

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
November 5, 1979

Councilmembers present:

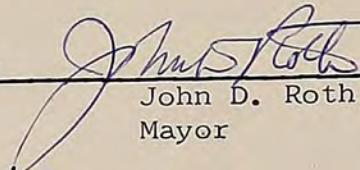
Mayor Roth  
Councilman Faulkner  
Councilman Forshee  
Councilman Garcia  
Councilman Ricks  
Councilwoman Saloma  
Councilman Weisman  
City Administrator Gilsdorf

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

1. Variance for 911 East West Highway. After discussion, the Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to communicate to the Prince George's County Board of Appeals that they had no objection to the 7-foot fence, but felt that the variance on the landscaping should only be granted subject to the property owner's agreement to defer landscaping only so long as adjoining residential properties remain undeveloped.
2. Community School. Dr. Gail Ayers appeared before the Mayor and Council and explained the Community School Program and its funding limitations. She did promise to fund almost all of the programs that were successfully carried out last year and committed herself to making additional funds available if any stray monies could be squeezed from other County programs. The Mayor and Council accepted this report and asked Dr. Ayers to report' back at the end of a two-week period on what progress she had been able to make.
3. City Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. The City Administrator asked the Mayor and Council for permission to slightly exceed the \$22,500 income ceiling on CDBG Rehabilitation Loans, citing as precedent the higher limits found in both the State and County programs of this type. He was directed to bring to the next worksession a proposal for higher limits coupled with a higher rate of interest.
4. Site for Fire Station at corner of Second and Spring Streets. After discussing this matter, the Mayor and Council voted unanimously to strongly oppose the County's purchase of this site due to its remote location from Takoma Park and the very real threat of reducing fire service to the City if stations No. 1 and No. 2 were combined at this location. Mayor Roth will present the Council's position at the public hearing on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:30 PM.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 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

November 13, 1979

## City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilman Faulkner	Asst. City Administrator Shaffer
Councilman Garcia	City Clerk Pusti
Councilman Ricks	Administrative Asst. Swinton
Councilwoman Saloma	Police Chief Porter
Councilman Webb	Public Works Director Robbins
Councilman Weisman	Recreation Director Ziegler
EXCUSED: Councilman Forshee	Corporation Counsel Gingerich

The Mayor and Council of Takoma Park met on November 13 at 8 00 PM, in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Following the pledge of allegiance, a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes of October 22; this was approved by the Council.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Noted the receipt of a letter from Steve Bedi, Principal Takoma Park Elementary School, expressing the appreciation of staff and students for the time and effort put forth by the Mayor and Council in having the new school constructed.

Also noted a letter received from Neal Potter, President, Montgomery County Council, which stated his appreciation of Councilman Weisman's work on the Housing Policy Implementation Committee.

Complemented the V.F.W. Post #350 for the fine Veteran's Day ceremony.

Noted that Montgomery County is conducting an Economic Development Study regarding the rehabilitation of the Laurel Avenue Commercial area and also the business district at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues, that this study has been in progress for 6-8 weeks and hopefully will be publicly available after the first of the year.

Stated that the City is now in the process of making changes in the Rehabilitation Loan Program in recognition of recent increases in interest rates; that the new Program schedule should be announced in 3-4 weeks.

Noted that a committee of the Prince George's Municipal League, of which he is a member, will be making a presentation on proposed legislation to the Maryland Municipal League on November 15.

Stated he testified at a public hearing held by Montgomery County which concerned the proposed purchase of a site at Second and Spring Streets in Silver Spring for the construction of a new fire house and the consolidation of two down-County fire departments one of which could be Takoma Park; that he testified in opposition to moving Takoma Park's fire department, but stated that the site would be satisfactory for the consolidation of two Silver Spring fire departments.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Georgetown Clinic and developments which have taken place (Mayor Roth)

Discussion of 18-hour parking restriction (Mayor Roth)

CITIZEN'S REMARKS

1. David Prosten, Chairman, Citizens for Election Reform: presented the Council with petitions which he said had over 2,000 signatures of registered voters of the City, which request a Charter amendment to election procedures to have councilmembers elected by wards instead of at-large; stated that the Council now has the choice of adopting the proposal, establishing a special election or placing the referendum on the ballot of the regular election to be held in March 1980; noted that his group would prefer that this issue be brought to a special election, so that if adopted, Councilmembers would be elected by ward at the regular election in 1980. Mayor Roth made a statement which is attached to the minutes. Mr. Prosten expressed the opinion that it is difficult for an independent Candidate to challenge the slate system; that incumbents always seem to be re-elected.

