

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
February 2, 1981

Councilmembers present:

- Mayor Abbott
- Councilmember Garcia
- Councilmember Holland
- Councilmember Patrick
- Councilmember Ramsey
- Councilmember Ricks
- Councilmember Saloma
- Councilmember Weisman
- City Administrator Gilsdorf

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

1. Presentation by Harvey Maisell of a proposal to convert 7777 Maple Avenue into a condominium. Mr. Maisell discussed the proposal with the Mayor and Council indicating that he would use HUD 234 program funds and that the condominium units would sell from \$26,000 to \$43,000. After numerous questions were asked, Mr. Maisell agreed to furnish the Mayor and Council the complete written proposal for their consideration.
2. Discussion of City's position on the Prince George's section of the Takoma Park Master Plan. This item was discussed at some length by the Mayor and Council and a decision was reached to place it on the February 9 Council meeting agenda for final action.
3. Discussion of placing the City's Housing Code under the Municipal Infraction system. After discussion, the City Administrator was directed to prepare the necessary legal ground-work (ordinances, etc.) to place the City's Housing Code under the Municipal Infraction system.
4. Discussion of revisions of certain sections of Chapter 10, "Refuse," and Chapter 12, "Trees and Vegetation," to render them more acceptable to the State's Attorney for prosecution as Municipal Infractions. The City Administrator presented the Mayor and Council with refined versions of Chapters 10 and 12 of the City Code and agreed to make copies available for their review, with a March 1981 adoption date in mind.
5. Scheduling of appeal of Joseph Parreco on 8320 Roanoke Avenue rent increases. The Mayor and Council agreed to hear the appeal of Mr. Parreco during the Council meeting of February 9, and the City Administrator was directed to give proper notification to all participants.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM.

APPROVED _____

Sam A. Abbott
Mayor

ATTEST _____

Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council
February 9, 1981AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Abbott

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Garcia
Councilmember Holland
Councilmember Patrick
Councilmember Ramsey
Councilmember Ricks
Councilmember Saloma
Councilmember Weisman

PLEDGE

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 1981

MAYOR ABBOTT'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

APPEAL BY JOSEPH PARRECO OF CITY COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS' DECISION TO DENY A GREATER THAN 10% INCREASE OF RENT AT 8320 ROANOKE AVENUE

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

CITIZENS' REMARKS

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: City Administrator Gilsdorf

1. Communications
2. Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:
 - (1) Action by Mayor and Council on Prince George's County portion of the Takoma Park Master Plan
 - (2) Second reading of a proposed ordinance creating a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #2
 - (3) Second reading of a proposed ordinance creating a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #1
 - (4) Proposed ordinance authorizing purchase and appropriating Revenue Sharing Funds for a typewriter --- Library

SPECIAL REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council

February 9, 1981

City Officials Present:

Mayor Abbott	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilmember Garcia	Asst. City Administrator Shaffer
Councilmember Holland	City Clerk Pusti
Councilmember Patrick	Administrative Asst. Tyree
Councilmember Ramsey	Acting Police Chief Carter
Councilmember Ricks	Public Works Director Robbins
Councilmember Saloma	Recreation Director Ziegler
Councilmember Weisman	Corporation Counsel Gingerich
	Asst. Corporation Counsel Culpepper

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park met on February 9, 1981, at 8:00 P.M., in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the pledge, a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes of January 26, 1981; when put to a vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

MAYOR ABBOTT'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Abbott read his letter addressed to Mr. Robert Childs, Spartonsburg, North Carolina: "Dear Mr. Childs, We are sorry you left our community before we could pay personal thanks to you for your efforts that resulted in the saving of two children's lives in a fire at 103 Sheridan Avenue. Your bravery in the face of a hostile environment is commendable. Not many would have done what you did, and the rewards of saving a life are reflected I'm sure in your personal satisfaction. On behalf of the citizens of Takoma Park, we express to you our heartfelt thanks and gratitude." Mayor Abbott said that a plaque from the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department would be sent along with the letter.

Announced that proposed bills to find an equitable solution to double taxation are now in committee hearings in Annapolis: House Bill 788 is being discussed by the Ways and Means Committee, and Senate Bill 505 by the Finance Committee; stated that more information concerning the bills would be in the next issue of the Newsletter; he urged citizens to write their representatives in support of these bills.

