consider the degree of input by citizens when making decisions. She proposed that a Takoma portal plan be submitted for block grant funds providing for a distinctive land or street scape at all entrances to the City. She mentioned Lael Adams' suggestion for purchasing properties (with block grant funds) at the end of Holly and Cedar to build a structure and resale. Pointed out that a neighborhood development corporation could do the same. Referring to the process of referendum, Mrs. Phipps gave an example of a case where the Supreme Court upheld a referendum in Ohio on a zoning matter. Mayor Roth reminded Mrs. Phipps that the objective for block grant funds is to increase the supply of moderate to low income housing. Mrs. Phipps replied by saying the City would have no problem justifying its low-income housing and could get a moderate income house built on the Holly and Cedar Avenue lot. Mayor Roth thought the Council would be pleased with the idea of an attractive entrance for the City.

7. Kathryn Simpson, 7300 Cedar Avenue told Mrs. Phipps that the lot Lael Adams was referring to was probably not wide enough for building a home.

8. Morris Zlotowitz, 418 Boston Avenue complained of cats and dogs that roam the streets at night. Mayor Roth said an announcement explaining this violation will be presented in a future bulletin. He told Mr. Zlotowitz that the City does have a dog catcher that might be able to help him.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Gilsdorf, City Administrator, gave a brief summary of the City's financial statement.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Communications

Letter from Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue pointing out damage to trees near Takoma and Albany Avenues caused by impacted soil. Requested action from the Council. Mayor Roth asked the City Administrator to explore this situation and respond to Mr. Vogel.

Petition from residents on Mississippi Avenue and Elwyn Court requesting that signs be posted prohibiting trucks of over 3/4 tons on Mississippi, Elwyn Court and Hilltop Road. The City Administrator noted that other jurisdictions have posted signs on neighboring streets leaving only the above mentioned streets on which to travel. The City Administrator was instructed to review the matter and prepare a recommendation for the Council.

Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission- notice that Zoning Map Amendment No. A-9209, requesting the reclassification of property fronting on the east side of New Hampshire and the North side of East-West Highway from R-55 to C-C. A date for hearing had not yet been set. Mayor Roth referred this subject to an ad hoc committee (Councilmen Garcia and Faulkner) for their recommendations.

Belle Ziegler, Recreation Director announced that the Takoma Park Community Band will present their Bicentennial Concert, Sunday, September 19 at 8:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:

Report on Federal Programs

The City Administrator reported that the City has received \$385,000 in Federal funds over a three year period. The actual use of funds was as follows:

LEAA (Crime Control Team)	\$75,000
(Concentrated Crime Reduction Project)	\$180,000
WINN (2 year period)	\$30,000
CETA (3 year period)	\$100,000

Mayor Roth added that the Laurel Avenue Shopping Center has been under a study to determine how the owners may improve their businesses. This study has been paid for through block grant funds.

--Possible demolition of delapidated structures: 801 S. Igo Creek Pky.; 816 Colby Avenue; 7307 Cherry Avenue; 7209 Cherry Avenue These structures are long standing Code Enforcement problems. They are **unsafe and are fire hazards**. The City Administrator explained the steps that would have to be taken to have these places demolished. It was noted that the owner of 816 Colby has said he plans renovation. Councilman Forshee moved to authorize the City Administrator to take the first steps to proceed with demolition of all the properties. Councilman Ricks seconded, adding that all four property owners would automatically be contacted and if plans for 816 Colby have been made the owner will contact the City. The Council approved the motion unanimously.

--Report on parking in Parking Permit Area (Chief Porter)

The permit signs were installed August 18, 1976 and on that day approximately 100 warnings were issued. As of Sept. 13, 139 permits have been sold. During the first week of permit parking, 190 summonses were issued with 279 summonses issued altogether. An average of 56 cars a day with permits are parked on the streets. Chief Porter stated that there has been only one complaint about parking at night within the past 10 days. Mr. Barile reported that Public Works has received the permanent "8 AM to 5 PM" signs.

