

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
January 7, 1980

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 7:45 PM.

1. 1981 Property Assessments. The Mayor and Council discussed this matter at some length with the general consensus being that it was often helpful for persons who felt their assessments were too high to appeal to the County for reduction.
2. Request for No Parking--7300 block of Hancock Avenue. This item is to be placed on the January 14 Council meeting agenda.
3. RIDE Request for Changing Bus Stop Back to Hampshire/Langley Shopping Center. The Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to place this item on the January 14 Council meeting agenda.
4. Variance Request--204/206 Spring Avenue (to permit construction of concrete driveway). In view of the favorable neighborhood responses, the Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to offer no objection on behalf of the City to the granting of this request.
5. Carroll House. The City Administrator was directed to draft a letter to Montgomery College Board of Trustees, joining Historic Takoma in protesting the conditions at the Carroll House, and further, to ask for a January meeting between the Board, County officials, North Takoma Citizens' Association, and the Mayor and Council to discuss this issue.
6. Gilchrist Letter re Takoma Metro Parking. After discussion, the Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to draft a letter to Mr. Gilchrist explaining the City's past (and present) position on the matter of commuter parking at the Metro station.
7. Montgomery County CIP--Fire Station #2. After discussion, the Mayor and Council concluded that the present CIP is not favorable to Takoma Park because 1) it reduces the capability of both fire suppression and rescue services, 2) it ignores the economics of rehabilitation of the existing station, and 3) it would remove the ladder truck from Station #2, which poses a serious threat to the highrise buildings located nearby.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

APPROVED *John D. Roth*
John D. Roth, Mayor

ATTEST *Herbert W. Gilsdorf*
Herbert W. Gilsdorf, City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Meeting of the Mayor and City Council
January 14, 1980

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Roth

ROLL CALL: Councilman Faulkner
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Garcia
Councilman Ricks
Councilwoman Saloma
Councilman Webb
Councilman Weisman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

CITIZENS' REMARKS

- 1. Professional overview of the traffic circulation in the Old Takoma neighborhood (Steve Petersen, Traffic Engineer)
- 2. Final report of the Community Development Block Grant Citizens' Advisory Committee (Jim Holland, Chairman)
- 3. Other remarks by citizens

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: City Administrator Gilsdorf

- 1. Communications
- 2. Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:
 - (1) Second reading of an ordinance to permit 72 hours parking on City streets
 - (2) First reading of proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on a section of of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue
 - (3) Proposed ordinance authorizing Caucus and City Election
 - (4) Discussion of the relocation of Ride-on bus terminal from Lebanon Street to the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center

SPECIAL REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 1980

City Officials Present:

Mayor Roth
 Councilman Faulkner
 Councilman Forshee
 Councilman Garcia
 Councilman Ricks
 Councilwoman Saloma
 Councilman Webb
 Councilman Weisman

City Administrator Gilsdorf
 Asst. City Administrator Shaffer
 City Clerk Pusti
 Police Chief Porter
 Public Works Director Robbins
 Recreation Supervisor Pendry
 Asst. Corporation Counsel Culpepper

The Mayor and Council of Takoma Park met on January 14 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 December 10. This motion was approved by the Council.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Roth noted that he had completed some additional research on Maryland cities that have at-large elections: of cities with 10,000 or more in population, 12 out of 100 have elections at-large, including Bowie, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Frederick, and Cumberland among others.

Regarding tax assessment notices being received by some citizens, Mayor Roth strongly advised that citizens with any questions at all about the new assessments send in their request for an appeal, ask for a copy of the assessor's worksheet and request a personal hearing with the assessor; that possibly a wide-spread cry against rising assessments will help hold them down; noted that he had already sent in his appeal notice and would discuss this issue further at some later time.

Noted the receipt of letter from Congresswoman Gladys Spellman, which stated that there are jobs available through the Census Bureau for Prince George's County residents: there are 500 positions--100 office jobs paying \$3.55 to \$4.20 per hour, and 400 field positions paying from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per hour; that he will be glad to help anyone wish information; noted that he also expected a similar letter from Congressman Mike Barnes about positions available for Montgomery County residents.

