

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Council Meeting Room

May 1, 1978

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Roth
Councilman Faulkner
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Garcia
Councilman Ricks
Councilwoman Saloma
Councilman Weisman
City Administrator Gilsdorf

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roth at 7:35 PM.

1. Discussion of request for Special Parking Space for Handicapped at 22 Hickory Avenue. The City Administrator advised the Council that there was no existing ordinance on the books to permit designating a special parking space on a public street. The Corporation Counsel has suggested that a City-wide ordinance would have to be considered, perhaps after public hearings are held. The Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to contact Mr. Alexander and offer his assistance in having the neighbors voluntarily leave the space in front of 22 Hickory available for Mr. Alexander's use.
2. Public Hearings concerning Winchester-Takoma. The City Administrator advised the Mayor and Council that OLTA will hear more testimony on 7620 Maple Avenue, May 3 at 7:30 PM.
3. Half-Way House at 8205 Houston Court and Requested Rezoning (from R-60 to C-2) for 8 Grant Avenue. The Mayor and Council briefly discussed these two items and directed the City Administrator to put them on the May 8 agenda and survey the surrounding neighborhoods for citizen reactions.
4. "Taxi" Not a Commercial Vehicle. The City Administrator reported to the Council that according to the definition in the City Code and in the opinion of the Corporation Counsel, a taxi is not treated as a commercial vehicle for purposes of enforcement of existing parking regulations.
5. Tax Differential - Montgomery County. Mayor Roth reported that through an action of a special committee of the Maryland Municipal League - Montgomery County Chapter, additional funds would be made available to municipalities of Montgomery County from a special appropriation. This special appropriation will be taken up by the County Council on May 23.
6. Cross Manufacturing Company - Erie Avenue. The City Administrator was directed to determine what legal action can be used to clean up this location.

WORKSESSION

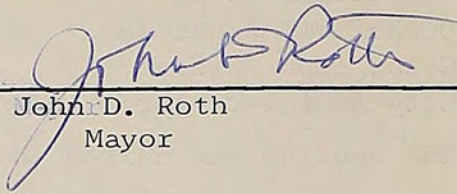
May 1, 1978

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7. Parking Problems in the 500 Block of Tulip Avenue. The City Administrator was directed to make a 10 day survey of this block to determine what kinds of parking problems are in evidence.
8. Discussion was begun on the 78-79 Budget, which will continue on May 9.

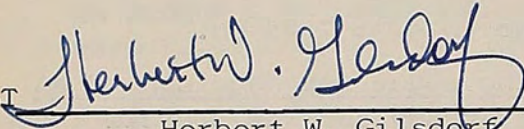
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 PM.

APPROVED



John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST



Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

T H E C O U N T Y O F T A K O M A P A R K , M A R Y L A N D

M E E T I N G O F T H E M A Y O R A N D C I T Y C O U N C I L

P U B L I C H E A R I N G O N P R O P O S E D U S E O F F E D E R A L R E V E N U E S H A R I N G F U N D S , F Y - 7 9

May 8, 1978

C i t y O f f i c i a l s P r e s e n t s

- Mayor Roth
- Councilman Forshee
- Councilman Garcia
- Councilman Ricks
- Councilwoman Saloma
- Councilman Webb
- Councilman Weisman
- City Administrator Gilsdorf
- Asst. City Administrator Nichols
- City Clerk Busti
- Public Works Coordinator Robbins
- Recreation Director Ziegler
- Corporation Counsel Gingerich
- Asst. Corporation Counsel Hoffman

EXCUSED: Councilman Faulkner

The Mayor and Council of Takoma Park met on May 8, 1978, at 8:00 PM, in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the pledge of allegiance, a motion to approve the minutes of April 24 was made and duly seconded. Councilman Garcia asked that a correction be made on page 5, item 7, line 6, noting that a \$125,000 contribution would be considered for next year's budget, not included. With this correction included, the minutes were approved.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Roth presented a proclamation to Mr. Henry Wagner of VFW Post No. 350, proclaiming the month of May as "Buddy Poppy Month"; contributions were collected to benefit disabled and needy veterans and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

Noted that the Bliss Azalea Garden, which was replanted about a year ago; is now in bloom with the corsage azalea blossoms; thought that everyone should make a point of seeing it.

Announced that Mariam Tymeson, principal of John Nevins Andrews School, is retiring after 55 years of service, of which 45 years were in Takoma Park; saluted her for the many years of public service she has given.

Announced that Mr. Anthony Barile, Director of Public Works, retired on May 1; that he has given 8 years of service to the City and would be presented with a plaque at some future time.

Requested that Community Improvement Board appointments be removed from agenda; that the Council needed more time to consider the names that had been presented to them.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

- Request for authorization to solicit bids for Public Works projects (City Administrator)
- Operation Turnaround Board status report by Allan Marsh (Councilwoman Saloma).

CITIZENS' REMARKS

I. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FUNDS FOR FY-79.

The City Administrator stated that anticipated funds available total approximately \$70,559; that the staff had suggested expenditures of \$65,559 for consideration by Council in conjunction with citizens recommendations.

1. Clark Burdine, 7129 Sycamore Avenue: referring to the proposed \$6,000 appropriation for renovation of the gym, questioned whether the City would still have the fire house, since the County has been discussing relocating the fire department. City Administrator Gilsdorf stated that if the department is re-

also asked to have ramps installed into new and existing curbing for use by handicapped persons.

1. Ralph Porter, 7108 Maple Avenue: -2- congratulated Council meeting minutes Council, May 8, 1978. Endorsed Councilman Ricks idea for renovating the fire house gym. Suggested that money proposed for police cruisers be used to set up small offices in problem areas located, the City would probably retain the building. Councilman Ricks questioned whether this appropriation would be adequate, with all improvements that are necessary and was told that this amount would just be the bare minimum.

2. Joseph Lerner, 7708 Takoma Avenue: suggested that FRS funds be used to repair or improve the sidewalks and curbing in the Montgomery College area; felt that possibly the College should be billed for some improvements.

3. Stephanie Melvin, 7138 Carroll Avenue: suggested that the sidewalks and curbing in the 7100 block of Carroll Avenue be improved; noting that in the CDBG proposal, there was to be upgrading of the City's portals.

4. Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue, President, Long Branch-Sligo Citizens Association: stated that proposed uses of FRS funds should not be proposed by City staff prior to input from citizens. He then presented the following recommendations from his association: 1) to improve the curbs on Carroll Avenue between Flower and Garland Avenues, and 2) to construct new, and improve existing, sidewalks on Carroll Avenue between the Sligo Creek Bridge and Flower Avenue; noted that these suggestions had been included in the CDBG proposal, but had been deleted. Asked for, and was assured he would receive, a response (including reason, if negative) on proposals.