2. Sammie Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue: listed election returns from 1964 and 1968 which showed low voter turnout, which he felt was proof that citizens want opportunity for their representatives to be elected. Regarding the Franklin Apartments being approved for 100% Section 8 funding asked if any of the goals established by the City for approval had been met said that most of the tenants had moved, noted that he has been informed by some tenants that there are problems in the building and that they were receiving little help in relocating; requested that a full report be made stating what goals have been met by the owner. In response to Mr. Abbott's queries, Mayor Roth said the fine imposed by the Court against the former owner of the building had been paid on 10/26/79; that the goals established for the building are being met; a relocation agent is on the premises and it will be determined whether she is State or County employed; the Mayor also stated that as a result of Mr. Abbott's inquiries at HUD regarding regulations applying to elevator buildings, the Franklin had to be set up for primarily elderly occupation, with only a few families being allowed to remain.

3. Dorothy Malusky, 7302 Holly Avenue: thanked the Mayor and Council for their help in obtaining more funds for the Takoma Park Community School. Stated that the School's Advisory Board would also appreciate any help the Council could give in requesting that Park and Planning repair and/or replace the lighting on the Takoma Park Recreation Center basketball and tennis courts; also suggested that the coin-operated lights be replaced with lights that turn on and off at specific times. Also noted that Dr. Faith Stern has information on statistics of the Georgetown Clinic. Councilman Ricks requested that the request for lighting at the Recreation Center be placed on the agenda.

4. Larry Robinson, 7504 Holly Avenue: asked the Council which of the goals set for the Franklin Apartment are enforceable by the City; what is the penalty if the owner does not abide by the goals, and how are the goals enforced.

5. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: noted that he remembered that the State would be enforcing regulations on the Franklin Apartments since they hold the mortgage. Suggested that the petition presented on election reform be placed on the agenda; suggested that there be two stop signs placed on the poles on Carroll Avenue at its intersection with Flower; that possibly this may slow down the flow of cars going through it two at a time; noted that he was on the advisory board for the Georgetown Clinic and could possibly lend his assistance to the Council.

6. Saul Sneiderman, 7925 Sligo Creek Pkwy: requested that the uncovered drain pipe at the entrance to the Washington Adventist Hospital from Maple Avenue be covered; that it is a hazard.

7. John Fleming, 6909 Westmoreland Avenue: stated that the South Takoma Citizens' Association has now been formed and includes the following streets: Walnut, Westmoreland, Pine, and Allegheny; that there are block groups meeting to discuss major concerns of the South Takoma area; asked that the Association be kept informed on the study being conducted for the Laurel Avenue Commercial Area; requested a "Caution, Children Playing" sign for the block of Westmoreland Avenue between Carroll and Walnut Avenues and also more police surveillance for speeding cars; asked that the Council look into the problem plaguing the Takoma Urban Park--vandalism of the lighting and benches; requested that the lights be turned back on during the night to try to prevent the vandalism. stated his support for the election reform, noting that his area was not locally represented on the Council and is somewhat neglected. Mayor Roth directed the City Administrator and Chief of Police to look into the matters brought up by Mr. Fleming, and stated that he would speak to Park and Planning about having the lights turned back on in the Urban Park. also requested the City Administrator to notify Mr. Fleming of CDBG projects taking place in his area.

8. Ron Albaugh, President, Longbranch-Sligo Citizens' Association: regarding the Flower-Carroll intersection, suggested a fourth alternative to be added to the State Highway Administration letter--that the northwest corner (in front of the Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church) be squared-off the same as the other three corners and the stop sign and cross-walk be moved up; stated that this would make it less hazardous for pedestrians crossing at this intersection; felt that other alternatives offered by SHA were not responsive to the problem; Thanked the Council for surveying the residents of Central Avenue in reference to the proposed re-naming of their street. Noted the potential problem of red-lining within the area of the City; stated that he had received information from Neighborhoods Uniting Project which stated that three banks were redlining in 13 towns in central Prince George's County; requested that the City look into this and ascertain the source of the data.

9. Ron Wylie, 7618 Glenside Court: congratulated the City Administrator on the birth of his sixth child. Regarding petitions for election by wards, asked approximately how much a special election would cost and are there any legal guidelines or constraints as to when a special election must be held. The City Administrator stated that the 1978 regular election cost approximately \$6,000. The Corporation Counsel stated that the Mayor and Council must pass a resolution within 60 days of receipt of petitions to state whether there will be a special election or if the question will be placed on the ballot for the regular election in March . 1980;

if a special election, it can be held no sooner than 40 days and no later than 60 days from date of resolution. Mayor Roth noted that the first step would be to verify the signatures on the petitions and that listings of registered voters must be obtained from the Counties for the verification. Regarding the retention of the old Sanitarium building at Washington Adventist Hospital, Mr. Wylie noted that he agreed that the retention should be connected in some way to the bond issue; that Delegate Bainum and himself had written to the WAH Board of Directors requesting the retention and facts on why the Hospital felt it could not keep the building and that he feels optimistic in the pursuit of that goal.