Asked the Council's permission to present resolutions to Mr. Duncan Wall, Mrs. Margaret Holmes and Mrs. Mary Ann McGuire in appreciation of their many years of volunteer work with the Community Improvement Board. Upon motion, duly seconded, the Councilmembers unanimously approved the resolutions. Mayor Roth noted that Takoma Park is the only city known to him that has this type of program; that the purpose of the program is to have citizens look over their own neighborhoods and determine where homeowners are letting their property go or where improvements could be made; that the CIB has operated for over 10 years and has had a substantial advantageous effect on the City, for which he is very pleased; noted that it doesn't correct every problem, but takes care of many of them.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of problem along Sligo Creek Parkway (Councilman Faulkner)

CITIZENS' REMARKS

I. Final Report of the Community Development Block Grant Citizens' Advisory Committee. Mr. James Holland, Chairman of the CAC, stated that the items in the final report are those that were not included in the proposals submitted to the Counties, but which the CAC felt were important and could represent a starting point for the next CAC's proposal; also in the report were items that did not fall within the purview of the CDBG program, but might be considered in budget. Mr. Holland noted that Montgomery County had made their first cuts in the County-wide proposals, and they are scheduled to go before the County CAC on January 17; he thought the City had fared rather well, but noted that the County is giving the proposals close scrutiny this year. Said that the Prince George's County staff has said they will inspect sites of the proposed projects. Mr. Holland stated his gratitude to the members of the CAC, noting that they are volunteers who represent the entire City.

II. Professional Overview of the Traffic Circulation in the Old Takoma Neighborhood. Mr. Steve Petersen, traffic engineer hired by the City for this project, reviewed the highlights of his report and made the following comments: the study was instituted last August, with data being collected in mid-September after school had begun in order to collect a representative sample of year-long traffic patterns; noted contact and data collected from State and County agencies and Park and Planning, in addition to first-hand data collected by his office; that the basic thrust of the study was to conduct traffic counts and to offer suggested solutions. A copy of the Traffic Report is available in the City Office for review. There followed a question and answer period; some of the points raised by citizens were: that most of the traffic in the area is not generated by Metro, but by drivers outside the City who cut through on their way downtown; that there should be a traffic study for the entire City and not just a portion of it; that some of the suggestions in the report were very good, while others were unacceptable; that there should have been some discussions between the traffic engineer and the traffic committee. Mr. Joe Ossi, member of the traffic committee, read a statement in which he pointed out several inaccuracies in the traffic engineer's report and also reiterated the need for discussion between the committee and the engineer; this point was reinforced by Mr. Bill Robinson, who requested that a copy of Mr. Ossi's statement be submitted to the Council for consideration.

III. Other Remarks by Citizens.

1. Sammy Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue: remarked that prior to the evolvement of the CIB, there was the zoning and civic improvement board, which began in 1967, that presented awards to persons who made substantial improvement to their homes; that these presentations were published in the news and may have given homeowners incentive for improvements. Regarding Montgomery County Executive Gilchrist's proposal to increase commuter parking at Metro stations, noted that he had arranged a meeting to be held February 13, 7:30 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church at Piney Branch Road and Dahlia Street, NW, to enable citizens on both sides of the District line to express their opposition to the proposal; requested the Mayor and Council to write a strong letter of opposition to County Executive Gilchrist as well as a letter to Montgomery County DOT supporting the status quo at the Takoma Metro station. Questioned whether the goals established for the Franklin Apartments project have been met; Mayor Roth stated that they had. Mayor Roth also noted that he had drafted a letter to D. C. Mayor Barry asking for no change in the parking at the Takoma Metro, saying that he had always received good results from dealing directly with Mayor Washington and anticipated the same courteous consideration from Mayor Barry.

2. Herman Williams, 7620 Maple Avenue: as a resident of the Franklin Apartments, noted some problems the tenants were encountering. Mayor Roth directed the City Administrator to meet with Mr. Williams to try and solve the problems.

3. Lou D'Ovidio, 7324 Piney Branch Road: recommended that the Council send a copy of Mayor Barry's letter to Mr. Gilchrist, or perhaps a separate letter. Said that the traffic engineers from Park and Planning who are working on the Master Plan do not have the same views as citizens on that portion of the Plan; stated his support for a City traffic engineer. Requested clarification on an item in the December 10 Council minutes which stated that Mr. James Holland would be the chairman of the CDBG/CAC next year and saying that in his opinion, the CAC should elect its own chairman. Mayor Roth stated that his comments may have been misunderstood and reported erroneously; that he would look into it and advise Mr. D'Ovidio.

4. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: expressed dismay with the Newsletter article on the proposed Charter amendment; felt that the tone was tilted a bit in favor of one side of the issue. Mayor Roth disagreed and noted that the next issue would carry both pro and con articles on this subject.

5. David Prosten, 7428 Carroll Avenue: expressed a desire to have the articles on ward elections published in the March issue of the Newsletter instead of February. At the suggestion of Councilman Forshee, it was agreed that articles on both sides of the question would appear in both issues.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The City Administrator gave a brief report on the City's financial status for the month of December.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Ordinance to permit 72 hours parking on City streets. Mayor Roth noted that there had been no citizen opposition to this proposal, and therefore made a motion to approve the ordinance. This motion was duly seconded by Councilman Garcia. Councilman Forshee moved that the ordinance be amended to permit 48 hours parking; this was seconded by Councilman Ricks; there ensued a lengthy discussion concerning the length of time a car could actually remain on a street before being ticketed or determined abandoned. When the motion as amended was put to a roll call vote, the results were as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Forshee and Ricks, NAY: Councilmembers Faulkner, Garcia, Weisman. EXCUSED: Councilman Webb. (Councilwoman Saloma was temporarily absent.) When the original motion for 72 hours parking was put to a vote, the ordinance below was adopted as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Weisman. NAY: Councilman Ricks. EXCUSED: Councilman Webb. (Councilwoman Saloma was temporarily absent.)

ORDINANCE #2520A

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

SECTION 1. THAT Subsection (a) (6) of Sec. 13-64, "Parking or standing; prohibited areas," Code of Takoma Park, 1972, as amended, be amended to read as follows:

(6) On any highway or roadway for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours;

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

2, First Reading of proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on a section of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue. Councilman Ricks noted that this section of Hancock is the deadend at Grant Avenue; the only two houses on this section abut properties on Philadelphia Avenue; that the residents have requested the parking prohibition because when a vehicle is parked on the street it is impossible to enter or exit; both properties have driveways. The proposed ordinance was approved to go on for second reading at the Council meeting of January 28.

FIRST READING OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

SECTION 1. THAT parking shall be prohibited on both sides of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue, from its intersection with Grant Avenue, southward, to the driveways of 7300 and 7301 Hancock Avenue--a distance of approximately 55 feet; AND

SECTION 2. THAT the Director of Public Works is requested to erect the necessary signs to effect the directive of Section 1; 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 prescribed in Sec. 1-17 of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

3. Ordinance authorizing Caucus and City Election. The City Administrator stated that this ordinance provides authority to the City Clerk to prepare for the Caucus and Election such as advertising, printed materials, election machines, judges, etc. Upon motion by Councilman Faulkner, duly seconded by Councilman Garcia, Ordinance #2521 (ATTACHMENT A) was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Ricks, Saloma, Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: Councilman Webb. In response to questions by Councilmembers Saloma and Ricks on possible changes in the election procedure, Mayor Roth stated that it was the Clerk's responsibility and that she would see that any necessary corrective measures were taken; that he understood that identification and signature may be required at the polls.

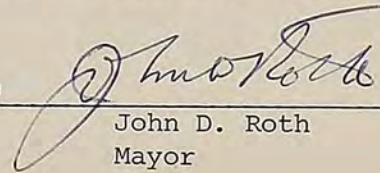
4. Discussion of the relocation of Ride-on bus terminal from Lebanon Street to the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center. The City Administrator stated that riders had petitioned to have the terminal moved back to the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center; that they have had productive meetings with the County, and merchants of the shopping center who have agreed with the riders. Councilman Faulkner moved that the Council endorse this change; this motion was duly seconded by Councilman Ricks and unanimously approved by the Council.

5. Councilman Faulkner made a motion that the Council contact Park and Planning and request that they install signs warning motorists of the walkers, joggers, and bicyclists who use Sligo Creek Parkway. This motion was seconded by Councilman Ricks and approved by the Council unanimously. It was also noted by Councilmembers that the portion of Sligo Creek within the City is to have a path constructed; Mayor Roth suggested that a letter be written to Park and Planning about 10 days after the above letter (so as not to confuse the two) asking for the projected schedule of construction and if the City can be of any assistance; it was the consensus of the Council that this should be done.