Stated that on Monday, February 23, there will be a Public Briefing on the four alternative proposals from Grier Partnership and the Citizens Ward Redistricting Committee; that Public Hearings would be held later.

Announced that the three consultant reports on Carroll-Laurel Commercial Revitalization have now been consolidated and that Public Briefing on this will be held on Monday, March 16, at which time published materials will be available to citizens.

Regarding Montgomery County Zoning Text Amendment #80019, which would have required a greater distance between group homes (3,000 feet), Mayor Abbott stated that it seemed evident that the County Council would vote to reject the Amendment, which the Mayor and Council had vigorously supported. Along this same line, Mayor Abbott announced that there would be a County Public Hearing on Monday, March 16, in the Municipal Building, at which time the County Executive and County officials would be speaking on the proposed purchase by the County of two alcoholic halfway houses on Maplewood Avenue. Mayor Abbott stated that the Council has always opposed the use of these properties for alcoholic rehabilitation because of the close proximity of the houses which negates an objective of the rehabilitation program to slowly reintroduce the patients into a neighborhood environment. He pointed out that if the County makes the purchase, there is no guarantee that they will continue in the same use; that the concern of the Council is the heavy concentration of County-sponsored group homes and halfway houses in the Takoma Park area, while other areas of the County are not supporting their fair share; it is not the Council's contention that such programs be discontinued, but that they be located throughout the County.

Mayor Abbott announced that on Monday, March 9, the Council will take up the Washington Adventist Hospital's bond issue, saying that the preliminary

work was begun in August 1979, at which time Washington Adventist Hospital requested the City to float a \$20 million revenue bond, but that they have lowered the figure to approximately \$4 million because of reduced need and increased interest rates.

Councilmember Garcia announced a second meeting regarding the adult book store at 6854 New Hampshire Avenue on Wednesday, February 11, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church cafeteria; noted the large turnout at the last meeting; also reported that the store has applied for a building permit involving the expenditure of \$54,000.

Councilmember Ricks reported on the Citizens Cable TV meeting which took place February 4; announced the next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, February 11, and that it is open to all citizens.

Appeal by Joseph Parreco of City Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs' Decision to deny a greater than 10% increase of rent at 8320 Roanoke Avenue; decision by Mayor and Council.

Between 8:20 and 8:40 P.M., the Mayor and Council heard an appeal from Joseph Parreco on the City's Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs' decision to deny a greater than 10% increase. After hearing the decision and receiving the appellant's statement, Councilmember Holland made a motion, duly seconded by Councilmember Ricks, that the Council affirm the Commission's action; when the motion was put to a vote, it was unanimously approved by the Council. Corporation Counsel Gingerich told Mr. Parreco that he would have to immediately comply with the requirements of the Commission's decision. Mr. Parreco was also informed that if he still wished to increase rents above the 10% limit, it would be necessary for him to reinstitute the process and provide appropriate justification.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

1. David Prosten, 7428 Carroll Avenue, Chairman, Citizens Redistricting Committee: informed the Mayor and Council that the Committee has now disbanded after concluding their work; that four alternate proposals, plus modifications, for redistricting of City election wards would be presented to the Mayor and Council on Monday, February 23 at a Public Briefing; that many changes in ward boundaries will be necessary to equalize population within each ward so as to conform with the one man-one vote rule.
2. Karl Kessler, 7228 Carroll Avenue, Barcelona Nut Company: regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocations for improvements/upgrading of commercial areas, asked when the improvements would take place; Mr. Kessler was informed that improvements for the commercial area were included in the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee requests for funding, but allocations have never been made for those improvements.
3. Lou D'Ovidio, 7324 Piney Branch Road: as co-chairman of the Community Development Block Grant-Citizens' Advisory Committee (CDBG-CAC); Mr. D'Ovidio stated that many area citizen associations had placed requests for improvements in the CDBG proposal, but they were not funded; thanked Asst. City Administrator Alan Shaffer for all his help given to the CDBG-CAC, and noted that he, along with Mr. Shaffer and the Mayor had attended the public hearing before the Montgomery County Council and Executive to support the City's requests for CDBG funding. Mr. D'Ovidio stated his concern that the portion of Council meetings for citizen remarks is getting shorter and being moved further and further back on the agenda; felt this was an important part of the meetings and it should always be near the beginning of the agenda; noted that he had written a letter to the Mayor and Council some time ago and had not received a response; suggested that all persons that write to the Council should at least receive an acknowledgement.
4. Larry Morgan, 7108 Cedar Avenue: questioned how extensive the proposed Special Impact Areas of the Parking Permit areas would be; Councilmember Saloma stated the boundaries as listed in the proposed ordinance; Mr. Morgan voiced his support for the Special Impact Areas, noting that it is very difficult to find parking near his home. There followed a discussion on Community Development Block Grant allocations for curbs and gutters in Mr. Morgan's area.