10. David Prosten: stated that he felt that the use of voting machines would be unnecessary; that possibly voters could use paper ballots which would have a space for a yes or no answer. Councilwoman Saloma requested that Council begin to discuss matters of timing, etc., regarding the resolution on the petition. There being no objections, it was added to the agenda.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The City Administrator gave a brief summary of the City's financial status for the month of October.

#### ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

##### Communications

1. Joseph Giannini, 208 Spring Avenue: Letter commending the Mayor and Council for the fine job they are doing; also commending the Chief of Police and several officers for the help he received from them.
2. Charles W. Gilchrist, Montgomery County Executive: Notification of the organization of a Fuel Task Force to investigate the fuel distribution system, calculate the number of persons who will have problems obtaining fuel this winter, and whether financial assistance will be needed and can be made available.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Response to citizens' survey on the renaming of Central Avenue. The City Administrator reported that of the 44 residences surveyed, there were 29 responses, with almost all opposing the name change; that there were five not opposed. Councilman Faulkner moved that the Council support the majority of the residents and notify the Park & Planning Commission that the name should remain the same; this was duly seconded by Councilman Weisman and approved by the Council.

2. Discussion of alternative proposals for relief of pedestrian-safety problems at the intersection of Carroll and Flower Avenues. The City Administrator stated that the letter received from Mr. W. L. Shook, State Highway Administration, listed three alternatives: 1) leave the intersection as it is; 2) construct an island on the northwest quadrant of the intersection which would allow a free right turn onto westbound Flower Avenue from Carroll Avenue; and 3) full signalization of the intersection with concurrent pedestrian indications; he also noted Mr. Albaugh's fourth alternative, which would be to square off the northwest corner of the intersection and moving up the stop sign and crosswalk, Councilman Ricks made a motion that the Council approve alternative 3 for full signalization. This motion failed for lack of a second. Mayor Roth suggested that the staff look into Mr. Albaugh's alternative and report back to the Council before a decision is made; The Council agreed to this.

3. Mayor Roth reported that he has received information that due to budgetary constraints the Montgomery Georgetown Clinic will be closing on April 30, 1980, and that there will be no new patients accepted after November 5, 1979; that when the Clinic was moved from the Piney Branch Middle School to its new location in the Silver Spring Center, the reasoning behind the move was so that the Clinic could serve a larger area and give better care; is making arrangements to discuss this matter with the assistant to the County Executive; that the Takoma Park-Silver Spring area has by far the largest number of lower income residents of the County who need this type of clinic. Councilman Weisman suggested that the Council use of earlier correspondence which supported the move to Silver Spring to serve as a permanent institution to serve the entire area. Councilman Ricks made a motion that the City strongly oppose the closing of the Clinic and should notify the County Executive and Council, and also the State delegates and Advisory Board members; this was duly seconded by Councilman Webb and approved unanimously by the Council.

4. Mayor Roth suggested the updating of the City's 18-hour parking law, which could conceivably affect half the City's residents who park their cars on the streets over a weekend; that for this reason the law is only enforced on a complaint basis which is not desirable; listed the following time limits from local jurisdictions: Montgomery County--24-hours, Maryland State-48 hours, and Prince George's County-72 hours; directed the City Administrator and Chief of Police to look into the experiences of other jurisdictions and to give a report on what changes to the City law might be desirable.

5. Councilman Ricks stated that the lights at the Takoma Park Recreation Center basketball and tennis courts are now coin-operated and some are not operating at all; that the area is secluded and very vulnerable; noted that the Advisory Board has suggested lights that have timing devices and turn on and off at certain times; made a motion that the Council contact Park and Planning asking them to investigate this change over of the lights and report back to the Council whether it is possible; Councilman Garcia seconded this motion and it was approved by the Council.

6. Regarding the petitions presented for changing election procedures, Mayor Roth directed the City Administrator and City Clerk to obtain voter registration lists from the Counties and the Corporation Counsel to prepare any legal advice he may deem necessary. There ensued a lengthy discussion concerning the cost of a special election, use of voting machines or paper ballots, the time available for Council to pass a resolution, and the time needed to verify signatures on the petitions. Councilwoman Saloma stated that the Council should be guided by how this issue would get the best hearing--i.e., by special or regular election; suggested the possibility of setting a special election date pending verification of the petitions due to constraints of time. Mr. David Prosten, who was recognized by the Council, noted that nominations take place only 30 days prior to the election and felt that this issue could be handled in a similar time frame; requested that a date for special election be set pending verification of signatures on petitions.