6. Councilman Ricks requested that the City staff prepare a brief report on the following for the Council: average rent increases in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and the City; average rent for same locations for one, two, and three bedroom units; average utility rate increases in the Counties and the average pass-through rates to tenants; number of City rent arbitrations that have gone before Montgomery County Landlord-Tenant; and an understandable explanation of the County guideline on rent increases. He noted that he had received information from tenants that they have received large rent increases, some as high as 30%, and wanted to obtain basic data.

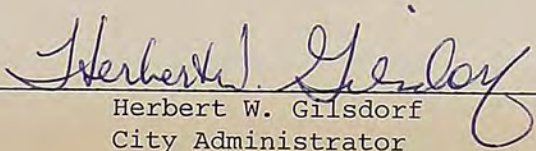
Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM, to reconvene on Monday, January 28, 1980, at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED



John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST



Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

ORDINANCE NO. 2521

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

- SECTION 1. THAT the City Clerk shall call a meeting of the citizens for the nomination for Mayor and Councilmembers at 8:00 PM, Tuesday, February 26, 1980, at the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. The said meeting shall be conducted as prescribed in the City Charter; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT there shall be a City Election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and seven Councilmembers at the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 25, 1980, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM. The said election shall be conducted by means of voting machines and, as nearly as practicable, all laws and regulations governing the use of voting machines in Prince George's County elections shall apply in the said City Election. Absentee voting procedure shall be conducted in conformity with the City Charter; AND
- SECTION 3. THAT the City Clerk shall make arrangements with the Board of Supervisors of Election of Prince George's County for the use of eight voting machines at the said City Election, and shall arrange to have placed on each voting machine the names of all candidates nominated at the Citizens' Meeting on February 26, except any who within three days thereafter may have filed in writing with the City Clerk a declination; AND
- SECTION 4. THAT the City Clerk shall also arrange to have placed on each voting machine the following proposed charter amendment: "Amend the City Charter to provide that one member of the Council be elected from each ward by voters of that ward only," and also the words, "For the Charter Amendment" and "Against the Charter Amendment"; AND
- SECTION 5. THAT the Clerk shall cause a notice of the Citizens' Meeting and the City Election to be inserted in the Suburban Record and the Prince George's Post in February, two weeks prior to February 26, 1980. In addition, the Clerk shall have inserted in the Suburban Record and the Prince George's Post, on the third week in March 1980, a facsimile of the arrangement of the names and wards as well as the Charter Amendment question, which will appear on the voting machines. The proposed Charter Amendment, in its entirety, shall be posted in the Municipal Building for four weeks prior to Election Day, and a fair summary advertised in the above-named local papers for the four weeks immediately preceding the election;
- SECTION 6. THAT the City Clerk shall prepare cards bearing the names and addresses of all eligible voters as certified by the Boards of Supervisors of Elections of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and shall furnish such cards, along with the certified lists of voters, to the Judges and Clerks of Election; AND
- SECTION 7. THAT the City Clerk shall recommend to the Mayor and Council the names of eighteen persons for designation by the Council as Judges and Clerks of Election; AND
- SECTION 8. THAT the City Clerk, with the assistance of the Chief of Police, shall see that the City Election is conducted in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and the City Charter; AND
- SECTION 9. THAT the Judges of Election shall meet in the Municipal Building as a Board of Election, at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, March 26, 1980, and shall determine and certify the results of the election, as provided in the City Charter. The Mayor and Council shall meet in Special Session to receive the Certification from the Judges at 8:00 PM, Wednesday, March 26, 1980.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
 MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
 January 21, 1980

Councilmembers present:

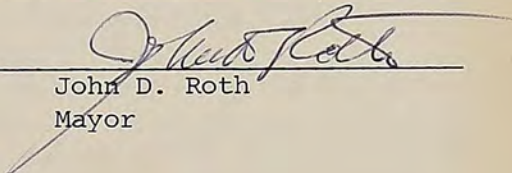
Mayor Roth
 Councilman Faulkner
 Councilman Forshee
 Councilman Garcia
 Councilman Ricks
 Councilwoman Saloma
 Councilman Webb
 Councilman Weisman
 City Administrator Gilsdorf

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Roth at 8:30 PM.