5. Ron Wylie, 7618 Glenside Court: thanked David Prosten for his good work in chairing the Redistricting Committee, and also Lou D'Ovidio for his work as President of Historic Takoma. Stated that he, Phil Vogel and Travis Price had met with Dr. Loveless, President of Columbia Union College, about retaining the historical facade of Columbia Union College's Science Building; hoped the Council would join in with this effort and suggested that a letter from the Council would be helpful. Notified Council of the proposed plan of Prince George's County Board of Education to consolidate 31 area schools, including J. Enos Ray Elementary; that some of the children from this school will be sent to Carole Highlands Elementary; a public hearing on this proposal will be held Wednesday, February 18, at Elenor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. Stated his support for Councilmember Garcia's remarks concerning the adult book store; stated that he would be working with several area groups to try and arrange summer jobs for City youth.
6. John Hemphill, 8112 Flower Avenue, member, Citizens Cable TV Committee: announced the next Cable TV Committee meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 11 and 25; stated that Montgomery County has asked for some indication from the City by the end of the month or early March, as to whether the City will be participating in the County's Cable TV system; suggested the Council schedule a public hearing on this decision soon. Councilmember Holland requested that this item be placed on the Council agenda for March 9.
7. Robert Leyshon, 7105 Cedar Avenue: reiterated his support of proposed changes in Parking Permit Areas by establishing Special Impact Areas, noting that only one objection had been made to the Council on the changes; Councilmember Ricks stated that he had also opposed the changes because he felt it would create barriers around individual neighborhoods; noted that all persons pay the same fee for parking permits, which supports the entire system; that residents of the proposed special impact areas should not consider neighbors who live just outside that area as commuters.
8. Mary Ann Leary, 7301 Takoma Avenue: stated her support for proposed changes in Parking Permit system, specifically Area #1; noted the many parking problems that have arisen since the opening of Metro; many of the people who park on Takoma Avenue (7300 block) live just one or two blocks away; noted her appreciation of Councilmember Ricks' concerns, but felt the change was necessary.
9. Phil Vogel, 7117 Garland Avenue: stated his opposition to the proposed rezoning of Special Study Area D in the Master Plan, changing residential to commercial office use along the 1000 block of University Boulevard; suggested area be left as it is with residential zoning; also noted his concern about the extension of Holton Lane through to University Boulevard; felt this might be detrimental to the residential neighborhood of Holton Lane on the other side of New Hampshire Avenue because commuters would begin using it as a short cut. Mr. Vogel spoke of the placement of citizen remarks on the agenda, stating that citizens should not be made to sit through special interest presentations before being allowed to make remarks on other items; that this results in diminished citizen participation. Suggested that special interest items be heard on other nights, not during Council meetings. Noting that he understood the ratio of rental units to owner-occupied units was roughly $2/3 : 1/3$, Mr. Vogel expressed the opinion that the City has an obligation to provide its fair share of good rental housing, but stated that the Mayor and Council need to re-think their philosophy on rent stabilization and condominium conversions; did not feel that 10% is a fair increase for landlords today; that the problems of the owners eventually translate into problems for tenants. Suggested allowing a limited amount of condominium conversions in high density areas, such as Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway; felt City was becoming over-zealous in their concern for renters. Councilmember Ricks noted that some apartment owners have been allowed more than a 10% rent increase because they could justify them. Mayor Abbott took exception to Mr. Vogel's remarks on rent stabilization and condo conversions, saying that although the City cannot solve a national problem, his own concern for the plight of tenants--fellow human beings--would never abate and he would continue to seek solutions as long as he was in a position to do so; that he would also work to maintain an economic and racial mix in the community.