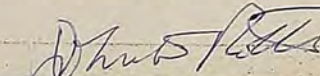
7. Councilman Garcia reported on Prince George's County's CDBG funding proposals hearing, noting that the County is allotted approximately \$6.5 million from the Federal government and the County has already received \$13-14 million in requests; also noted that half of the CDBG allotment is committed to on-going projects and that he will keep the Council informed.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM, to reconvene on Monday, November 26, 1979, at 8:00 PM.

ATTEST

Herbert W. Gilsdorf, City Administrator

APPROVED

  
John D. Roth, Mayor

*City of Takoma Park*  
*Takoma Park, Maryland 20012*

OFFICE OF THE  
MAYOR

November 13, 1979

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

The City Council has received a petition proposing that the Charter be amended to elect Councilmen by Wards instead of the present system of election "at-large" or City-wide. The Council will act on the petition in accord with the legal requirements.

The proposal has been referred to as a "reform." This is not accurate. It is really a "throw-back." History tells us clearly that the real municipal reforms took place from 1900 to the 1920s when the Ward election system, operated by corrupt political machines, was overthrown in favor of Model Charters requiring non-partisan elections and the "at-large" system of city-wide elections.

In harmony with past reforms, municipal governments in Maryland show strong preference for the at-large election system. Available data on 110 Maryland municipalities indicate:

Maryland municipalities with at-large elections	88
Maryland municipalities with ward elections	19
Maryland municipalities with a combination	3

Some of the objections to Ward elections -- in addition to the past history of political corruption -- are:

- The Ward system encourages councilmen to operate in a spirit of narrow parochial interest instead of responsibility for city-wide concerns.
- It encourages bickering and dissension over giving priority in city services to particular areas.
- A particular problem in one ward may easily be sidetracked or swept under the rug when councilmen from other wards are disinterested or even hostile.
- Councilmen may not be interested in listening to complaints from citizens living outside their Ward. On this point, one astute citizen said: "I want to vote for seven Councilmen. Then, when I have a complaint, I can go to all seven and complain as their constituent. This has worked effectively for me. Under Ward elections I could only vote for one Councilman and therefore I could go to only one Councilman and say 'I am your constituent.' The other six would not have to pay any attention."
- The Ward boundaries may need to be changed frequently as population shifts take place. It is a well known fact that Ward boundaries are hard to change.

The citizens of Takoma Park are entitled to whichever voting system they prefer, but they need to think carefully about the proposed change before they commit their votes on this subject.

John D. Roth

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
November 19, 1979

Councilmembers present:

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

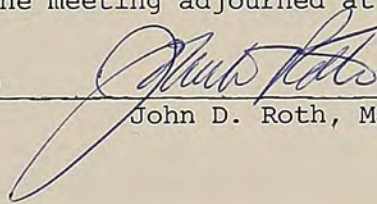
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roth at 7:40 PM.

1. Community Improvement Board Appointments. Mrs. Simpson appeared before the Mayor and Council and advised them of her recommendations for appointments to the CIB for next year. It was decided to place this matter on the November 26 agenda for Council action.
2. Housing Rehabilitation Loan Guidelines. After discussion by the Mayor and Council, the following guidelines were approved: Loans are limited to \$12,000 with an interest rate of 3% to 8% for an original term of up to 20 years, depending upon the financial situation of the homeowner. Maximum income per family size was also increased as follows:

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM INCOME</u>
1-2	\$19,250
3-4	\$26,050
5+	\$28,500

3. CDBG Program, 1980-81. Councilman Forshee reported that there was some confusion about the County staff recommendations for funding the City's program next year. The City Administrator was directed to get the facts and furnish them to the Council.
4. Salary Adjustment/Revised Pay Plan. Councilman Forshee reported to the Council that the Personnel Committee was recommending a revised pay plan for immediate implementation which would grant a retroactive to July 1, 1979 across-the-board 2½% increase. This action was recommended in response to recent double-digit inflation and some existing inequities in the present plan. The Mayor and Councilmembers discussed the proposal at some length and directed the City Administrator to discuss the new plan with employees and place it on the November 26 Council agenda for First Reading.

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



THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

November 26, 1979

City Officials Present

Mayor Pro Tem Forshee

Councilman Garcia

Councilwoman Saloma

Councilman Weisman

EXCUSED: Mayor Roth

Councilman Faulkner

Councilman Ricks

Councilman Webb

City Administrator Gilsdorf

Asst. City Administrator Shaffer

City Clerk Pusti

Administrative Asst. Swinton

Chief of Police Porter

Public Works Director Robbins

Recreation Director Ziegler

Corporation Counsel Gingerich

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council of Takoma Park met on November 26 at 8:00 PM, in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Following the pledge of allegiance, a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes of November 13; this motion was approved by the Council.