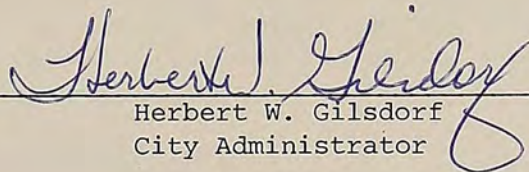
1. Carroll House. Councilman Weisman reported to the Mayor and Council that the Carroll House was to be sold to the highest bidder for rehabilitation as a single-family residence.
2. Weile's Ice Cream Parlour request for Variance for Pinball Machines. After discussion, the Mayor and Council directed the City Administrator to advise the owners that an effort should be made to work within the existing ordinance since no variance or change in the ordinance is desirable at this time in face of longstanding City and County policy with regard to pinball machines.
3. North Takoma Citizens' Association Request for Neighborhood Traffic Controls (Stop Signs). This item was referred to the Council agenda of January 28th.
4. Alternatives #4 and #6, Ride-on Bus Route #16. This item was referred to the Council agenda of January 28th.
5. Parking Permit Area Letter. The City Administrator was directed to correspond with all parking permit holders and advise them of the spirit of the parking permit system, i.e., insuring that residents would have parking available for themselves and visitors near their homes.
6. Alleged Halfway House at 7133 Maple Avenue. The City Administrator reported to the Mayor and Council that he had written to DEP requesting an investigation of this matter. The Mayor and Council directed him to follow up on the matter and determine the reason for delay in response from DEP.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 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

January 28, 1980

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Roth

ROLL CALL: Councilman Faulkner
Councilman Forshee
Councilman Garcia
Councilman Ricks
Councilwoman Saloma
Councilman Webb
Councilman Weisman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

CITIZENS' REMARKS

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: City Administrator Gilsdorf

1. Communications

2. Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action

(1) Administrative reports:

--Report on request by North Takoma Citizens Association for 4-way stop at Takoma and Boston Avenues; and at Takoma and Albany/Fenton, with free right turn movement from Fenton Street into Takoma Avenue

(2) Second reading of a proposed ordinance prohibiting parking on a section of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue

(3) Discussion of Alternates 4 and 6 to present Route 16 of Ride-on bus; Public Hearing: 7:30 PM, 1-29-80; Park & Planning Comm., 8787 Georgia Avenue

(4) Authorization to solicit bids on Public Works vehicle lift, using Revenue Sharing Funds

SPECIAL REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

January 28, 1980

City Officials Present:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mayor Roth | City Administrator Gilsdorf |
| Councilman Faulkner | City Clerk Pusti |
| Councilman Forshee | Administrative Asst. Swinton |
| Councilman Garcia | Police Dept. Representative Duvall |
| Councilman Ricks | Public Works Director Robbins |
| Councilwoman Saloma | Recreation Supervisor Pendry |
| Councilman Webb | Corporation Counsel Gingerich |
| Councilman Weisman | |

The Mayor and Council of Takoma Park met on January 28 at 8:00 PM, in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. Following the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Roth requested that two changes be included in the minutes of January 14 as follows: page 1, first item under Mayor's Comments, that Rockville should be included with the listed cities with at-large elections; also page 1, last item in Mayor's Comments, line 5, to read as follows: "known to him in Maryland that has this type of program;". Upon motion, duly seconded, the minutes of January 14, as corrected, were approved unanimously.

Regarding complaints from some tenants of the Franklin Apartments at the last Council meeting, Councilman Forshee stated that he felt citizens should know that there are usually two sides to every story as was the case in that instance; that citizens may take the statements made as 100% correct, which they were not.

MAYOR ROTH'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Stated that he did not feel City residents should have higher property taxes than residents in upper Montgomery County (Potomac), for which statistics were listed in a recent Montgomery Journal article; under present system of assessments, the lower portion of the County, which includes the City, would have assessments increased 18%, while the upper two-thirds of the County will only increase by 6%; reiterated comments made at last Council meeting regarding appealing assessments; listed the following as times for workshops to be held to assist citizens in appealing assessments: February 6: Trinity Episcopal Church for residents of the 6th Ward; February 12: Grace Methodist Church for the 7th Ward; and February 21: Takoma Park Junior High School for Montgomery County residents. All will be held at 8:00 PM. Requested that the assessment issue be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Noted the receipt of a letter from the President of Montgomery College which stated that the Carroll House would be sold to the highest bidder for use as a single-family dwelling; Mayor Roth stated that he felt this was a positive statement from the College.