00030

He and Councilmember Holland suggested that Mr. Vogel express his views in June, when the Council will consider whether or not to extend the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. The Mayor also stated that the rulings of the Landlord-Tenant Commission would be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. He and Councilmember Ricks explained the rationale behind the adoption of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the creation of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Action by Mayor and Council on Prince George's County Portion of the Takoma Park Master Plan. The Mayor and Council reviewed those sections of the Plan identified as Special Study Areas and by proper motion, unanimously approved the staff recommendations for Special Study Areas A, B, C and E. On the matter of Special Study Area D, (University Boulevard between Anne Street and Merrimac Drive), the Council, upon motion, duly seconded, voted 4-3 to request that the present mixed zoning be retained instead of the recommended C-0 zoning. The Council then considered the Master Plan in its entirety and upon motion, duly seconded, unanimously approved the plan with the following modifications:

Special Study Area D: as recorded above.

Holton Lane: The Council voted 6-0, with Councilmember Ramsey abstaining, to request that the opening up of Holton Lane between the City line and University Boulevard (as contained in Chapter IV of the 1963 Takoma Park-Langley Park and Vicinity Master Plan) be deferred until such time that a traffic signal can be installed at the intersection of Holton Lane and New Hampshire Avenue.

Transportation Plan: The Mayor and Council unanimously agreed to request that appropriate language be inserted in the Master Plan to reflect the comments and recommendations of the Longbranch-Sligo Citizens' Association and the Citizens' Traffic Committee given in testimony at the January 25, 1981 Public Hearing.

Fire Station. Upon motion by Mayor Abbott, the Council unanimously adopted the following statement with the request that it be incorporated into the Master Plan: "We advocate strongly our desire for keeping the Fire Station at its present location and urge proper action by the County to ensure its staying here by adequately picking up its share of the expenses to cover services rendered to the Prince George's section of the City."

Upon motion by Councilmember Garcia, duly seconded, the Council unanimously expressed their appreciation to Mr. Neff, Mr. Chang, and members of the planning staff for the many hours and fine work put into the preparation of the Master Plan.

2. Ordinance creating a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #2. After a lengthy discussion, in which Councilmember Ricks noted his opposition to the establishment of Special Impact Areas and suggested that Council consider establishing 2-hour permit parking for these areas; upon motion by Councilmember Holland, duly seconded by Councilmember Weisman, Ordinance #2548 (Attachment A), was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Garcia, Holland, Patrick, Ramsey, Saloma, Weisman. NAY: Councilmember Ricks. EXCUSED: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 2548 (Attachment A)

3. Ordinance creating a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #1. Upon motion by Councilmember Holland, duly seconded by Councilmember Weisman, Ordinance #2549 (Attachment B), was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Garcia, Holland, Patrick, Ramsey, Saloma, Weisman. NAY: Councilmember Ricks. EXCUSED: None.

ORDINANCE NO. 2549 (Attachment B)

4. Ordinance authorizing purchase and appropriating Revenue Sharing Funds for a typewriter -- Library. Upon motion by Councilmember Garcia, duly seconded, Ordinance #2550, below, was adopted by roll call vote as follows: AYE: Councilmembers Garcia, Holland, Patrick, Ramsey, Ricks, Saloma, Weisman. NAY: None. EXCUSED: None.

ORDINANCE #2550

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

SECTION 1. THAT the FY-81 Proposed Use schedule for Federal Revenue Sharing Funds earmarked \$330 for the purchase of a typewriter for the City Library; AND

SECTION 2. THAT the purchase of one Royal 700 typewriter, Serial #30399500, be hereby approved for the net amount of \$326.00, including trade-in allowance; AND

SECTION 3. THAT funds to cover this purchase in the amount of THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$326.00) be appropriated from the Federal Revenue Sharing Account and transferred to the appropriate Library account.