MAYOR PRO TEM FORSHEE'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Forshee announced that Mayor Roth and Councilman Ricks were attending the National League of Cities Conference in Las Vegas.

Read a statement from the Mayor concerning the petitions presented by citizens for a Charter change, which stated that it would not be physically possible to hold a special election early enough to have the March 1980 elections based on the ward system; that the Corporation Counsel has advised the Council that the ward boundaries would have to be revised sufficiently to equalize the populations of each; that this process is very lengthy and would have to be completed before the nominating Caucus on the fourth Tuesday in February 1980; that he sees no other choice but to place the question on the ballot of the regular election to be held in March 1980.

Corporation Counsel Gingerich summarized his memo to the Council concerning this item as follows: that the election of Councilmembers by wards would, in his opinion, necessitate a reapportionment of the wards to make the election valid under the Maryland and United States Constitutions applying the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (one man-one vote rule), that based on decisions of the Maryland Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, to hold an election without changing the ward boundaries would be unconstitutional and could probably be challenged; gave the following examples of ward population variances based on 1970 census figures--Ward 1:1,250, Ward 5:3,376, almost a 3-to-1 discrepancy; noted that the present Charter provisions for at-large elections, with residency requirement, meets Constitutional requirements even though there may be disparities in population ratio among the present wards; that in his opinion, should the voters of the City amend the Charter so as to require election of Councilmembers by wards rather than at-large, the wards must be reapportioned before an election is held in order to meet the constitutional test, and in order to preclude litigation, the Mayor and Council should reapportion the City prior to any ward election; this could be done on the basis of the 1970 Census or a special census taken by the City; the Council could also wait until the 1980 Census has been taken; also suggested that since ward changes would be of substantial interest to all citizens, that public hearing should be held on any proposed reapportionment Charter amendment; that in order to conduct this process properly, the estimated time-frame would be approximately six months.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

I. Presentation by Kathryn Simpson on recommended Community Improvement Board appointments, 1979-80. Mrs. Simpson reported that proposed recommendations for members of the Community Improvement Board had previously been given to the Council and noted that there is still one vacancy to be filled.

II. Other Remarks by Citizens.

1. David Prosten, Chairman, Citizens for Election Reform: read a statement to the Council (ATTACHMENT #1). In response to Mr. Prosten's query, Corporation Counsel Gingerich stated that he had been instructed by the Mayor and Council to investigate legal formalities concerning the petition at the time it was presented two weeks ago. Mr. Prosten requested copies of all information gathered.

2. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: stated his opinion that the wards should be reapportioned; suggested that the Council could hold a special election with the ward question on the ballot and also add the question for reapportionment of wards; thought current population estimates could be obtained from the Counties; noted that the proposed closing of Montgomery-Georgetown Clinic has been placed on County Council agenda for November 27 at 10:45 AM, also that County Executive Gilchrist will be available by appointment to discuss this matter at the Silver Spring Center on November 28 at 7:30 PM. Suggested that the CIB discontinue their windshield surveys and conduct surveys on foot; also that the number of members on the Board be increased and the zones be made smaller.

3. Sammie Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue: stated that he is resigned to unlikelihood of a special election, but indicated concerns that, if the Charter amendment for election by wards is passed, the City will challenge its use in court because of the information brought up by Corporation Counsel that it may be unconstitutional; noted the hard work put in by many citizens in obtaining the signatures on the petitions and that this work may have been in vain; also noted some southern cities where court decisions ended at-large elections; said citizens want to be represented by a person they elected from their own ward.

4. Ellen Marsh, 7405 Maple Avenue: regarding the proposed ordinance for CDBG street improvements for Cedar Avenue, requested that portions of the sidewalk slated for repair have either tile work or brick work done instead of cement replacement; noted that the original sidewalk on Cedar was tile and felt this would be a good Centennial project for the City; also suggested that if it should cost more than what is allotted, that possibly residents could raise the difference. Mayor Pro Tem Forshee requested that this be looked into.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Report on the 18-hour Parking Ordinance. Chief Porter reported that the City's 18-hour ordinance is the shortest time period for most local jurisdictions; listed the following parking ordinances for other local areas: Montgomery County-24 hours, State of Maryland-48 hours, and Prince George's County-72 hours; noted the inequities of the law such as someone going away for a weekend and leaving the car parked at the curb in front of his house; if a neighbor calls to complain, the police must go out and ticket the vehicle, although a warning is issued first; recommended that the Council change the ordinance to correspond with State law of 48 hours. Mayor Pro Tem Forshee suggested that consideration of this recommendation be postponed until the next Council meeting.