--Report on Burglary Education Apprehension Team (BEAT) activities (Chief Porter)

Chief Porter reported that there have been a number of citizens meetings in the past few days. The team has tried to interest people in becoming block captains but has had a poor response. Meetings have been held with citizens from Willow, Spruce, Maple, Tulip, Park, Crescent, Baltimore, New York, Albany, Carroll, and Takoma Avenues. There are plans for meetings three nights a week. During the past 30 days there have been 50 security inspections in the area of Philadelphia to the District line. The team has also made 9 burglary arrests in the past 30 days.

Chief Porter was pleased to say that burglaries have decreased in the City. He then gave the following report:

July 1975 - 40 burglaries	August 1975 - 32 burglaries
July 1976 - 29 burglaries	August 1976 - 8 burglaries

Mayor Roth concluded that the Police Department had good response time. After some discussion the Chief said he hoped to have the Apprehension Team work closer with other divisions of the Police Department. He added that areas of the City that have had problems are placed on a roll call sheet, kept under surveillance and sometimes turned over to the Concentrated Crime Reduction Team.

--Progress Reports:

a. Signalization projects: Route 410 and Takoma; Route 410 and Maple

The signals are being installed with pedestrian crossings. The signalization projects in front of the fire house will be installed soon. Councilman Ricks commented that he was pleased to see this progress, adding that he hoped to see all the projects in operating condition soon. Councilman Nishimoto asked if it would be helpful to send a letter complimenting the SHA for what they have done on Maple Avenue and Takoma Avenue. Councilman Ricks dissagreed. Councilman Garcia felt that if any communication was to be made the SHA should be reminded that two years ago they were to reexamine the light at New Hampshire and Larch which is now overdue. Mayor Roth asked the City Administrator to see if other cities have had problems with the installation of signal lights.

b. BOE proposal for use of Hodges Field as site for new elementary school

Shortly after the Council meeting of August 23, Corporation Counsel Gingerich, the City Administrator and the BOE discussed the proposal. The City Administrator asked that if the proposal is accepted all active recreational programs the City has at Hodges Field be arranged to meet at another nearby site. Park & Planning said alternative sites will be available if this is accepted. He hoped to hear from the BOE to arrange a meeting for further discussion on the matter.

c. Work preparatory to sale of #8 Sherman Avenue

Mr. Barile and the City Administrator have discussed what needs to be done at this address. There are several minor structural repairs that need to be done, plus painting. This has been discussed with four contractors and prices are being obtained for the work necessary to place #8 Sherman Avenue in compliance with the codes in order to sell.

d. Status of 7050 Carroll Avenue

On July 26, 1976 this property's burned out condition was reviewed. The property has been posted as unfit and the owner has been notified. The owner's notice period has expired and specifications can be drawn for demolition. The owner has made no acknowledgement other than the fact that he has received notice of this action. Councilman Ricks moved that the City proceed with bids for demolition. Councilwoman Medina seconded and the Council approved unanimously.

Discussion of Takoma Park Master Plan Task Force Reports:

- Transportation
- Public Services, Education and Related

A draft has been prepared with comments on two of the Task Force reports. Councilwoman Medina moved that the letter be sent to the Park & Planning Commission. The motion was seconded. Councilman Nishimoto reminded the Council of Mrs. Phipps' concern that the Master Plan should indicate a pedestrian bridge at Juniper Stree. There was a concensus that this be added to the letter. The motion was approved unanimously.

(See attached letter.)

Ordinance appropriating Revenue Sharing Funds for purchase of monitor for Fire Prevention Office. Councilman Ricks moved that the ordinance below be adopted. The motion was seconded and the ordinance was approved unanimously by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto, Ricks and Webb; NAY: none; EXCUSED: none.

ORDINANCE #2401

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

SECTION 1. THAT the Planned Use Report for Federal Revenue Sharing Funds earmarked funds for a portable monitor for use by the Fire Prevention Officer; AND

SECTION 2. THEREFORE THAT the following purchase be authorized:

1 Motorola Minitor Monitor w/battery (#HO3EAB-1112N)	\$217
1 Battery Charger (#NLN1335)	30
TOTAL	<u>\$247</u>

AND

SECTION 3. FURTHER THAT funds to cover this purchase in the amount of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$247), plus shipping costs, be appropriated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Account and transferred to the appropriate Fire Prevention Account.