5. Cheryl Jones, 402 Tulip Avenue: requested that FRS funds be used to construct sidewalks on Tulip Avenue from Maple Avenue towards the Metro station; also asked to have ramps installed into new and existing curbing for use by handicapped persons.

6. Ralph Porter, 7108 Maple Avenue: congratulated the newly elected Council. Endorsed Councilman Ricks idea for renovating the fire house gym. Suggested that money proposed for police cruisers be used to set up small offices in problem areas to be manned by two officers, or possibly to purchase small scooters, such as the D. C. Police Department has done. Noted that the new curbs on Maple are too high and need wider driveway cuts.

7. Clark Burdine: suggested that new curbs be installed on Sycamore Avenue; noted that the sidewalk near 7120 Sycamore Avenue, which is approximately 2 years old, is now almost completely deteriorated; requested that it be repaired.

8. Roland Halstead, 7116 Maple Avenue: questioned whether the estimated FRS fund figure is based on the census total that is to be appealed by the City and was told that it was. Noted that there is a heavy emphasis on the purchase of equipment with these funds; suggested funds be used for various programs, such as hiring another code enforcement officer, to which Mayor Roth stated that an additional officer was requested under the CDBG proposal and that using FRS funds for new programs would have to be considered in relation to the total budget. Mr. Halstead suggested the purchase of bicycles for police officers to bring them closer to the neighborhoods.

9. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: noted the terrible condition of Houston Avenue between Flower and Roanoke Avenues; suggested that there be new curbing, resurfacing of the street; noted that it is almost necessary to reconstruct and regrade the street before resurfacing because of its poor condition; thought that if possible, the charge should be assessed to the apartments at the end of Houston Avenue, because of heavy traffic and subsequent street deterioration; also suggested possibility of widening the street. The City Administrator

noted that plans for reconstruction of this street are included in the CDBG proposal. In response to Mr. Ramsey's question, the City Administrator stated that the public hearing on FRS funds served a legal purpose; noted that it is difficult to make comments on such without being aware of the entire operating budget; that the citizens need to know what is being spent from the different funds available to the City; thought that all facets of the budget should be prepared and presented to the citizens before any comments are made, instead of piece by piece.

10. Clark Burdine: suggested that FRS funds be used to initiate a "self-help program", in which the youths of the City could learn skills from the older citizens, such as carpentry, and then could use these skills to rehabilitate older homes.

II. OTHER REMARKS BY CITIZENS

1. Allan Marsh, Member, Operation Turnaround Board: reported that 7100 Cedar Avenue, the first house put on the market by the Board, sold for the asking price (was the home of the second Mayor of Takoma Park); that 55 Walnut Avenue is also ready to be sold. Stated that he thought the Board had been greatly favored by the appointment of Councilwoman Saloma. Noted that 250-300 people attended the House and Garden Tour; that over 50% were from outside the City; that this was indicative of the interest being displayed in Takoma Park real estate.

2. Joseph Lerner, 7708 Takoma Avenue: noted the poor condition of Fenton Street; suggested painting a line down the street showing where the City boundary is, so that police could enforce the parking regulations more efficiently. Also noted that on one side of Juniper Street foot bridge, there seems to be another parking area evolving--that parking blocks have been put down; questioned whether this had been authorized by the City and asked if the blocks could be removed. Requested that "bus zones" be established for the mini-busses; also asked if it would be possible to have the bus route changed on New York Avenue, so that busses are not traveling in both directions.

3. Kurt Stern, 103 Grant Avenue: concerning the zoning application for 8 Grant Avenue, urged the Council to oppose it; stated that Grant Avenue is a residential street and that it was not meant to have a refuse collection business operating there. Noted that the business has been in operation for some time; that rats are coming from it. Thought that it should not be located in a residential zone.

4. John Loomis, 5 Grant Avenue: stated that he opposed this rezoning application and hoped that the Council would also; that his family is disturbed quite frequently by the trash trucks in the early morning.

5. Charles Dean, 115 Sherman Avenue: urged the Council to vote against the rezoning of 8 Grant Avenue; noted that the purpose of zoning is to protect the citizens.

6. Stephen Ebner, Rockville, MD., owner of 12 Grant Avenue: asked the Council to oppose the rezoning of 8 Grant Avenue; that the trash trucks have disturbed several tenants so much that they have moved; noted that the trucks and dumpsters are cleaned with chemicals which have killed his grass and plants; that the noise and odors are terrible. Stated that he thought this type of operation belongs in an industrial zone.

7. Andy Simon, 7206 Carroll Avenue: stated that he is a new resident and that his property adjoins 8 Grant Avenue and the business office of same; that he has had complaints from the previous owner of mice and vermin infesting the store. Noted that the neighborhood is substantially residential and he would oppose the rezoning application.
8. Doug Aquino, 12 Grant Avenue: concurred with remarks made by Mr. Ebner; noted that if the rezoning takes place, it is possible that a maintenance operation for the trucks would begin; that a worse rodent problem is foreseeable.
9. Bob Melvin, 7138 Carroll Avenue: stated that there have been complaints about the operation at 8 Grant Avenue for a number of years; that he has written letters to DEP for about one year with not much response; that it is frustrating that zoning is not enforced in the City; felt the County is using the existence of the City government to avoid enforcement of zoning; urged the Council to contact the County Council and DEP, taking a strong stand to have zoning enforced in the City.
10. Stephen Ebner: stated that he had filed a complaint on the trash operation about a year ago with the City's Code Enforcement Division and had got good cooperation; that the problems straightened out for a while; that he also filed a complaint with the County and received no help.
11. Stephanie Melvin: stated that she is optimistic that the City will urge denial of the rezoning of 8 Grant Avenue; noted that there has been a large concrete pad constructed and also the backyard has been covered over with gravel; questioned whether this might be in violation of the zoning ordinance, and if so, how would it be corrected. Mayor Roth stated that it would be looked into.
12. Mortimer Zeroth, 130 Grant Avenue: noted that he had trouble getting into his driveway and thought the trash trucks must have a worse problem.
13. Shirley Jones, 7427 Carroll Avenue: stated that members of ZONE have been engaged in harassment of her tenants at 307 Boyd Avenue regarding terms of ZTA 77003; noted other instances and asked whether any action could be taken by the Council to stop this. Mayor Roth directed the City Administrator to investigate this and advise Mrs. Jones.
14. Stephanie Melvin: stated that she had heard that the townhouses on Cedar Avenue, owned by the City, are going to be sold as low-income housing. Mr. Marsh was recognized by the Council. Mr. Marsh stated that Park and Planning has held up the resubdivision pending a decision on whether they can be sold as two separate houses with two separate lots, and have suggested that they be sold as moderate-income housing (MPDU). Councilman Ricks asked that this be added to the agenda. Mrs. Melvin stated that she was hopeful that the Council would get involved in this in the planning stages; thought that this was a basic premise of the Operation Turnaround Board--to turnaround houses at as moderate a price as possible; that she does not object to them being sold as low or moderate income housing. In response to a question, Mrs. Melvin was informed that the proposed budget would be made available to citizens prior to the public hearing and there would be a worksession on the following Monday.