2. Ordinance awarding bid on Community Development Block Grant funded street work. The City Administrator stated that the intended street work is such that it must be conducted by outside contractor and that it would involve work throughout the City. In response to questions raised by Councilmembers, Asst. City Administrator Shaffer noted that the City has included in the contract specifications allowing the City to add or delete items and also to shift the time scheduling; that there is a requirement of a 100% performance bond and a completion date of one year; concerning Mrs. Marsh's request for Cedar Avenue, noted that there is a good possibility that it could be included, but that he would look into it further. Upon motion by Councilman Garcia, duly seconded by Councilwoman Saloma, Ordinance #2516 (ATTACHMENT #2) was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Forshee, Garcia, Saloma, Weisman. MAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilmembers Faulkner, Ricks, Webb.

3. Ordinance accepting bid and appropriating funds for two police cruisers (Revenue Sharing Funds). Chief Porter stated that he has recommended not taking the low bid for Plymouth Volares because of the many problems the department has experienced with them; instead, he has recommended accepting the second lowest bid on Dodge Aspens. Chief Porter stated that he had questioned other local jurisdictions that use Aspens and has found that they have experienced very little difficulties and most are quite satisfied with them; stated that the department is asking for an additional car to establish a regular maintenance program; that at this time, there are no extra cars if one must go in for service. Councilman Weisman noted that the Aspens also have front-end problems similar to Volares. Upon motion by Councilman Garcia, duly seconded by Councilwoman Saloma, the following ordinance was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Forshee, Garcia, Saloma, Weisman. MAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilmembers Faulkner, Ricks, Webb.

ORDINANCE #2517

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

- SECTION 1. THAT funds were set aside in the Proposed Use Schedule for expenditure of FY-80 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for the purchase of two Police Department cruisers, one marked and one unmarked; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT in accordance with law, bids on the police curisers were solicited from qualified dealers and by advertising twice in two newspapers of local circulation, with bids having been publicly opened at 2:00 PM, November 21, 1979; AND
- SECTION 3. THAT four bids were received, with Silver Spring Chrysler-Plymouth being the low bidder for two 1980 Volares at \$11,595.20, and Banning Dodge the second lowest bidder, for two 1980 Aspens at \$12,152.01, both including allowance for trade-in vehicle; AND
- SECTION 4. THAT after comparison of the two low bids the Chief of Police has recommended acceptance of the bid from Banning Dodge because of their superior qualities over the Plymouth Volares offered by Silver Spring Chrysler-Plymouth.
- SECTION 5. THEREFORE THAT the bid be hereby accepted from Banning Dodge for two 1980 Dodge Aspens, including trade-in allowance of \$100.00, for the net sum of TWELVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS AND ONE CENT (\$12,152.01), and the City Administrator is duly authorized to transfer title of trade-in vehicle (1972 Gremlin, 2-door sedan, Serial #A2A465E737023, Title #3086746) to Banning Dodge.
- SECTION 6. FURTHER THAT funds in the amount of TWELVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO DOLLARS AND ONE CENT (\$12,152.01) be appropriated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Funds Account and transferred to the appropriate Police Department Account.

4. First Reading of a Proposed Ordinance to Revise the FY-80 Pay Plan. Mayor Pro Forshee stated that the City employees were granted a 7% cost-of-living increase with a step (in-grade) increase as of July 1, 1979, in correspondence with the President's guidelines; that since that time, inflation has become double-digit and it was felt that the Council should examine possibility of a larger increase. The Mayor had appointed a committee to examine this; the committee's recommendations are as follows: a new pay scale with additional steps, but smaller in-grade increases, changing the scale from 6 to 10 steps, with two longevity steps; that there be a 2.5% adjustment to salaries retroactive to July 1, 1979, with retroactive pay to be issued prior to Christmas, similar to a one-time bonus. The Council approved this ordinance for Second Reading for December 10. (Copies available in City Office.)

5. Ordinance authorizing purchase and appropriating Revenue Sharing Funds for Police Department Polaroid Crime Scene Camera. The City Administrator stated that this would amend the Planned Use Schedule of Revenue Sharing Funds; at this time the department is utilizing a borrowed camera, which is an essential piece of equipment that is used daily. Upon motion by Councilwoman Saloma, duly seconded by Councilman Garcia, the ordinance below was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Forshee, Garcia, Saloma, Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilmembers Faulkner, Ricks, Webb.