5. Councilmember Holland made a motion, duly seconded by Councilmember Weisman, that a letter be sent to Dr. Loveless, President of Columbia Union College, acknowledging the Mayor and Council's concern that the facade of the Columbia Union College Science Building be retained because of its architectural and historical value to the community; the motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 A.M., to reconvene on Monday, February 23, 1981, at 8:00 P.M.

APPROVED _____

Sam A. Abbott
Mayor

ATTEST _____

Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

Regular Council meeting minutes
February 9, 1981

ORDINANCE NO. 2548

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received numerous complaints of problems in Parking Permit Area #2, stemming from visitor card abuse and the use of parking spaces within easy access to the Metro Station by holders of valid permits who reside in the outlying areas of the Permit Area, thereby depriving the residents of those streets nearest the Metro Station of parking spaces near their homes; AND

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, the Mayor and Council deem it necessary to create a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #2, to be known as Parking Permit Area #2A, for which distinctive parking stickers and visitor cards shall be issued for use by the residents of the Impact Area only, thereby making parking in the Impact Area unavailable to all other residents of Parking Permit Area #2, and requiring that holders of Special Impact Area permits park only in Parking Permit Area #2A.

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

SECTION 1. THAT Ordinance No. 2458, creating Parking Permit Area #2, adopted on January 30, 1978, be amended by the repeal and reenactment of Section 1 and Section 2, to read as follows:

SECTION 1. A. THAT Parking Permit Area #2 be hereby established, said area to include streets lying within the following geographic boundaries: 7300 block of Piney Branch Road to Philadelphia Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue to Carroll Avenue, Carroll Avenue to Eastern Avenue City boundary, Eastern Avenue to Piney Branch Road; AND

B. THAT a Special Impact Area, to be designated as Parking Permit Area #2A, be hereby established to lie within Parking Permit Area #2, and to include the following streets: from Eastern Avenue to the 7300 blocks of Holly, Cedar and Maple Avenues, and on Tulip Avenue from Holly Avenue to Willow Avenue; AND

C. THAT the parking permit stickers and visitor passes for Parking Permit Area #2 and #2A shall be distinguishable; AND

D. THAT holders of valid permits of Parking Permit Area #2 shall be restricted from parking in Permit Area #2A; and that holders of valid permits for Parking Permit Area #2A shall be precluded from parking in any other area of Parking Permit Area #2.

SECTION 2. A. Except where otherwise designated, parking on the following streets shall be restricted to vehicles displaying a Parking Permit #2 sticker between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday: Willow Avenue, Spruce Avenue, Park Avenue, Valley View Avenue, Chesnut Avenue, the 400-500 blocks of Tulip Avenue, and the 7300-7400 blocks of Holly, Cedar and Maple Avenues; AND

B. Except where otherwise designated, parking on the following streets shall be restricted to vehicles displaying a Parking Permit #2A permit between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday: the 7100 through 7200 blocks of Holly, Cedar and Maple Avenues, and the 100 through 300 blocks of Tulip Avenue. AND

SECTION 2. THAT this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and the issuance of the required permits; AND

SECTION 3. THAT the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as prescribed in Sec. 13.63.1(i), Code of Takoma Park, Maryland, 1972, as amended.

ORDINANCE NO. 2549

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received numerous complaints of problems in Parking Permit Area #1, arising out of visitor card abuse and the use of parking spaces within easy access to the Metro Station by holders of valid permits who reside in the outlying sections of the Permit Area, thereby depriving the residents of those streets nearest the Metro Station of parking spaces near their homes; AND

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, the Mayor and Council deem it necessary to create a Special Impact Area within Parking Permit Area #1, to be known as Parking Permit Area #1A, for which distinctive parking stickers and visitor cards shall be issued for use by the residents of the Impact Area only, thereby making parking in the Impact area unavailable to all other residents of Parking Permit Area #1, and requiring that holders of Special Impact Area permits park only in Parking Permit Area #1A.