15. Ralph Porter: stated that he thought there has been much adverse publicity about the City as a result of actions by citizens, such as the numerous law suits. Stated that the suggestion for turning the Winchester-Takoma into condominiums would be unfair, because tenants are usually evicted when a change is made; and that the Operation Turnaround Board also evicted the tenants from the houses on Cedar Avenue and that he would like to see it sold to a low-income family. Stated that he thought that members of ZONE should first talk to the owners of the properties that they are complaining about, instead of bringing it up at Council meetings.
16. Vera Lindsey, 7301 Maple Avenue: reiterated Mrs. Jones' comments and stated that she understood that only code enforcement officers and DEP inspectors were allowed to inspect multi-family houses; that private citizens could not do this; requested that a summary of ZTA 77003 appear in the Newsletter.
17. Cheryl Jones: stated that as a member of ZONE, she had never entered anyone's house without being invited; that she never made a complaint unless she thought that it was justified under the law; was very offended by remarks about ZONE.
18. Paul Plant, 7411 Carroll Avenue: stated that he was the person that Mrs. Jones' was referring to as entering her Boyd Avenue apartments; that he visits friends when in that building.
19. Bob Melvin: said that there is enough division in the community, but that it is the landlords that are initiating it now, not ZONE. Stated that cars parking in front yards is a problem, especially on Carroll Avenue; said that the City has no ordinance dealing with this; thought that the Council might consider adopting one. In response to his queries, it was noted that the proposed budget would be available the following week and that no response had been received from the Governor on signalization projects.
20. Clark Burdine: stated that he supported low- to moderate-income families buying the Operation Turnaround Board houses. Referring to the complaints made at the last meeting about Tulip Avenue, said that he had driven through the neighborhood and thought that it was in fairly good condition; had been no complaints from neighbors. Questioned where the tenants would go, if Winchester-Takoma was sold as condominiums. Recommended that the City institute a real estate speculators tax, as used in D. C. Requested that the City change Sec. 13-67 of the City Code, to allow commercial vehicles, that are used as primary or secondary transportation, to park within a reasonable distance of owner's residence when off-street parking is not available. Suggested that City personnel be required to live within City limits.
21. Phil Vogel: referring to Special Exception 81 and 373, Sunoco Station at corner of New Hampshire Avenue and East-West Highway, noted that the Long Branch-Sligo Citizens Association had met with members of Sun Mark Industries, owners of the station, and had worked out an agreement along with the Carroll Highlands Citizens Association; asked that the Council notify the Prince George's District Council and request that they approve this. Concerning the Special Exception at 8205 Houston Court, noted that there is another house, also owned by St. Luke's House, on University Blvd., just outside the City, that has applied for a Special Exception for the same use.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONCommunications

1. Robert Melvin, 7138 Carroll Avenue. Referring to 8 Grant Avenue, pointed out that the former fire chief had brought the zoning violation to the attention of Montgomery County DEP about 2 years ago; that he had personally written about a dozen letters within the last year and was advised by DEP that while there is a pending application for rezoning, enforcement of zoning is held in abeyance. He asked that something be done to change these policies, noting that rezoning will become an excuse for not enforcing any zoning in the City.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Zoning Application #G-108 to rezone 8 Grant Avenue from R-60 to C-2, Roland J. Dawes, Applicant (hearing date; 9:30 AM, 6-14-78, COB, Rockville). Councilman Ricks made a motion, duly seconded, that the Council oppose this application because of the health, safety, and general welfare of the surrounding neighborhood, noting that the proposed use is not in character with the neighborhood. The following points were raised by Councilmembers: that certain improvements have already been made for commercial use, which should be taken out; that the constant movement of large trucks is not appropriate for a residential neighborhood; and that several tenants from the apartment building next door have moved because of the operation. The Council voted unanimously to oppose this zoning application. Mayor Roth noted that it would be helpful if citizens of the area would attend the hearing.

2. Report on taxicab classification as noncommercial vehicle. As a follow-up to questions raised at the last meeting, the City Administrator reported that according to the definition of taxicab stated in the City Code, it is not characterized as a commercial vehicle; also noted that the Annotated Code of Maryland differentiates taxicabs from general commercial vehicles.

3. Special Exception Petition #S-630, for operation of a residential facility for housing exceptional persons (psychiatric half-way house), 8205 Houston Court, St. Luke's House, Inc., petitioner (hearing: 9:00 AM, 6-15-78, COB). City Administrator Gilsdorf reported that of the 19 residents/owners surveyed in the area, 2 were in favor, 7 were opposed, and 2 had no opinion; noted that there are 3 other half-way houses in the area. It was noted that one of the other half-way houses, 700 Hudson Avenue, which is the nearest, is approximately 1200-1300 feet (by way of street) from this proposed one; also that this facility has been in operation for about 5 years. Upon motion by Councilman Forshee, duly seconded, the Council voted to oppose this Special Exception petition.

4. Proposed Code Amendment setting forth procedures for adopting Ordinances. Mayor Roth noted that this amendment would initiate 1st and 2nd readings of all ordinances, except for budget, Federal Revenue Sharing, Community Development Block Grant, and emergency items; that this be placed on the May 22 agenda for final decision. (see attachment)

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Council meeting minutes
May 8, 1978

5. Second reading of proposed ordinance for STOP sign on Hodges Lane at its intersection with Holly Avenue. Upon motion by Councilman Ricks, duly seconded by Councilman Weisman, the following ordinance was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Forshee, Garcia, Ricks, Saloma, Webb, and Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilman Faulkner.

ORDINANCE #2467

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

- SECTION 1. THAT all vehicular traffic travelling in a southeasterly direction on Hodges Lane shall come to a complete stop at its intersection with Holly Avenue; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT the Director of Public Works is hereby requested to erect a STOP sign at the northwestern corner of this intersection; AND
- SECTION 3. THAT this ordinance shall become effective upon completion of the signing; AND
- SECTION 4. THAT the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as stated in Sec. 1-17, Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

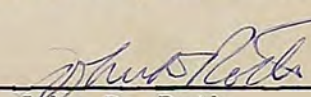
6. City Administrator Gilsdorf requested that the solicitation of bids for Public Works CDBG Projects be authorized by the Council; that this included projects mentioned at the meeting of April 10. Upon motion by Councilman Webb, duly seconded, the authorization was approved by the Council.