Discussion of Community Development Block Grant (Montgomery County) Submission for 1977-1978 Recommendations from citizens and staff have been compiled for approval for submission to the Montgomery County for inclusion in their Community Development Block Grant program. The program will focus on Community Improvement through Neighborhood Betterment. The proposal would be developed around four categories. The four suggested program areas, along with estimates of the required funding for each are:

(1) A Home-improvement "Grant-Loan" Program:	\$100,000
(2) Practical Household Education (Hand 'n Home):	30,000
(3) Specific "Neighborhood Betterment" Projects:	240,000
(4) City-Wide Community Improvement Projects:	<u>130,000</u>
TOTAL.....	\$500,000

The Mayor explained the basic component of these programs adding that each of the four components could be funded independently without affecting the overall continuity of program objectives. After some discussion, Councilwoman Medina moved that the grant proposal be submitted as the basis of the City's requests. Councilman Nishimoto seconded and the Council approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:35 PM - Council to reconvene Sept. 27, 1976 at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED: John D. Roth
John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST: Herbert W. Gilsdorf
Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

ATTACHMENT to minutes of September 13, 1976

Letter to Executive Director of Park and Planning from Mayor Roth.

The Mayor and City Council have reviewed the citizen Task Force reports providing citizen input for staff use in the Takoma Master Plan statements on the subjects of (1) Transportation and (2) Public Services. The comments below were unanimously approved by the Mayor and Council at the September 13, 1976 Council Meeting.

At this point we do not believe it would be proper for the Council to make a pre-judgement on all the topics covered in the Task Force Reports--particularly in the light of the normal process which covers a progression from staff work to a general citizen public hearing, which is then considered as a totality of input before the final statements are prepared. Consequently we have focused our comment on:

- 1) any items that should be added for consideration by the professional staff
- 2) any item that in our judgement warrants clarifying comments, and
- 3) any item which we believe should be omitted.

Any item not receiving specific comment should be considered as being referred to the professional staff for their review and consideration based on their experience, knowledge, and judgement in relation to normal master planning staff work.

Specific Comments on Transportation

Objective No. 1

Item B - This is consistent with previous positions of the City Council.

Item C - We will need to have advice concerning the legal implications of the item. It seems likely that one approach to all situations would not be feasible.

Item D - This item is covered by the recently published Sector Plan.

Item E - The Council has for a long time held that Carroll Avenue should be a two lane roadway. Some special review should be given to the segment between Ethan Allen and the Firehouse where two highways occupy the same roadbed. Also special review should be given to the effect of peak load METRO feeder bus in the segment between the Firehouse and the METRO station. The matter of left turn movements at Piney Branch should be considered in relation to access to New Hampshire Estates School.

The fringe parking lots should be considered in relation to the extent that inbound traffic on New Hampshire is likely to continue South bound on the 6 lane highway to use the Ft. Totten METRO station rather than turning off onto 2 lane roads to use the Takoma station. Perhaps there are studies which are applicable.

Item F - The Council has long advocated that Flower Avenue remain a two lane road.

Item G - Covered in the recent Sector Plan.

Item I - We would be glad to have planning staff advice on the possible alternative methods and their potential effectiveness, including possible those in the DOT study titled "Livable Urban Streets".

In General - In those cases where traffic is proposed to be diverted we need planning staff comments and advice about the routes the diverted traffic might use, and its impact on the new routes. There is traffic that uses Boyd, Manor Circle and Sherman as a "by-pass" around the Firehouse area. We need advice on this and perhaps traffic studies.

Objective No. 2

Items A and B - The Ride-on Minibus routes will also need to be studied in the near future to determine how they should be changed to service the METRO station when it opens.

Item D and G - The City Council has recently applied parking restrictions in the area around Montgomery College and so far as we know is the first City in Maryland to take such action. Obviously, the experience we gain will be available for consideration of parking problems near the METRO stop.

Item F - We have already made some comments to District of Columbia concerning their first draft of a plan, and these will be made available to the staff of the Planning Board. We would like to be informed of any negotiations with the District staff.

Objective No. 3

Item B - At the request of the Mayor and Council the County Community Development Office has set aside a portion of block grant funds for a feasibility study of improvements in the Laurel Avenue shopping center. The preliminary orientation work has started.