ORDINANCE #2518

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

- SECTION 1. That the Police Department has urgent need for a Crime Scene Camera as a replacement for the 1957 model which is no longer operable; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT quotations were obtained from qualified suppliers, with the low bid being received from Industrial Photo, Silver Spring, of \$500 for one Polaroid Crime Scene Camera outfit, Model C-070, with lenses, carrying case and specialized equipment for reproduction of identification photographs; AND
- SECTION 3. THAT purchase of the above-described Crime Scene Camera outfit is hereby authorized; AND
- SECTION 4. THAT funds in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) to cover this purchase shall be appropriated from the Revenue Sharing Account and transferred to the appropriate Police Department account.

6. Appointment of Community Improvement Board members. Upon motion by Councilwoman Saloma, duly seconded by Councilman Weisman, the following appointments were made to the Community Improvement Board:

ZONE 1.	Frances Phipps Steven Bourke, Chairman Arthur Catudal	Expiration of Term: 1981 1980 1980
ZONE 2A.	Michael Bray, Chairman Marion Florin Mary Ann McGuire	1981 1980 1980
ZONE 2B.	Edgar Dawson, Chairman Dorothy Stark Thomas Bowden	1981 1980 1980
ZONE 3.	Michael Hull Charles Potter, Chairman Margaret Holmes	1980 1981 1980

-5-

Council meeting minutes  
November 26, 1979

ZONE 4.	Whetten Reed	1981
	Bill Allen	1980
	Vacancy still to be filled	
ZONE 5.	Dennis Seekins, Chairman	1981
	Robert Calhoun	1980
	Edward Williams	1980
ZONE 6.	Eleanor Burgess, Chairwoman	1981
	Ann Grice	1981
	Richard Osborne	1980
ZONE 7A.	James Jones, Chairman	1981
	Austin Brown	1980
	Melda Henry	1980
ZONE 7B.	Virginia Wade (temporary until 3/80)	1980
	Eugene Freeman	1981
	Pat Knight, Chairwoman	1980

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM, to reconvene on Monday, December 10, 1979, at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

John D. Roth  
Mayor

*FORBES*

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

Herbert W. Gilsdorf  
City Administrator

## CITIZENS FOR ELECTION REFORM

Citizens for Election Reform has presented the Takoma Park City Council with petitions requesting that a referendum be held to change the way the city council is elected. Under the present system all seven city councilmembers are elected at large, so that voters in any one ward do not have control over who their elected councilmember will be. Citizens for Election Reform has asked for an election so that the voters may have a chance to change the system in favor of "ward-only" voting. Under such a system, we believe, members of the council will be more answerable to the voters.

At the city council meeting November 13, the mayor declared his opposition to this plan. He has every right to express his opposition, of course. Given the nature of this reform effort his opposition would be expected. So would the opposition of any incumbent councilmembers fearful of running for reelection independent of what has become known as "the slate."

So while the mayor's opposition was not unexpected, what was unexpected was to find that the mayor had ordered copies of his statement published word for word and distributed, at taxpayer expense, to everyone in the city who receives copies of the minutes of city council meetings.

Citizens for Election Reform is anxious to keep the expenses of this referendum at a minimum, so we find it regrettable that the mayor did what he did and that we must ask that these remarks be published as well in an effort to guarantee the citizens get a balanced presentation of the facts.

In declaring his opposition to this reform effort, the mayor said the overwhelming majority of Maryland municipalities elect their city councilmembers the same way as does Takoma Park.

What the mayor forgot to mention, however, was that the overwhelming majority of Maryland municipalities are much, much smaller than Takoma Park. The towns that have retained "at large" election procedures, with very few exceptions, are towns like Dawson, population 130, and Snow Hill, population 2,311. The towns that have changed their election procedures the way Citizens for Election Reform think Takoma Park's should be changed include the largest cities and towns, where size dictates the need for answerable representatives. Towns that have changed this way include Annapolis, the state capitol. And Baltimore. And Cheverly, and College Park, and District Heights, and Mt. Rainier, and University Park. In each of these cases, and in many others as well, city councilmembers are elected as they should be--by the people who know them best, the people who live in their wards, their neighborhoods.

As to the mayor's argument that councilmembers elected within their own wards won't care about what happens to the rest of the town, that's absurd. The entire city of Takoma Park is only 2.2 square miles, and anyone intelligent enough to be elected to the city council surely will be intelligent enough to know that what affects folks living five or six blocks away in the next ward most surely will affect his or her own constituents.