7. Councilwoman Saloma stated that no decision has been made concerning the subdivision and sale of the Operation Turnaround properties located at 7103-05 Cedar Avenue; that the law in question is the "Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit" law; that the Board is trying to find out the approximate price range connected with this. It was suggested that the Council express their opposition about Park and Planning wanting to sell these houses as MPDU s to the Board to possibly use as leverage; also noted was that Park and Planning should not be dictating procedures that the City should follow. The City Administrator stated that in the zoning ordinance, there are no provisions for subdividing a pre-existing house, except possibly under the MPDU law; that this was not meant as a directive from Park and Planning, but only as a helpful suggestion; that the Board is studying all possible alternatives; also noted that if the property is sold as MPDU s, the selling range goes up to \$40-50,000, depending on the number of rooms. Upon motion by Councilman Garcia, duly seconded, it was decided that this would be discussed at the next worksession.

8. Concerning the Special Exception of the Sunoco Station, brought up by Mr. Vogel, Mayor Roth stated that if the citizen associations and Sun Mark Industries are in agreement, then the Council should support this and pass along the endorsement to the District Council. Councilman Ricks so moved this, which was duly seconded and approved by the Council.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 PM, to reconvene on Monday, May 22, 1978 at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED


John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST

Herbert W. Gilsdorf, City Administrator

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

SECTION 1. THAT Article 1, Meetings and Procedures of the Council, contained in Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972 (as amended), be amended by the addition of the following Section 2-6.1:

Sec. 2-6.1. Ordinances--Procedure for adoption

- (a) All ordinances, with the exception of those listed in paragraph (d), below, shall be read at two meetings of the Mayor and Council prior to adoption.
- (b) The first reading of an ordinance shall be for the purpose of introduction to Councilmembers for study and consideration and to provide an opportunity for citizen input.
- (c) At the second reading an ordinance would generally be considered for final enactment except by decision to the contrary by the Council,
- (d) The following classes of ordinances shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), above:
 - (1) Those ordinances dealing with appropriation of funds from a previously adopted Annual Budget; previously approved Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Planned Use Report or approved Community Development Block Grant programs.
 - (2) Ordinances designed to cover situations of an emergency nature which present a clear and present danger to the public health, safety and general welfare.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption after second reading.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
 MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
 Council Meeting Room
 May 15, 1978
 7:30 PM

Councilmembers Present:

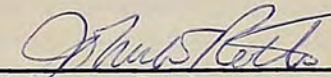
Mayor Roth
 Councilman Faulkner
 Councilman Forshee
 Councilman Ricks
 Councilwoman Saloma
 Councilman Webb
 Councilman Weisman
 City Administrator Gilsdorf

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roth at 7:30 PM.

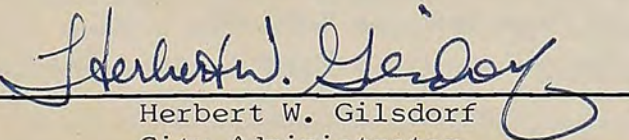
1. Report on Parking Problems in the 500 block of Tulip Avenue. The City Administrator gave a report on a 2 week observation of parking problems in the 500 block of Tulip Avenue. He was directed by the Council to send a letter to the Takoma-Langley Cab Company requesting the removal of a derelict cab at 507 Tulip Avenue.
2. Status Report on 7620 Maple Avenue, Winchester-Takoma. The City Administrator reported that the court contempt proceedings (Montgomery County Circuit Court) had been continued until July 12 because of illness of the judge.
3. Status Report on Case at 103 Sheridan Avenue. The City Administrator advised the Council that the judge ruled that Mr. Maisonneuve must remove the offending addition of his house by June 15, 1978.
4. Appointments to the Community Improvement Board. Mrs. Simpson, Chairwoman of the CIB, met with the Mayor and Council and discussed possible appointments to the CIB.
5. Proposed Changes to Social Security Program. At the request of the State Social Security office, the Mayor and Council decided to send mailgrams of protest to our Congresspersons because of the additional expense and inconveniences of the proposed changes.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

APPROVED


 John D. Roth
 Mayor

ATTEST


 Herbert W. Gilsdorf
 City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

and

Public Hearing on Proposed 1978-79 Budget
and Proposed Use of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds, FY-79

and

Public Hearing on Fiscal Year-1979 Tax Rate

May 22, 1978

City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilman Faulkner	Asst. City Administrator Nichols
Councilman Forshee (necessarily late)	City Clerk Pusti
Councilman Garcia	Administrative Asst. Swinton
Councilman Ricks	Public Works Coordinator Robbins
Councilwoman Saloma	Recreation Director Ziegler
Councilman Webb	Corporation Counsel Gingerich
Councilman Weisman	Asst. Corporation Counsel Hoffman

The Mayor and Council of Takoma Park met on May 22, 1978, at 8:00 PM, in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the pledge of allegiance, a motion to approve the minutes of May 8 was made, duly seconded, and approved by the Council.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Roth expressed the regret of the entire City on the loss of Theodore Socha, Code Enforcement inspector; read into the record the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS, it was with profound sorrow that the Mayor and Council learned of the untimely passing, on May 12, 1978, of Theodore W. Socha; AND

WHEREAS, Mr. Socha, a native of Hartford, Connecticut, and a long-time resident of the area, has served the City with distinction as a Code Enforcement Officer since July 1971; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Mayor and City Council, on behalf of the officials and employees of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, that we do hereby extend to the members of Mr. Socha's family, this expression of heartfelt sympathy in the loss that they have suffered through his death; AND

THAT this resolution be placed upon the permanent records of the City and an engrossed copy be presented and forwarded to Mrs. Josephine Manganello Socha.

ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF MAY, NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT.

Announced that Dr. Irene Ficsher of Philadelphia Avenue, was honored by the National Association of Retired Federal Employees as "Retiree of the Year".

Announced that Congresswoman Spellman's mobile office will be in the Municipal Building parking lot on Tuesday, May 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

Noted that he had attended a retirement ceremony held for Mrs. Mariam Tymesor

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Report on SSI site committment (Councilman Weisman)

Report on DEP denial of demolition permit for 7700 Takoma Avenue (Councilman Weisman)

Report on sale of Operation Turnaround property by Allan Marsh (Councilman Faulkner).