Item E - At the request of citizens, with the Mayor and Council concurring, we propose that the Master Plan specifically designate the Juniper Street Bridge as a pedestrian bridge.

b

Public Services

Education - The Piney Branch Middle School is also serving as a highly useful component of community activities, and as one example we mention the Georgetown clinic which uses the school facilities for its functions.

Library - There are meeting rooms in the Municipal Building just across the driveway as well as others in the Piney Branch Middle School a short block away.

Recreation - Item 3 is included in the City's request for block grant funds from the County.

In addition to specific proposals, the following should be noted: There is a general consensus among the Mayor and Council as well as the citizens, that the Prince George's section of the City warrants additional recreational facilities, including a review to plan location of tennis courts, and if at all possible a softball diamond.

Police - We currently have a police assistant position for parking problems. We have also assigned duties to the Fire Prevention Officer to cover enforcement of trash regulations. The normal control measures should probably be considered in annual budget discussions rather than the Master Plan.

attachment continued...

Public Works - These items appear to be of an operational nature to be considered as part of the normal City Council operations, or in the annual budget process.

In the event additional comments arise out of current activities of the staff or the Council, we will pass them along for professional review.

If you need additional information or clarification of any of these comments please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr. Gilsdorf. Comments on the Zoning Code Enforcement Task Force reports will follow shortly.

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Meeting of the Mayor and City Council
September 27, 1976

City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilman Faulkner	Asst. to the City Administrator Nichols
Councilman Forshee	City Clerk Pusti
Councilman Garcia	Police Chief Porter
Councilwoman Medina	Recreation Director Ziegler
Councilman Nishimoto	Public Works Director Barile
Councilman Ricks	Asst. Corporation Counsel Culpepper
	Fire Prevention Officer Williams
	Recreation Supervisor Rouse

Excused: Councilman Webb

The Mayor and Council met on September 27, 1976 at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 13, 1976, meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Mayor Roth presented a proclamation to Albert F. Collins for his contributions and work within the City and designated him as an Honorary Citizen. Mr. Collins is retiring from his career with the Post Office.
- Mayor Roth read a proclamation, accepted by Lt. J. Jarboe, TPVF Dept., proclaiming the week of Oct. 3-9, 1976 as Fire Prevention Week. Lt. Jarboe urged citizens to call the Fire Dept. if they have any questions regarding Fire Prevention. Mayor Roth then introduced Tom Williams, Fire Prevention Officer, who announced that there will be a fire safety van parked next to the Library, Wed., Oct. 6 to give a demonstration from 9:30 - 3:00.
- The Mayor presented to Mr. Jesse MacKnight, a proclamation that Sept. 23 - Oct. 19, 1976 will be Lions Club Light Bulb Days in Takoma Park and called upon all citizens to participate in this community fund raising program.
- Mayor Roth expressed sympathy and concern to Joe Ferrier on the recent death of his wife, Mrs. Opal Ferrier.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

1. Joe Ferrier, 7413 Maple Avenue said it was very warm and comforting to hear expressions of sympathy from the Mayor and Council. He thanked the Police Dept. and the Rescue Squad for their assistance. He spoke of the pleasure he and Mrs. Ferrier had at the Hoedown in Jequie Park adding that a couple of portable johns in the park would be nice.
2. Robert Mandel, 7003 Woodland Avenue said the Spring Park Community Association fully supports item #4 (sidewalks for Ray Drive) of the Community Development Block Grant proposal to Prince George's County. Mr. Mandel understood the proposal to include recreational equipment for Spring Park which is also endorsed by the Association. Mayor Roth explained that this is a request for funds; there is no guarantee that the City will get these funds. Mr. Mandel was eager to support this proposal in writing to the County.

3. Clarence Boatman, 133 Ritchie Avenue was concerned with the height of a tree at 135 Ritchie. Felt it could be hazardous if limbs should break off the tree. Asked that the Council have someone check on the situation. Mayor Roth said he would have someone look at the tree in the morning. Mr. Boatman commended the Council for their continuing efforts on behalf of the City.