Noted with regret the passing of Mr. Victor Werner; that Mr. Werner had been well known for his writings and teaching of a memory retention technique.

Stated that Prince George's County Councilmember Sue Mills has proposed the combination of three legislative districts in the lower portion of the County to become a municipality because of the clout municipalities carry; that he would watch the progress of this proposal with interest.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Report on Prince George's County CDBG proposals (Councilman Garcia)

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

1. Donald Ramsey, 8116 Roanoke Avenue: expressed pleasure with the proposed sale of the Carroll House for single-family use, but said it should be monitored because of information he had obtained indicating there would be a minimum bid specified which, if not met, would cause the house to be demolished. In response to Mr. Ramsey's question, Mayor Roth said that Citizens for Sound Government was the sponsor of the assessment workshops.
2. Lou D'Ovidio, 7324 Piney Branch Road: announced that a brochure has been published by Historic Takoma and the Takoma Park Women's Club entitled "Takoma Park Walking Tour #1", saying it would be mailed throughout the City; Councilman Forshee stated that the brochure was a very good idea. Mr. D'Ovidio noted his pleasure with the proposed sale of the Carroll House and stated that Historic Takoma had offered their services to the College in selling the house; also shared in Mr. Ramsey's concerns about the house. Stated that Rockville is copying a City-proposed CDBG project--Operation Paintbrush; asked what was decided concerning the Mayor's statement in the January 14 minutes about CDBG/CAC chairmanship; Mayor Roth stated that he had meant to say that Mr. Holland is the Chairman of the CDBG/CAC this year and hoped he would consider it next year.
3. Elaine LaVaute, 240 Park Avenue: requested that the City enforce snow removal ordinances, especially on walkways from the Metro station; inquired about membership of the Citizens for Sound Government; stated her concern about City employees recommending mainly one home repair firm and real estate office, when several could be used. Both Mayor Roth and the City Administrator stated that this is not City policy and the City Administrator asked Mrs. LaVaute to provide him with information to support allegation for use in investigating it. Mrs. LaVaute asked for support in having the Montgomery County portion of Congressional District 5 redistricted into District 8.
4. Sammie Abbott, 7308 Birch Avenue: read from an LEAA statistical report showing increased crime rates in local area jurisdictions; Mayor Roth noted that Councilmembers have those statistics. Mr. Abbott stated that a local citizens group had received funds through LEAA for a community crime prevention-type program, which he believed the City viewed as a threat to the Police Department; objected to the Mayor's testimony at the hearing on an appeal for reinstatement of the funds. Mayor Roth stated that he is sorry Mr. Abbott felt this way and explained his reasons as follows: crime prevention programs using taxpayers' money need to be coordinated in advance with local police departments, which was not done in this case, so as not to duplicate existing programs; joint planning with the City was ignored by the group at both the time of the initial application for funding and at the time of the appeal for reinstatement of the funds; that at the LEAA appeal hearing, he did not state he was opposed to the grant, but that the proposal was 2½ years old and it would be essential that the proposals be revised in consultation with the City to ensure the necessary coordination and effective use of taxpayers' money. Mr. Abbott chastized the Mayor for his recent poor attendance at COG meetings, and for his failure to make prompt reappointments to COG committees.
5. Tom Gagliardo, 8120 Roanoke Avenue: stated that the Council had been invited to the Community Congress when the LEAA grant was kicked off; that there was no intention not to cooperate with the City in preparing the grant application; that in fact the president of the Congress, Robert Moore, had met with the Police Chief. Asked for Councilman Faulkner's support of the grant application, to which Councilman Faulkner responded that he could lend support if the work is fully coordinated with the Police Department. There followed a dialogue regarding the activities of Neighborhoods Together as compared with the work of its counterpart in Prince George's County, Neighborhood Uniting Project.

6. Ron Wylie, 7618 Glenside Court: stated his interest in procedures, objectives and membership of Citizens for Sound Government.