CITIZENS' REMARKSI. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 1978-79 BUDGET

The City Administrator advised that this is an administratively prepared budget as recommendations to the Mayor and Council; that the anticipated expenditures total \$2,482,394, which is a 13% increase over last year; and that the three main reasons for these increases are: 1) a 6% cost-of-living increase for the employees; 2) $2\frac{1}{2}$ additional positions--a new code enforcement officer, an administrative staff employee (who was paid from Block Grant funds last year), and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a position for clerical support; and 3) substantial involvement in CDBG activities. Revenues to fund this are based on a tax rate of \$1.25, the same as last year, but this year there is less reliance on property tax revenues; that there are also increases in the revenues from CDBG funds, police protection funds, and a proposed increase in Protective Inspection Fees. Listed the following explanations for department increases in expenditures: Government Administration increase because of additional position in Community Development area; Police Department increase due to salary increases, new criminal information reporting system, and an increased allowance for overtime; Code Enforcement increase includes one new officer, and additional clerical support (partially funded by CDBG funds); Public Works increases are generated mainly by Block Grant work being done by City forces; and Miscellaneous increases include rising costs of State Retirement program, Social Security, and Workman's Compensation. Noted that personnel are reflected by department; that this is only by annual salary, and does not include the costs of fringe benefits, which would be an approximate addition of 13% to the salary accounts.

1. Robert Mandel, 7003 Woodland Avenue: questioned the following items-- #3.5094-Tax Differential, asked what this is and was told that it represented the funds given back to the City from Counties for duplicate services performed, such as trash collection; #11.1525-Wales Project, asked why the amount had been lowered and was told that this item is being phased out to be replaced by the "Miles" project; #11.1222-Hot Line Telephone, questioned the purpose of this phone and was told that it is a 24-hour direct line to the police burglary team; #11.551-Animal Warden, asked for consideration of a full-time warden; #12.5227-Street Lights, requested more lighting; #24.9032, questioned what the City was repaying and was told that this was a 10 year repayment process to both Counties for income tax monies that should have gone to them; #26.9030-Public Official Liability Insurance, asked why there is no proposed funds for this year and was told that the funds appropriated last year were not spent because the insurance is not available.

2. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: questioned whether there is an annual financial statement available and was referred to the Library; requested that a narrative description accompany each department's budget; questioned whether the City has other funds not included in the budget; suggested means by which code enforcement could become self-supporting; that each rental building be required to post the trash regulations; questioned the approximate 2% increase in Recreation Department salaries, noting that he thought that this was not enough for such a valuable department; suggested that if the Mayor's position is to be full-time, then the salary should be raised to reflect it.

3. Faith Stern, 103 Grant Avenue, Library Advisory Board: thanked the Council for their continuing support of the Library; noted that the Library accepts any and all suggestions on how to better serve the citizens.

4. Joseph Lerner, 7708 Takoma Avenue: referring to #5.0, questioned how this account was increased so much and was told that this is money received from payment of tickets, and that it has increased because it is now required that all tickets be paid before new license tags can be issued. Stated that in addition to the assessable base figure, the budget should include figures on non-taxable properties for comparison purposes. Regarding #10.10122-City Newsletter, noted that this is a conspicuously large figure, almost 10% of total government administration; suggested possibility of finding a less expensive printing and distribution process.

5. V. H. Rodes, 1101 Lancaster Road: speaking for Ed Hutmire, President, Recreation Council, requested that two items, an octagonal wood shelter and an electronic stencil cutter, be considered; that he understood that the first item had been included in the Block Grant proposals, but if there are insufficient funds, that it be considered under the 1979-80 Capital Outlay items.

6. Lou D'Ovidio, 7324 Piney Branch Road: stated that he concurred with Mr. Ramsey's request for a program budget and also having code enforcement self-supporting. Suggested that it would be useful to attach an explanation sheet giving the effect of the Block Grant funds on the budget.

7. Jack Mitton, 501 Philadelphia Avenue: stated that he was concerned about the unusually large increase in the City Administrator and Staff salaries; asked if this is to be a permanent increase; also questioned why there is only a 2% increase in the Recreation Department salaries. The City Administrator stated that the increase in his department's salaries includes a Block Grant position that was carried on a separate account last year and that it would continue as long as Block Grant funds are available; that the small increase in the Recreation salaries is due to the large number of seasonal and part-time employees, most of whom do not receive fringe benefits.

8. Bob Melvin, 7138 Carroll Avenue: pleased to see the availability of the annual auditors' statement noted; suggested that the City set up a task force to implement a program analysis budget; also noted that Code Enforcement should be able to pay for itself and not be subsidized by single-family owners; suggested raising of refuse fees to help; also suggested comparing cost of City-operated vs. private refuse service. Mr. Melvin also submitted written testimony setting forth his reasons for dissatisfaction with the present budget format and giving examples of how other types of presentations would more accurately reflect performance, cost-benefit ratios, etc., and perhaps result in savings which could be redirected into other areas. Also requested that budget document be made available earlier than had been the case this year.

9. Roland Halstead, 7116 Maple Avenue: asked what items, if any, had been changed concerning the citizen comments on proposed use of Federal Revenue Sharing funds, and was told that the appropriations for the library and Gym Renovations had been increased; regarding his suggestion, it was also noted that funds for police cruisers were retained and that the department already has two motor scooters.

10. Joan Prosten, 7428 Carroll Avenue: stated that she supported comments for a program description budget; questioned the extent of participation of the Advisory Committee in the proposed use of Block Grant funds. The City Administrator stated that the Committee had formulated the entire program; that a new Committee would convene this summer with membership based on recommendations from area citizens' associations. Mrs. Prosten suggested the possibility of holding neighborhood hearings.

May 22, 1978

11. Paul Plant, 7411 Carroll Avenue: referring to Parking Meter Maintenance and Revenues, questioned why the City is putting more into maintenance than it receives in revenues and was told that the Maintenance account includes the salary of a Parking Enforcement Officer. Inquired about the Treasurer's position and his role in preparing the budget. It was noted by the City Administrator that the Treasurer (who is the former City Administrator-Treasurer) has reviewed the proposed budget; that the position he holds is part-time with an annual salary of \$12,000; and that his service is particularly valuable because of his expertise in many areas acquired over a period of 25 years.

12. Abby Mandel, 7003 Woodland Avenue: stated that the budget is not very meaningful without the staff requests included for citizens to review; that the proposed budget presented has been filtered through the administration; that the Recreation and Library departments are not keeping up with inflation; noted the large amounts appropriated for car allowances and suggested the use of Metro fare-cards when possible; would like to see some commitment for energy savings, such as using FRS funds to install a solar heated water system for the Public Works building.