4. Elaine LaVaute, 240 Park Avenue inquired as to whether the Mayor and Council were consulted when in 1970 the Montgomery County section of Takoma Park was moved into the 5th Congressional District of Prince George's County, to which the Mayor responded in the negative. Mrs. LaVaute said that voters in the Montgomery County section of the City are upset that they are a part of the 5th Congressional District. Councilman Nishimoto explained that after the 1970 census there was a need to divide the voting districts evenly by population. She pointed out a house on the corner of Westmoreland and First and weeds on the property at Westmoreland and First (East side) that should be brought to the attention of the Code Enforcement Office. She requested that a new tree be planted in front of her home. Mrs. LaVaute asked if the Montgomery County Smoke Detector Legislation would be enforced in Takoma Park. Mayor Roth referred this to the City Administrator, asking him to check on it and inform Mrs. LaVaute of the details. The City Administrator responded to a question Mrs. LaVaute posed on the definition of a dying tree.

5. Robert Mandel stated that the vacant lot at 6909 Woodland Avenue is overgrown with grass and asked that it be cut.

6. Dave Weisman, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Board for Area IV gave a report on the Recreation Master Plan. (See attachment #1.).

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: City Administrator Gilsdorf

1. Communications

Prince George's County Zoning Hearing Examiner - Notice of Public Hearing, Wed., Nov. 10, 1976, County Council Hearing Room, Upper Marlboro, on Special Exception #3030, Olive M. Kreinbuhl, day care nursery at 1011 Elm Avenue.

Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection - Reconsideration of renewal of Sp. Ex. 247, boarding house (recently revoked), 7311 Piney Branch Road. The hearing has been rescheduled for Thursday, Oct. 14 at 11:00 AM, 6110 Executive Blvd., Rockville. Mayor Roth felt that the City should have some representation to reiterate the Council's previous objection to continuation of this operation.

Letter from Mrs. Kathryn Simpson, General Chairwoman, Community Improvement Board, commending the Council's recommendation for the Community Development Block Grant Proposal to Montgomery County.

Clerk, Prince George's County Council, Notice that Sp. Ex. 2998, modification of parking lot for medical practitioner, 8106 New Hampshire, has been denied.

Prince George's County Board of Appeals- Notice of an extension of time to correct or cease the zoning violation (operation of a printing business in the C-1 Zone) at 6844 New Hampshire Avenue, was granted until thirty days after receipt of the Technical Staff Report on the rezoning petition for the shopping center, at which time a further extension will be considered. (Petitions may be filed in June and January.) Mayor Roth appointed Councilman Faulkner to keep abreast of this situation.

Prince George's District Council - Notice that Sp. Ex. 2830, extension or alteration of a non-conforming use, Shell Oil Co., 949 East-West Highway, has been denied.

2. Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action
a. Administrative Reports:

--Proposed use of Hodges Field as site for new elementary school

The project was reviewed on site on Sept. 20 by members of the State Inter Agency Committee, who found it favorable. On Oct. 11 the School Board will make a final decision. The City Administrator and Corporation Counsel will meet with the BOE representative to discuss the legal aspects. There was some discussion as to whether legal negotiations should be discussed now or after the School Board agrees to the proposal. Mayor Roth explained that the City does want this backed up legally. The State is aware of the conditions under which the City is willing to agree to the proposal and, if approved, the only step left is to put it into legal form. Councilwoman Medina suggested that the City inquire about the School Board's procedures for such a proposal and made sure there are no last minute slip ups.

--Signalization project: New Hampshire and Sligo Creek Parkway

The City Administrator reported that this signalization project (left turn arrow) has been installed and should be in operation any day now.

2. Ordinances accepting bids and appropriating Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for two Public Works vehicles (panel truck; pick-up truck) Upon motion by Councilman Faulkner, seconded by Councilwoman Medina the below ordinance was approved unanimously by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto and Ricks; NAY: none; EXCUSED: Councilmen Webb.

ORDINANCE #2402

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

SECTION 1. THAT the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Planned Use Report for FY-77 included funds for the purchase of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton van for the Public Works Department; AND

SECTION 2. THAT, after having been duly advertised and notices sent to qualified dealers, bids on the van were opened on Sept. 17, 1976, at 3:00 PM, with Chris Hanburger Ford Company submitting the low net bid of \$4239, including \$151.00 trade-in allowance on a 1965 station wagon.