David Prosten, Chairman

Citizens for Election Reform  
November 26, 1979

ORDINANCE #2516

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

- SECTION 1. THAT the Takoma Park Community Development Block Grant program for FY-78 did set aside funds for the execution of certain public works projects as described in the attached "Description of Jobs"; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT bids were solicited from qualified contractors by advertising in five newspapers of local and metropolitan-wide circulation, with bids having been publicly opened at 11:00 AM, November 6, 1979, AND
- SECTION 3. THAT six bids were received, with Sante Fe Construction Company (Hyattsville, Maryland) having submitted the low unit price bid of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY FIVE CENTS (\$281,216.75)
- SECTION 4. THEREFORE THAT the bid of Sante Fe Construction Company, for the work described in the attached "Description of Jobs," be accepted for the amount of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY FIVE CENTS (\$281,216.75);

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## A. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PROJECTS

1. Poplar Avenue: (Approx. 1190 L.F.)  
Remove & Replace existing concrete curb and gutter. Replace with Prince George's County Standard #1 Concrete Curb and Gutter on both sides. Construct Bituminous driveway aprons as shown on the plans. Construct Sidewalk Ramps as per detail "A" & "B" Sheet 2 of 2. Construct Prince George's County Standard #5 Driveway Aprons all in accordance with the plans.

## B. MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROJECTS

1. Tulip Avenue: (Approx. 2200 L.F.)  
Remove existing concrete curb and replace with Montgomery County Standard concrete curb and gutter from Carroll Avenue northwest to Maple Avenue, both sides. Remove and replace in kind existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk sections, and paving patching from the intersection of Maple Avenue to Holly Avenue together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.
2. Cedar Avenue: (Approx. 500 L.F.)  
Remove and replace in kind existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk sections, and patching from Tulip Avenue southwest to Eastern Avenue together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.
3. Houston Avenue: (Approx. 900 L.F.)  
Remove and replace existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk sections, and concrete aprons. Construct Montgomery County Standard sidewalk ramps and sidewalks from Sligo Creek Parkway to Houston Avenue at designated locations.
4. Grant Avenue: (Approx. 1,550 L.F.)  
Remove and replace existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk sections, and patching in kind from Carroll Avenue northwest to Maple Avenue, together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.



## 5. Lee Avenue: (Approx. 570 L.F.)

Remove and replace in kind existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk sections, and patching in kind from Hancock Avenue southeast to Carroll Avenue, together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.

## 6. Hancock Avenue: (Approx. 1,350 L.F.)

- a. Remove and replace in kind existing concrete curb and gutter. Patch all holes, broken pavement, sidewalk sections, and all other incidental work including sidewalk ramps from Sheridan Avenue to Grant Avenue.
- b. Construct approximately 1070 L.F. of Montgomery County Standard concrete sidewalk on the north side of Hancock Avenue from Sheridan Avenue to Grant Avenue.
- c. Construct Montgomery County Standard typical section from Grant Avenue to end. Work to include 26' wide Standard pavement sections, and concrete curb and gutter etc.

## 7. Sheridan Avenue: (Approx. 450 L.F.)

Patch all holes, broken pavement, replace broken sidewalk sections, and all other incidental work including sidewalk ramp from Hancock Avenue to end.

## 8. Allegheny Avenue: (Approx. 800 L.F.)

This project shall consist of widening the existing traveled portion of the existing pavement by approximately 5'-0". The contract shall remove the existing concrete curb and gutter, sidewalk, and both side's of the street. The contractor shall then install Montgomery County Standard concrete curb and gutter. The face of the curb shall be 2'-6" behind where the existing face currently is. The contractor shall also install a 3'-6" wide concrete sidewalk on the south side and provide 6" pavement patching between existing edge of pavement and new curb and gutter. The entire street shall be resurfaced with 1½" surface treatment.

## 9. Montgomery Avenue: (Approx. 650 L.F.)

Remove existing concrete curb and gutter, and replace with Montgomery County Standard concrete curb and gutter on both sides, from Pine Avenue to Hickory Avenue. Replace sidewalk sections in kind together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.

10. Cockerille Avenue; (Approx. 450 L.F.)

Remove and replace existing concrete curb and gutter with Montgomery County Standard concrete curb and gutter, and sidewalk on the south side. Adjust weep holes in existing retaining wall to provide positive drainage where necessary. Adjust W.M.'s., M.H.'s., and F.H.'s. where necessary. Scope of work will run from the intersection of Second Avenue northwest to the end of Cockerille Avenue.

11. Pine Avenue: (Approx. 1,050 L.F.)

Remove and replace in kind existing concrete curb and gutter, and sidewalk sections from Westmoreland Avenuenorthwest to Columbia Avenue together with incidental work including sidewalk ramps at all intersections designated by the Engineer.

12. Lee Avenue Storm Drain Extension

Construction of approximately 440 liner feet of 12" RCP Class 4 Storm Drain Pipe, including connections to existing structures and construction of a WSSC B-48 Manhole, all complete and in place. All construction shall include sodding and pavement replacement. These and all other related construction, including connections shall not be measured ot bid, but considered incidental to construction.