13. Ralph Porter, 7108 Maple Avenue: inquired whether non-taxable properties pay for City services such as trash collection, police and fire protection, etc., and if not, he would like to see it considered in the future. Noted that the Mayor and Council salaries should be raised; that postage should be increased; suggested that the City advertise solicitation of bids in the newsletter and also try to reduce cost for printing and mailing; approved of the 6% cost-of-living increase, but said it should not be necessary to include part-time personnel; discussed junk car removal and use of motor scooters for police, saying the latter would save fuel and bring officers into closer contact with the community.

14. Stephanie Melvin, 7138 Carroll Avenue: supported the idea of a detailed program budget and encouraged the Council to look into this. Said the protective inspection fees should be increased; possibility of scheduling higher fees for problem properties and also penalties for late or non-payment; also supported suggestion for self-supporting code enforcement.

15. Bernice Myers, 7212 Cedar Avenue: stated that registration fees are too low; that they should be raised to \$100 per unit; that multi-family houses should be self-supporting as far as City services are concerned. Recommended that the \$14,000 payment to Montgomery County Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs (OLTA) be dropped from the budget, saying that the appeal procedure is so cumbersome as to be self-defeating for tenants--basically unfair to those who can't afford a high-priced lawyer.

16. V. H. Rodes: concerned about all the suggestions for more information to be included in the budget; questioned how much time should be put into the budget before the effort becomes self-defeating.

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR-1979 TAX RATE

The City Administrator stated that the Constant Yield Tax Rate for FY-79, as calculated by the State, is \$1.22, and that the City's tax rate is \$1.25. Explained that the Constant Yield Tax Rate is a rate which, when applied against next year's assessable base, would produce the same amount of revenue that last year's tax rate produced when applied against last year's assessable base.

1. Sammie Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue: stated that he thought that there is no way the taxes paid will be decreased; that decreases in tax rates and increases in assessments equal themselves out; questioned if the City can still lower the tax rate and was told yes. Noted that he was concerned about the assessments in the 7100 block of Cedar Avenue because of the increased value of the Operation Turnaround properties; asked whether there was more than the minimum amount of work done on the houses and how much was absolutely required. Councilman Faulkner stated that the Board only rehabilitates the properties up to code standards and no more; that a complete financial report will be given on each property as sold. Mr. Abbott stated that he knew of people wanting to buy the house (7100 Cedar Avenue) for the purchase price and rehabilitate it themselves, but that the Board would not sell the property; that the City should examine the possibility that they might be competing with private buyers; that if the City continues to buy properties at a low price and resell them at much higher prices, it will affect property assessments for the entire area. Mayor Roth stated that the Operation Turnaround Board was formed in response to citizen requests; that citizens do serve on the Board; the City would have sold 7100 Cedar Avenue for the purchase price, but Montgomery County, who dispenses Block Grant funds, insisted that the property be brought up to code standards before selling. Mr. Abbott asked that the long-term effects be reconsidered.

2. Catherine Wakelyn, 7419 Maple Avenue: stated that 7103-05 and 7101 Cedar Avenue were on the market, with no takers, for approximately 4 months before the City bought them; that the City was exceptionally fortunate in being able to buy 7100 Cedar and 55 Walnut Avenue; that after 7100 Cedar Avenue was purchased, the Board tried to put it back on the market before restoration was begun; only one person was willing to put up money; an open house was held and it was agreed that offers would be taken, but none were received (an offer to purchase property, in legal terms, is supported by money). Thought it a great testimony to the City that the houses sold in such a short time and for the asking price; that the City is trying to do something positive in trying to stabilize the single-family residential area near Metro.

3. Clarence Boatman, 133 Ritchie Avenue: questioned whether the State assessments guaranteed the City enough money to operate this year's budget and was told that the Constant Yield Tax Rate only guaranteed the same amount as last year.

III. OTHER REMARKS BY CITIZENS

1. Allan Marsh, 7405 Maple Avenue, Member, Operation Turnaround Board: reported that 55 Walnut Avenue was sold after 3 days on the market for \$52,000; that when the City purchased it, the house was in deplorable condition; that the minimum amount of work was done on it.

2. Joseph Lerner: repeated his suggestions from the Council meeting of May 8 regarding Fenton Street; also noted that the College seems to be disregarding comments made by citizens concerning the proposed cement signs to be placed on Block 69, and also the turnaround area behind the day-care center on Takoma Avenue. Mayor Roth asked that this be placed on the agenda.

May 22, 1978

3. Donald Ramsey: concerning a fire in a vacant house located at the end of Wabash Avenue at Sligo Creek Parkway, noted that the owner is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arsonists.

4. John Paterson, 514 Albany Avenue, Pastor, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church: regarding the Council's recommended disapproval on May 9 of Special Exception S-630, 8205 Houston Court, as president of the Trustee Board of St. Luke's House, listed the following facts which the Council may not have been aware of: 1) that the special exception application is the result of new County group home legislation; not previously required; 2) that this half-way house consists of a mental health program for persons recovering from nervous breakdowns; that it is a well tested program; 3) noting the Council's objection because of too large a concentration of group homes in the area, stated that St. Luke's program is for mental health, whereas the others are for a teenage child-care residence and two alcohol abuse treatment programs run by the hospital; noted that the special exception for St. Luke's House is for a continuing residence, not a new one; 4) that there have been no complaints from residents in the area and that the facility conforms to inspection requirements; 5) that of the 183 persons (including Takoma Park citizens) having gone through the program, 85% have returned to normal roles in society; that there is a staff parent at the property during the night and there is an average of 12 patients in the 4 unit building; that a poll had been conducted in the neighborhood by St. Luke's House and that some neighbors would be attending the hearing.

5. Stephanie Melvin: announced her support of the Operation Turnaround projects as a means of encouraging single-family owners to purchase in the area; confirmed the uniqueness of the project. Suggested that the program be tailored so that contractors living in the City could do the work and that the work be of superior quality, but that as little work as possible be done to the properties as in the urban homesteading program. In response to her question regarding lifting of the Maryland sewer ban and reported new construction in Takoma Park, Laurel, and along Rt. 29, Mayor Roth said he had written a letter protesting the inaccuracies of the 5/19 Post article and the impression it left, noting that a more accurate article appeared in the Star. Mr. Abbott was recognized and stated that the Post reporter told him that his information came from members of the Prince George's County Planning Board and County officials. Mrs. Melvin then asked that an elaboration be added to statements made on 5/8 by Ralph Porter and Clark Burdine concerning Winchester-Takoma to the effect that it had been suggested earlier that the building be sold as condominiums through the CDBG program, similar to the project in Rosemary Hills, where tenants were allowed to purchase the units. Also asked that a correction be made to her statement on 5/8, page 4, item 14, line 9, to indicate that she did object to Park and Planning making this a stipulation for resubdividing the properties, especially since there are government statements that there should be no additional low- or moderate-income housing in the Metro impact area.