SECTION 3. THEREFORE THAT the bid of Chris Hanburger be accepted for one 1977 Ford Cargo Van, Model E-100, for the net sum of FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$4239); AND

SECTION 4. THAT the City Administrator be authorized to transfer to Chris Hanburger Ford Company, upon delivery of new vehicle, title to the trade-in vehicle, a 1965 Chevrolet $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton station wagon, Title #MO23382, Serial #113355N212046; AND

SECTION 5. FURTHER THAT funds in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$4239) be appropriated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Account and transferred to the appropriate Public Works account.

Councilman Garcia moved that the ordinance below be adopted. Councilman Forshee seconded and the ordinance was approved unanimously by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto and Ricks; NAY: none; EXCUSED: Councilman Webb.

ORDINANCE #2403

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

SECTION 1. THAT the FY-77 Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Planned Use report earmarked funds for the purchase of a pick-up truck; AND

SECTION 2. THAT, after having been duly advertised and notices sent to qualified dealers, bids on one 3/4-ton pick-up truck were opened at 3:00 PM, September 17, 1976, with Chris Hanburger Ford Company submitting the low net bid of \$4242, including \$401.00 trade-in allowance on a 1967 Ford pick-up truck.

SECTION 3. THEREFORE THAT the bid of Chris Hanburger Ford Co. be accepted for one 1977 Ford pick-up truck Model F-250, for the net sum of FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$4242); AND

SECTION 4. THAT the City Administrator be authorized to transfer to Chris Hanburger Ford Company, upon delivery of new vehicle, title to the trade-in vehicle --a 1967 Ford 3/4-ton Styleside pick-up, Title #M238589, Serial #F25BNB41239; AND

SECTION 5. FURTHER THAT funds in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$4242) be appropriated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Account and transferred to the appropriate Public Works account.

Mayor Roth commented that he would like for department heads to note the time of year when making purchases (vehicles are more expensive in August and Sept.).

3. Ordinance prohibiting through truck traffic (over 1 ton) on Mississippi Avenue between Hilltop and Piney Branch Roads Upon Motion by Councilman Ricks and a second, the ordinance below was approved unanimously by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Medina, Nishimoto and Ricks; NAY: none; EXCUSED: Councilman Webb.

ORDINANCE #2404

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

SECTION 1. THAT Mississippi Avenue shall be closed to through truck traffic between Hilltop Road and Piney Branch Road; AND

SECTION 2. THAT this prohibition shall not apply to light-weight trucks of one ton chassis weight and under not displaying advertisements or commercial markings, being used as a recreational or passenger vehicles; AND

SECTION 3. THAT this ordinance shall become effective upon completion of the installation of the appropriate signs; AND

SECTION 4. Penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as stated in Sec. 1-17 of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

4. Community Development Block Grant proposal for inclusion in Prince George's County 1977-78 submission Mayor Roth presented a proposal for Community Development Block Grant Funds from Prince George's County (See attachment #2). He added that the proposal was presented to the Sligo/Longbranch Citizens Association and received their full endorsement. Prince George's Co. hearing dates are Sept. 23 (Upper Marlboro) and Sept. 30 (County Service Building, Hyattsville) to hear proposals for the funds. Mr. Gilsdorf, Councilmen Garcia and Faulkner will present the City's proposals. The County will give the funds to areas with the greatest needs but the Council is hoping that since this is the third year of the program the City might get some of the funds. Councilman Nishimoto moved that the proposal be presented to the County. Councilman Faulkner seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Advisory Task Force report on Secondary Schools (Councilwoman Medina)

Councilwoman Medina summarized the report by stating that there was a recommendation that Montgomery County school systems change their school structure to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 or K-4, 5-8, 9-12. Councilwoman Medina said there were suggestions in the report on ways this change may be made and advised those interested to review a copy of the report at the Library or in the City Office. The only problem she noted was that this recommendation would leave one extra school facility, but the Councilwoman felt that the City would have no trouble justifying the need for schools.

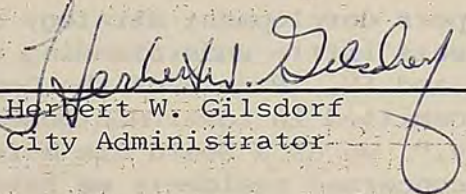
Report on Zoning Map Amendment Petition A-9209 (Councilman Faulkner)

The petition A-9209 is a request to rezone R-55 property to C-C (retail commercial shopping facility) in Prince George's County on lots 5,6, (New Hampshire Ave.), Lot 27 (on East-West Highway), Block 27. Councilman Faulkner requested that the City Administrator notify citizens and civic associations in this vicinity for their opinions. Mayor Roth suggested that the Council keep in mind the effect this might have on the Takoma Park Master Plan. Councilman Faulkner also asked that this be on the next agenda to solicit further citizen input.