7. Elmer Carreno, 706 Kennebec Avenue: noted that, as a member of the CDBG/CAC, he gained some insight as to what the City can offer its citizens; stated that he would welcome help with rising assessments, but questioned the propriety of a political group assuming this responsibility. Mayor Roth stated that any organization should be allowed to lend its assistance to citizens with this type of problem.

8. Ron Albaugh, 7202 Central Avenue: noted his appreciation for assistance with reducing property assessments, but objected to the way it was handled, saying it was not kosher.

9. Harold Myers, 7212 Cedar Avenue: regarding the proposed relocation of the Ride-on bus terminal from Lebanon Street to the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center, stated that the credit should be given to the residents of Takoma Tower and others who are working with the shop and parking lot owners to bring it about.

10. Carl Iddings, 7416 Carroll Avenue: regarding traffic engineer's report at the last Council meeting, asked why the traffic engineering study was done in only one area of the City and no mention was made regarding impact on surrounding areas; also noted the absence of speed traps and monitoring of speed on Carroll Avenue; Mayor Roth and Councilwoman Saloma said that the engineer was engaged to do an independent evaluation of the traffic problems in one area and the findings of the Old Takoma Traffic Committee, who, in turn, were responding to strong concerns of residents of that area; it was also stated that City police would be requested to look into speeding problems of Carroll Avenue.

11. Eve Hodes, 7418 Hancock Avenue: spoke of the problems she has had in receiving the City Newsletter. The City Administrator noted his earlier conversations with Mrs. Hodes and said he is trying to resolve the problem with the Post Office and that his office does a separate mailing for persons who have problems in receiving Newsletters.

12. Sammie Abbott: said there was no more closely watched item than property assessments and the amount of taxes actually paid by an individual; also stated that it is the Mayor and Council's responsibility to set the tax rate. It was noted by the Mayor that property assessments are a state function, not a City power.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Report on request by North Takoma Citizens Association for 4-way stop at Takoma and Boston Avenues; and at Takoma and Albany/Fenton, with free right turn movement from Fenton Street into Takoma Avenue. Councilman Faulkner made a motion that the ordinances prepared for these two requests be passed for First Reading; this motion was duly seconded by Councilman Weisman, who noted that as a resident of the area concerned, he felt the control devices were necessary. Councilman Forshee stated that he thought it was necessary to have traffic counts made at both locations before the Council approves the ordinances for First Reading. There ensued a lengthy discussion, after which, the ordinances were approved for the First Reading with all Councilmembers voting AYE, except Councilman Forshee, who opposed the approval before traffic counts were conducted. It was noted by the City Administrator that the Citizens' Association had also requested no parking on Fenton Street between New York and Takoma Avenues, after completion of the College parking garage. (Copies of the proposed ordinances Attached.)

2. Ordinance prohibiting parking on a section of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue. Upon motion by Councilman Ricks, duly seconded by Councilwoman Saloma, the following ordinance was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Faulkner, Forshee, Garcia, Ricks, Saloma, Webb and Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: None.

ORDINANCE #2522

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

SECTION 1. THAT parking shall be prohibited on both sides of the 7300 block of Hancock Avenue, from its intersection with Grant Avenue, southward, to the driveways of 7300 and 7301 Hancock Avenue -- a distance of approximately 55 feet; AND

SECTION 2. THAT the Director of Public Works is requested to erect the necessary signs to effect the directive of Section 1; 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 prescribed in Sec. 1-17 of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

3. Discussion of Alternates 4 and 6 to present Route 16 of Ride-on bus; Public Hearing: 7:30 PM, 1-29-80, Park & Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. The City Administrator stated that Route 16 travels between Langley Park and the Silver Spring Metro station; that the present route takes the buses down Park Valley Road, where residents have requested that it be removed; the County DOT has suggested alternatives: #4 would increase travel time by 14 minutes and also increase operating costs; alternative #6 would eliminate service from the Garland-Houston Avenues area. It was the consensus of the Council that neither alternative would be acceptable. After lengthy discussion, Councilman Forshee made a motion, duly seconded by Councilman Garcia, to suggest that the DOT consider continuing service in the Garland-Houston Avenues area by having the Route loop down Garland Avenue to Houston, cross Flower Avenue on Houston, turn north on Roanoke, east on Hudson, which would take it back up to Flower Avenue and then north to Piney Branch Road; or by having the Route come south on Garland Avenue from Piney Branch, turning west onto Houston, then north onto Flower Avenue back to Piney Branch Road. With either option, the residents of this densely populated area would still receive service. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

4. Authorization to solicit bids on Public Works vehicle lift, using Revenue Sharing Funds. Upon motion by Councilman Forshee, duly seconded by Councilman Webb, authorization to solicit bids on a vehicle lift was unanimously approved. The City Administrator stated that the lift is to be used in repairing City vehicles, with the exception of the trash trucks.