6. Donald Ramsey: concerning the half-way house on Houston Court, noted that the neighborhood consists mainly of apartments; said the tenants rather than the owners should be contacted because they would be most affected. Regarding the half-way house on Hudson Avenue, stated that he lives within 2 blocks of it and never knew it was there.

7. Bernice Myers: regarding the quarterly report from OLTA, questioned who writes this, and if tenants were included and was told that it was a statistical report prepared by the OLTA staff and does not include hearings before the Commission. Mrs. Myers stated that the Winchester-Takoma hearings are not being handled effectively; that there needs to be more support from the City government. Requested that school caution signs, with flashing lights, be installed on Maple and Philadelphia Avenues near the schools; also that a 10-15 m.p.h. speed limit signs be posted. Listed the following as locations of half-way houses: 2 alcoholic half-way houses on Maplewood Avenue; a home for retarded children on Piney Branch Road near Eastern Avenue; a psychiatric half-way house on Tulip Avenue near Carroll Avenue; and an alcoholic half-way house on Tulip near Cedar Avenue; thought that such a large concentration of these homes should be examined very carefully. Concerning Operation Turnaround Board activities, requested that citizens be notified of properties purchased; requested that professional decorators be involved. Stated that when the City sells a house for \$110,000, they should consider the problems of appreciated value that they are imposing on the other residents of the area. It was noted that the least amount of work is done to bring these properties up to code standards.

8. Bob Melvin: concerning the half-way house on Houston Avenue, thought that possibly they are being singled out because they are adhering to zoning regulations; suggested that the Council take an inventory of such properties and follow a particular policy when asked to comment on them. Inquired about letter to Governor regarding the signalization projects (see item 6, last page).

9. Ralph Porter: stated that he is opposed to the work of the Operation Turnaround Board; that he knows of a person that offered to buy 7100 Cedar Avenue for the City's purchase price, but was turned down; also concurred with comments made about rising property assessments in the area; noted that 7103-05 Cedar Avenue was built as apartments and not as townhouses, which the City is turning them into. Stated that he is opposed to doing away with a third reading of proposed ordinances.

10. Elizabeth Bozarth, 7326 Willow Avenue: stated that she approves of the work that Operation Turnaround is doing; that new owners in her neighborhood are gradually turning around their properties from multi- to single-family.

11. Sammie Abbott: requested that citizens be permitted to examine the regulations which the Operation Turnaround Board must adhere to regarding minimum amount of work on the houses. Inquired about the procedure for setting up half-way houses in the City and was told that it is a zoning matter and that the City only has input power; referring to the half-way house on Tulip near Cedar Avenue, Mr. Abbott asked if anything has been done to have it removed and was told that it had been reported to Montgomery County DEP, but there has been no response from them. Mr. Abbott also asked what procedure is followed in reporting these zoning violations and Mayor Roth stated that when there is a report or citizen complaint, it is turned over to DEP for enforcement; Mr. Abbott suggested that this procedure be placed in the newsletter.

12. Paul Plant: asked whether the procedure included having the citizen who is complaining do all the investigative work and was told no.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONCommunications

1. The City Administrator reported that there will be a hearing on Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 PM, at the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College concerning the plans for the proposed parking garage on the Wilson lot.
2. The City Administrator reported the case of an appeal by Montgomery College on the action taken by the Director of DEP on the demolition of 7700 Takoma Avenue. This appeal is to be heard by the Montgomery County Circuit Court on August 11 at 10:00 AM.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Report on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission proceedings on Winchester-Takoma case and report on court case. The City Administrator reported that the hearings are in their second month, with prospects of continuing; that the Commission is now listening to specific allegations of damages to the tenants; noted that Ms. Swinton, Administrative Asst., has been attending all meetings. Mayor Roth directed the City Administrator to notify the Council of all hearing dates. The City Administrator noted that the City's contempt proceedings court case has been delayed until July 12, due to illness of the judge. Councilman Ricks asked that the Corporation Counsel's memo concerning this case be included in the minutes (see attached).
2. Second Reading of proposed Code amendment setting forth procedures for adopting ordinances. The City Administrator stated that this provides for two readings of an ordinance prior to enactment, except for special emergency ordinances and those dealing with appropriation of funds from the annual budget, revenue sharing, or CDBG programs; that the procedure heretofore has been one reading and enactment on the same night. Following a brief discussion, upon motion by Councilman Garcia, duly seconded, the ordinance below was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Ricks, Saloma, Webb, and Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: None.

ORDINANCE #2468

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

SECTION 1. THAT Article 1, Meetings and Procedures of the Council, contained in Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972 (as amended), be amended by the addition of the following Section 2-6.1:

Sec. 2-6.1. Ordinances--Procedure for adoption.

- (a) All ordinances, with the exception of those listed in paragraph (d), below, shall be read at two meetings of the Mayor and Council prior to adoption.
- (b) The first reading of an ordinance shall be for the purpose of introduction to Councilmembers for study and consideration and to provide an opportunity for citizen input.
- (c) At the second reading an ordinance would generally be considered for final enactment except by decision to the contrary by the Council.

- (d) The following classes of ordinances shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), above:
- (1) Those ordinances dealing with appropriation of funds from a previously adopted Annual Budget; previously approved Federal Revenue Sharing Fund Planned Use Report or approved Community Development Block Grant programs.
 - (2) Ordinances designed to cover situations of an emergency nature which present a clear and present danger to the public health, safety and general welfare.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption after second reading.

3. Councilman Weisman reported that the SSI site committee met on May 11 to hear a presentation from the architect on the proposals for work to be done on the outside of the gym. The proposals include: a two-tone color selection for the building to be **chosen** by the North Takoma Citizens Association; repairs to the playground area; windows to be filled in; installation of a water fountain; additional playground equipment and picnic tables; and the elimination of a small building used as an incinerator.

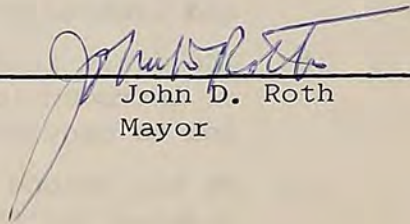
4. Councilman Weisman made a motion that the College be contacted and asked to delete the two pre-cast concrete signs proposed for the corners of Takoma and Philadelphia, and New York and Chicago Avenues, noting that Park and Planning had eliminated these from the proposed landscaping improvement plans presented by the College. Councilman Ricks seconded this motion and asked that wording be included to the effect that the signs be suitable to the residents of the area. This addition was accepted by Councilman Weisman and the motion approved by the Council.