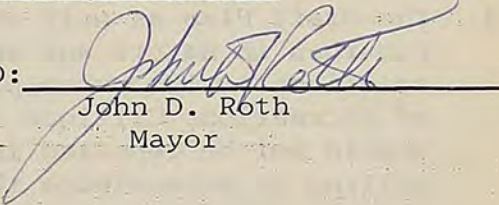
Councilman Ricks asked if the City Administrator had received any news concerning the signalization at 410 & Carroll Avenue. Mr. Barile said the SHA has not solved the right-of-way problem. Mayor Roth asked that Mr. Barile offer any assistance in locating the owners of the properties so the rights-of-way may be settled.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:31 PM, Council to reconvene TUESDAY, October 12, 1976 at 8:00 PM.

ATTEST:


Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

APPROVED:


John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTACHMENT #1
Report on Recreation Master Plan

September 27, 1976

The Area IV Recreation Advisory Board generally supports the Position Paper developed by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation relative to the Master Plan of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces for Montgomery County. It identifies serious concerns relative to the methodology as well as the recommendations presented by the Park and Planning Commission in its Draft Document. However we feel compelled to make the following observations relative to the Draft Document as well as the Statement prepared by the Recreation Department Staff.

- a. In response to the Recreation Staff's premise that Recreation and Park needs should be projected without considering fiscal implications, we feel that it is necessary to identify a relationship between cost and proposed or projected Park and Recreation acquisition and development. It is certainly a truism, that "In depth financial analyses must be made before decisions can be arrived at in an intelligent manner". The bottom line of any process or plan is cost.
- b. "The overall goal of Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is the development of a comprehensive guide for the orderly acquisition, development and maintenance of a park and recreation facility system that is responsive to public need and public resources." However, because of deficiencies in the draft plan itself, as well as the selected process for presentation to the Area Advisory Board, specifically, and the public, in general, a narrow parochialism is evolving as the forum for discussion and debate as opposed to a constructive (analysis) of the plan's recommendations for Montgomery County as a whole. When an appropriate plan is developed, a consensus may be difficult because of potential polarization that is beginning to take place.
- c. We have grave reservations about the service function of developing recreational facilities in adjacent planning areas to meet the needs of Area IV Residents. In Takoma Park - East Silver Spring, 22% of the residents do not have private transportation, and public transportation out of the area is a known inadequacy. Hence, we question the wisdom and propriety of meeting our area needs in the Colesville-White Oak area. We encourage a comprehensive analysis of the Urban Areas, as a specific part of the Master Plan with recommendations and solutions to Recreation Facility and Park needs within those areas. We concur with the perception that Montgomery County is unique and atypical. However, we want to see the point addressed in the Master Plan. In short we are frustrated at being used as "the example not to follow". Many errors have been made in the Facility and Park development of Takoma Park, Silver Spring and Bethesda. Where feasible, we expect them to be corrected in the Master Plan, not identified and addressed in another Area.
- d. The Draft Plan as well as the Position papers development strategy is essentially suburban in nature and substance and reflects little understanding and less solutions to the urban plight of Area's I and IV. Page 3 of the Department of Recreation's Critique states, "Errors committed in lower Montgomery County should not be repeated in the Upper County." We as a Board are more than willing to acknowledge the mistakes. As concerned residents we have done the same in the areas of zoning, educational planning, code enforcement and transportation systems. We are serving notice that we cannot accept the mistakes of the past and we expect every effort to be made in the future to rectify them.

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Report on Recreation Master Plan continued...

Such efforts must include:

1. Renovation and rehabilitation of existing facilities
2. A priority given to acquisition and development of the remaining parcels of land where appropriate.
3. Close coordination with B.O.E. to immediately identify potential school sites for closure and assure their lease or acquisition for Parks and Recreation Development. On September 14, the Secondary School Task Force recommended to the B.O.E. that Montgomery County adopt a 5,3,4, System of Elementary, Middle and Senior High School. If this recommendation were adopted, it would necessitate the closure of as many as 49 elementary schools, a large number of which are in Area I and IV. Such a direction must be reflected more specifically in the Master Plan's urban Ring Strategy.