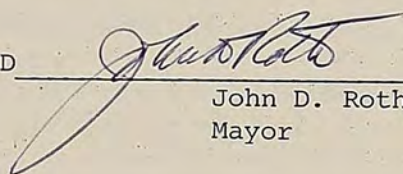
5. Mayor Roth noted an article in the Montgomery Journal concerning rising property taxes; stated that there is a proposal before the Montgomery County Council for legislation to be introduced to freeze property assessments at current level; suggested that City Council not take that route, but go on record as objecting to current taxing inequities. Councilman Weisman made a motion that the Council send a letter to the appropriate officials objecting to the unfair increase of homeowner's property tax bills in Takoma Park which will increase Montgomery County taxes in the City by an average of 18%, while two-thirds of the balance of the County will rise only 6%; that this inequity is discriminatory and a hardship to the homeowners in Takoma Park; therefore, the Council proposed that legislation be initiated to freeze assessments at last year's level until all property owners in the County are reassessed. This motion was seconded by Councilman Forshee; it was requested that copies of this letter be sent to all Montgomery County

and Prince George's County State representatives, Governor Hughes, all municipalities in both Counties, and City citizen associations. When the motion was put to a vote, it was approved unanimously by the Council. Councilman Weisman referred to the stated concern of citizens at the beginning of the meeting regarding this matter, noting that all had left immediately after the Citizens' Remarks portion without ascertaining what action the Council took.

6. Councilman Garcia made the following report regarding Prince George's County CDBG funding: that the County Citizen Advisory Committee voted on proposals presented to them and their decision was to grant the City \$130,000 for street improvements and \$5,000 for the Hand n' Home program (Tool Library and workshops); that these recommendations now have to go before the County Executive and Council for final approval; it was also noted that the street improvements would be performed and administered by the County's Public Works Department, but would be closely coordinated with the City. The City Administrator stated that a major portion of the County Public Works Department budget is funded by CDBG. Councilman Ricks stated his opposition to the County performing and administering street improvements, and proposed a motion that the City oppose this; the motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Saloma. There followed a lengthy discussion in which it was noted that opposition could result in having the City removed from the County CDBG program because there were many other localities that did not receive any of the funding requested. When the motion was put to a vote, it failed, with Councilmembers Ricks and Saloma voting in favor and the remaining five Councilmembers voting against.

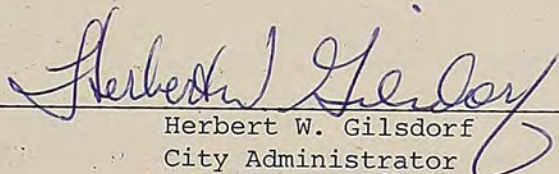
Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM, to reconvene on Monday, February 11, 1980, at 8:00 PM.

APPROVED



John D. Roth
Mayor

ATTEST



Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

- SECTION 1. THAT all traffic on Takoma Avenue shall come to a complete stop at its intersection with Albany Avenue and Fenton Street, thereby creating a 3-way stop, Ordinance 1056 (adopted May 28, 1951) having ordered a stop on Albany Avenue at its intersection with Takoma Avenue; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT the Director of Public Works shall erect the appropriate signs for implementation of the directive in Section 1; 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 prescribed in Sec. 1-17, Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

- SECTION 1. THAT all traffic travelling on Takoma Avenue shall come to a complete stop at its intersection with Boston Avenue, thereby creating a 4-way stop; AND
- SECTION 2. THAT the Director of Public Works is hereby directed to proceed with the erection of appropriate signs to implement the directive of Section 1; 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 prescribed in Sec. 1-17 of the Code of Takoma Park, Maryland, 1972, as amended.