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

SECTION 1. THAT Ordinance No. 2395, adopted August 9, 1976, and creating Parking Permit Area #1, be amended by the addition of the following new subsection to Section 2:

E. SPECIAL IMPACT AREA: PARKING PERMIT AREA #1A

(1) Where circumstances are such that the intent of the Parking Permit plan is essentially destroyed through the improper use or sale of visitor cards, or by the crowding of a street by cars bearing a valid parking permit, but whose owners reside outside the immediate vicinity, to the extent that residents of a street are deprived of a parking space near their home, a Special Impact Area may be created whereby only the residents of a designated Special Impact Area may park within it and such residents are precluded from parking elsewhere in the Parking Permit Area.

(2) That a Special Impact Area, Parking Permit Area #1A, is hereby established and, except where otherwise designated parking on the following street(s) shall be restricted to vehicles displaying a proper Special Impact Area permit between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday:

(a) Takoma Avenue, between Piney Branch Road and Baltimore Avenue.

AND

SECTION 2. THAT this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and the issuance of the required permits; AND

SECTION 3. THAT the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as stated in Sec. 13.63.1(i), Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

00034

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSESSION
February 17, 1981

Councilmembers present:

Mayor Abbott
Councilmember Garcia
Councilmember Holland
Councilmember Patrick
Councilmember Ramsey
Councilmember Ricks
Councilmember Saloma

City Administrator Gilsdorf

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

1. Briefing of Mayor and Council on Laurel-Carroll Revitalization Project by project consultants. The Mayor and Council were briefed on this item by Assistant City Administrator Shaffer, Thomas Minerd from Montgomery County, John Urciola and Travis Price, consultants.
2. Briefing of Mayor and Council on redistricting alternatives by The Grier Partnership and David Prosten's Redistricting Committee. The Mayor and Council were given a brief presentation on alternative redistricting plans by George and Eunice Grier.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM.

APPROVED _____

Sam A. Abbott
Mayor

ATTEST _____

Herbert W. Gilsdorf
City Administrator

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council
and
Public Briefing on Redistricting Proposals

February 23, 1981

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Abbott

ROLL CALL: Councilmember Garcia
Councilmember Holland
Councilmember Patrick
Councilmember Ramsey
Councilmember Ricks
Councilmember Saloma
Councilmember Weisman

PLEDGE

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 1981

MAYOR ABBOTT'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

BRIEFING OF CITIZENS BY GEORGE GRIER ON SIX PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE REDISTRICTING PLANS, PREPARED BY THE GRIER PARTNERSHIP IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING, DAVID PROSTEN, CHAIRMAN

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

CITIZENS' REMARKS

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: City Administrator Gilsdorf

1. Communications
2. Administrative Reports and Recommendations for Council Action:
 - (1) Proposed ordinance creating two time-controlled parking spaces in front of the Electric Maid, 7006 Carroll Avenue
 - (2) Proposed ordinance awarding bid and appropriating Revenue Sharing Funds for two police vehicles
 - (3) Appointment of Acting Police Chief Stephen W. Carter to the position of Chief of Police

SPECIAL REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council
and
Public Briefing on Redistricting Proposals
February 23, 1981

City Officials Present:

Mayor Abbott	City Administrator Gilsdorf
Councilmember Garcia	Asst. City Administrator Shaffer
Councilmember Holland	City Clerk Pusti
Councilmember Patrick	Police Chief Carter
Councilmember Ricks	Public Works Director Robbins
Councilmember Ricks	Recreation Director Ziegler
Councilmember Saloma	Asst. Corporation Counsel Culpepper
Councilmember Weisman	

The Mayor and City Council of Takoma Park met on February 23, 1981, at 8:00 P.M., in the Council Chamber, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Following the pledge, a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes of February 9, 1981. Councilmember Garcia made a motion, duly seconded by Councilmember Patrick, that the words "and the Citizens Ward Redistricting Committee" be deleted from paragraph 3, page 1, Mayor's Comments, noting that the Redistricting Committee had not actually participated in the drawing-up of the alternatives; the motion was approved by the Council. Regarding paragraph 5, same page, Councilmember Garcia stated that the previous Council had not "always" opposed the use of the Maplewood Avenue properties as alcoholic rehabilitation half-way houses; that he personally supports retention of two houses, but is opposed to the expansion into additional houses; Councilmember Ramsey noted that during his time on the Council, he had abstained from any vote concerning the properties. With the corrections as noted above included, the Council approved the February 9 Council minutes.