In summation, we have identified 4 (four) Areas of concern, two of which are pertinent to all six Recreation Areas, two specifically applicable to Area's with urban characteristics, mainly: I and IV. The most disturbing element inherent in the four points is the underlying discord between two agencies whose cooperative mandate is the development of a comprehensive guide to reflect the public need and resources of Montgomery County. The Area IV Advisory Board feels obligated to recommend that the Master Plan Process be curtailed and consensus between the two agencies realized before any conclusive Plan be published.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL

The following is suggested as a basic format for a comprehensive grant proposal for the Prince George's County portion of the City of Takoma Park, the focus of the program being "Community Improvement" through "Neighborhood Betterment". The proposal would be developed around four prioritized independent, but related categorical funding areas. The rationale behind this format is: (1) the overall program would be framed within a visibly comprehensible perspective, (2) breaking the overall program up into four smaller sections would provide for better managability and pinpoint effectiveness evaluations, and (3) as this is a relatively large funding request, and the possibility exists that the total package might not be funded at the same time, the program would have already been developed in a manner such that (if necessary) each of its four components could be funded independently, without affecting the overall continuity of program objectives.

The four suggested program areas, along with preliminary estimates of the required funding for each are:

1) A Home-improvement "Grant-Loan" Program:	\$ 50,000
2) Practical Household Education (Hand 'n Home):	10,000
3) Specific "Neighborhood Betterment" Projects:	120,000
4) City-Wide Community Improvement Projects:	<u>60,000</u>
TOTAL	\$240,000

The basic components of each of these programs are present below:

CATEGORY I. "GRANT-LOAN" PROGRAM: \$ 50,000

Generally, this program would make funds available in the form of grants and loans to homeowners in the City with low-to-moderate-incomes, for the sole purpose of home repairs or renovations. The grants would be available in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,500, while the "low interest" loans would be available to qualifying applicants in amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$6,000. As a complement to this program, an index of approved local "small job" contractors would be maintained by the City to assist prospective grant or loan recipients in locating qualified reliable companies.

CATEGORY II. "HAND 'n HOME" PROGRAM: \$ 10,000

The objective of this program would be virtually the same as that in Category I (assisting homeowners in physically improving their homes); however, the approach would appeal to a slightly different clientele. The basic component of this program would be a series of elementary and intermediate level home maintenance and repair courses. Supplementing these courses would be the establishment of a combination small scale work-shop and tool lending library in the basement of the Municipal Building. Professional (on site) advice would be made available to those who need or desire it.

CATEGORY III. "NEIGHBORHOOD BETTERMENT" PROJECTS \$120,000

These projects would address the upgrading of public services and facilities in specific target communities. Identifiable needs within various neighborhoods would vary, but general similarities would be apparent. A cursory needs analysis suggests that these neighborhoods could benefit greatly from this program:

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- 1) Cherry Avenue-Colby Avenue Neighborhood (\$ 50,000)
 - a. improvement of the neighborhood recreation facilities
 - b. improvement of storm drainage
 - c. landscaping of public spaces
 - d. sidewalks, curbs and gutters.
- 2) Sligo-Longbranch Neighborhood (\$ 10,000)
 - a. landscaping of public spaces
 - b. sidewalks, curbs and gutters.
- 3) J. Enos Ray-Spring Park Neighborhood (\$ 60,000)
 - a. clean-up and improvement of the wooded area opposite J. Enos Ray Elementary School
 - b. general public space landscaping
 - c. sidewalk to serve the school, curbs and gutters
 - d. upgrade neighborhood recreation facilities.

CATEGORY IV. CITY-WIDE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: (\$ 60,000)

The following proposed improvements (while not being physically located in specific neighborhoods) would work directly toward the betterment and overall benefit of the entire City:

- 1) Curbs and gutters along the portion of the State Highway which the City must maintain. (\$40,000)
- 2) Improvement of entrances to the City. (\$10,000)
- 3) Staff assistance for program implementation. (\$10,000)