5. Councilman Weisman noted the receipt of a transcript from DEP concerning the denial of a demolition permit for 7700 Takoma Avenue; asked that all members of the Council be given a copy.

6. Councilman Ricks read a letter addressed to the Mayor from Acting Governor Lee concerning the signalization projects at Carroll, Ethan Allen, and Philadelphia Avenues. The letter stated that the State Highway Administration has encountered trouble in obtaining the necessary rights-of-way and that clearance should be in hand by early June. Requested that the City Administrator give a report on the working signals at the July 10 Council meeting.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 PM, to reconvene on Monday, June 12, 1978 at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED _____


John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST _____

Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

Yuen

City of Takoma Park, Maryland

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
TELEPHONE 270-2434



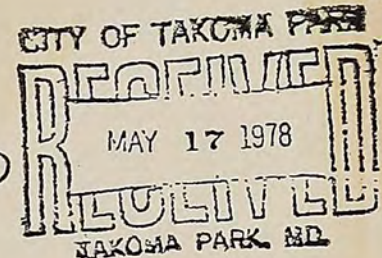
7000 CARROLL AVENUE
TAKOMA PARK, MD. 20012

May 12, 1978

MEMO TO: Mayor John Roth

COPIES TO: All Councilmembers
Herb Gilsdorf

*AS
you
Deferred*



As you know, the Winchester-Takoma case was postponed from its scheduled hearing date of May 12, and was rescheduled for July 12, 1978. This case was originally set for hearing on December 30, 1977, under a Rule to Show Cause why the Defendant should not be held in contempt of Court. You will recall that this member of the Corporation Counsel's office, together with our witnesses, waited at the Courthouse all day on December 30, and were finally reassigned for trial on May 12. During the afternoon of May 11, I received a telephone call from the Assignment Office advising that "it was doubtful" that our case would be heard on the 12th and if Mr. Busby and I could agree to reschedule the case for hearing, it would not be necessary to appear in Rockville the next morning. I was given suggested dates of October 11, November 17, and November 22. I advised the Assignment Office that I was not going to voluntarily withdraw from the May 12 assignment, and that we would appear for trial. I gave the Assignment clerk a complete rundown of the history and the seriousness of this action.

This morning, our case was scheduled last on the "To Be Assigned" docket. Our situation became more hopeless when Judge Shearin went home in ill health, thus creating an additional burden on the remaining sitting Judges.

The Chief Clerk of the Assignment Office officially removed our case from the docket, but she did make two favorable adjustments: 1) She rescheduled our case for July 12, 1978; and 2) She specifically assigned our case to Judge John H. Mitchell.

Mayor John Roth
May 12, 1978
Page 2

In essence we are guaranteed not to be on a "To Be Assigned" docket and we are protected by having a specific Judge assigned to our case. This will enable Judge Mitchell to review our file prior to the hearing date.

1/5

Glenn E. Culpepper

GEC/mk

City of Takoma Park, Maryland

OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR
TELEPHONE 270-1700



7500 MAPLE AVENUE
TAKOMA PARK, MD. 20012

June 7, 1978

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BRIEFING

ON

TAKOMA PARK MASTER PLAN

7:30 PM, June 22, 1978
Council Chamber
Municipal Building
7500 Maple Avenue

Staff members from the Montgomery and Prince George's County Planning Boards will hold a Public Briefing on the Takoma Park Master Plan at the above-stated time and place. Citizens are urged to attend.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Council Meeting Room
May 31, 1978

Councilmembers Present:

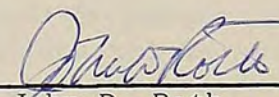
Mayor Roth
Councilman Faulkner
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Garcia
Councilman Ricks
Councilwoman Saloma
Councilman Webb
Councilman Weisman
City Administrator Gilsdorf

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mayor Roth.

1. Request for Special Treatment of Sick Leave by Firemen. It was decided by the Mayor and Council that the firemen be treated in the same manner as all other pre-June 1975 City employees.
2. Summer Recess. It was decided that the second Council meeting in August would be cancelled to provide Councilmembers a brief vacation.
3. Master Plan Briefing. June 22 at 7:30 PM, is the date and time set for the Master Plan briefing by M-NCP&PC staff. The City Administrator was directed to notify all former Task Force Members, Civic Associations, Block Grant Advisory Committee, CIB, and other interested citizens.
4. Variance--6904 Poplar Avenue. The City Administrator was directed to survey the neighborhood and report back to the Council at the June 5 Worksession.
5. CIB Appointments. After extensive discussion, it was decided to continue this matter until a future worksession.
6. 1978-79 Budget. Some discussion was held and the City Administrator was directed to prepare further discussion material for the June 5 Worksession.
7. Circuit Breaker. The City Administrator was directed to prepare a briefing for the Mayor and Council on the new Circuit Breaker for the June 5 Worksession.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

APPROVED _____


John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST _____

Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
Council Meeting Room
June 5, 1978

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Roth
Councilman Faulkner
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Garcia
Councilman Ricks
Councilwoman Saloma
Councilman Weisman
City Administrator Gilsdorf

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roth at 7:40 PM.

1. Variance--6904 Poplar Avenue. The City Administrator reported that only 3 area residents responded to our inquiries--2 were opposed and 1 had no objection. The Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to report the citizen's wishes to the Prince George's County Board of Appeals.
2. Proposed Rezoning (R-18 to C-0) at 1007 University Boulevard. The Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to survey the neighborhood on this matter and schedule the responses for discussion at the June 12 Council meeting.
3. House Bill 1168 (Circuit Breaker). The City Administrator briefed the Mayor and Council on the provisions of this recently enacted bill and indicated that a more detailed description will appear in the July newsletter.
4. Proposed Changes in Ride-on Bus Schedule. After extensive discussion, it was decided that only one comment would be passed on to the Department of Transportation, that the proposed change on Route 17 might adversely affect some Flower Avenue merchants.
5. Hancock and Sheridan Avenues Problems. The City Administrator briefed the Council on the problem of juveniles assembling at the intersection of Hancock and Sheridan Avenues. He outlined to the Council action to be taken which would include intensive patrolling by the police department, a revised system of radio communications, and a policy of taking juveniles into custody when observed breaking the law at this location. A further suggestion made by Councilman Weisman was that a special outreach program of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation be investigated for applicability at this site.
6. Community Improvement Board Appointments. The Mayor and Council discussed at some length the appointments to the CIB, with final approval being reserved for the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