MAYOR ABBOTT'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Abbott noted the City's involvement in two law suits, one in which the City is a plaintiff, along with five other Prince George's County municipalities, against County Executive Hogan, who has withheld funds owed to several municipalities to repay alleged County overpayments of 1972 State-shared income tax. The second suit is against the City by Montgomery County, concerning Takoma Park firefighters retirement liability; noted that several articles have appeared in newspapers about this suit, even prior to the County notifying the City of its intention to sue.

Regarding the public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, on the County's intention to purchase the Maplewood Avenue alcoholic rehabilitation properties owned by the Washington Adventist Hospital, (WAH), Mayor Abbott stated that the County Executive has cancelled the hearing because the Hospital has decided not to sell to the County; said that WAH felt its obligations to the City were much stronger than those to the County and this may have been the reason for not selling; Mayor Abbott commended the officials of WAH for their courageous stand against the County.

Urged citizens to express their opinions on double taxation to their State delegates to the Maryland legislature; that the names and addresses of persons to contact are in the current March issue of the City Newsletter; corrected the spelling, as printed in Newsletter, of Delegate Tyras S. Athes.

Announced that he has been asked to speak at the ground-breaking ceremony of a new Seventh-day Adventist community services building located at 501 Sligo Avenue on Monday, March 2, at 12 noon.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Traffic System Management Grant proposal (Mayor Abbott)

City Administrator Gilsdorf requested that the Council remove the proposed ordinance for purchase of police vehicles from agenda, due to fact that all bids received were over the amount budgeted.

Briefing of citizens by George and Eunice Grier on six proposed alternative ward redistricting plans, prepared by the Grier Partnership. Mr. and Mrs. Grier made a presentation to the citizens on the six alternative ward boundary maps, which was followed by a lengthy question and answer period. After some discussion, with comments from citizens, it was decided that all six alternatives would be published in the next issue of the Newsletter, along with a map of the current wards; it was also decided that the Griers would provide the Council with figures that they had used to determine the alternate boundaries. Regarding Councilmember Garcia's earlier remark about the Citizens Ward Redistricting Committee, David Prosten, former chairman of the Committee, stated that Councilmember Garcia was correct in stating that the Committee did not actually have anything to do with the preparation of the alternatives, but they were on hand to do whatever the Griers requested and in fact had done quite a bit of leg-work in counting houses in certain neighborhoods, and that alternate 5 and 6 had been prepared to utilize some suggestions from members of the Committee.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

1. Rino Aldrighetti, 7213 Central Avenue: inquired as to the difference between Council meetings and worksessions; requested that the dates of worksessions be published in the Newsletter. Councilmember Ricks stated that the Council holds worksessions on alternate Mondays (first and third); that worksessions are open to the public, but without public participation; it was also noted that the worksessions can be closed to the public without prior notice when the Council would be discussing things such as personnel matters or litigation.

2. Rev. James Ross, 118 Ritchie Avenue, President, Ritchie Avenue Citizens' Association: requested information on Community Development Block Grant appropriations for improvements to Heffner Park and also information as to why the lot behind the Public Works building on Ritchie Avenue is being used to dump large pieces of concrete and road materials. Community Development Director Shaffer stated that bids are being prepared for the purchase of play equipment for Heffner Park, and beginning this week, improvements will begin on the Heffner Park building. The Public Works Director stated that the property behind the Public Works building was being used by Santa Fe Construction Company, while doing street improvements; that the lot should be cleared within the next week or two.

3. Laurie Palmer, 7419 Cedar Avenue: presented the Council with a petition signed by area residents, which requests that stop signs be placed on Cedar Avenue and Dogwood Avenue where they intersect; stated that hopefully this measure would slow traffic.

4. Mike Hessmed, 7006 Carroll Avenue: requested the designation of two metered parking spaces in front of his business, The Electric Maid, at 7006 Carroll Avenue; noted that there is parking available in a lot behind the store, but that it is always full; that these spaces would help his business.

5. Jean Craig, 7129 Carroll Avenue: requested the Council to appoint a group similar to the Citizens/Businessman Committee, to study the proposed rezoning of the 7100 block of Carroll Avenue from mixture of single-family and apartments, to all single-family; noted that the majority of that block is apartments and the property owners are concerned about this issue; felt that an appointment of a committee for

this issue would be beneficial based on the great progress made by the Citizens/Businessman Committee.

6. Ron Wylie, 7618 Glenside Court: asked how many precious metals dealers were located within the City and how the precious metals law is enforced. Chief of Police Carter stated that at this time there is only one dealer located just outside the City line, and none within the City; that the City police do not enforce this law, which actually regulates the licensing of the dealers if they are found abusing the law; that the Counties hold licensing power. Mr. Wylie asked how many massage parlours are located in the City besides the one located at New Hampshire and Ethan Allen Avenue; Chief Carter stated that the other establishment located in the City is now in the midst of litigation with Prince George's County. Councilmember Ricks reported on the work of Council of Governments and the District of Columbia in this area.

7. David McClave, 306 Elm Avenue: thanked the Mayor, Council and citizens who have helped in the campaign to close the adult bookstore located at 6854 New Hampshire Avenue; the City Administrator noted that he has spoken with County Executive Hogan's assistant, Wilbert Wilson, who stated that because the County could not find any real violations of ordinances dealing with adult bookstores, they had focused on a thorough investigation of violations pertaining to permits and ordinances, and had come up with two minor violations concerning a non-current boiler permit and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission connection problem; Mr. Wilson did note that the County is still trying to do something with the store and also that they do feel pressure from citizens to get something done.

8. Carl Iddings, 7416 Carroll Avenue: commended the Griers for their professional presentation on ward redistricting; stated his support for the appointment of Acting Chief of Police Carter to the position of Chief of Police, saying that it was an excellent choice; concerning Jean Craig's suggestion for the appointment of another committee, felt it was a good idea, but it would cause an inordinate delay in the adoption of the Master Plan.

9. Karl Kessler, 7328 Carroll Avenue, Barcelona Nut Shop: supported Jean Craig's suggestion for appointment of a committee to study the rezoning of properties in the 7100 block of Carroll Avenue; noted that the Businessmen/Citizen Committee has made much progress in support for the installation of two parking meters to be located in front of the Electric Maid on Carroll Avenue.

10. Inge Younger, 1017 Elm Avenue: asked how precious metals ordinances were enforced within City. Chief of Police Carter stated that all gold and silver dealers must be licensed by the Counties and provide timely listings of merchandise purchased to the County police departments; these lists are reviewed weekly by City police officers to determine if any of the merchandise is from the City; noted that Prince George's County only requires a five day holding period for merchandise, but Montgomery County has a fifteen day period, which is much better, because it gives more time for investigation.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Communications

1. Dr. William Loveless, President, Columbia Union College. Informed Council that the College would make every effort to save the facade of the old science building because of its unique architectural significance as requested by the Council; that they will cooperate if it can be done economically and in a way that will give maximum use of the facility.

2. Donalda Mosby, Asst. Ex. Director, D.C. Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc. Advising City that Association has applied for renewal of Montgomery County Group Home License for group home located at

7303 Piney Branch Road; that in contacting the three neighboring property owners, they have received no opposition to the renewal, and expressed support and concern for the program's continuance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Proposed ordinance creating two time-controlled parking spaces in front of the Electric Maid, 7006 Carroll Avenue. Chief of Police Carter stated that the Electric Maid is located near the intersection of Carroll and Laurel Avenues; that the installation of the two metered spaces would eliminate approximately forty-feet of clearance along Carroll Avenue, which is now being used effectively as a right-turn lane for persons headed in the direction of the Metro station; that installing these two spaces would cause some additional back-up of traffic at this intersection and would somewhat restrict the visibility of pedestrians. After discussing the pros and cons of the proposal, the Council accepted the ordinance for First Reading.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

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

SECTION 1. THAT Sec. 13-30, "Parking meter zones; thirty minute limit," of Article 4, Chapter 11, of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended, be amended by the addition of the following subsection:

(5) Carroll Avenue, West curb, directly in front of
7006 Carroll Avenue 2 meters

AND

SECTION 2. THAT this ordinance shall become effective upon completion of the installation of the parking meters as set forth in Section 1; AND

SECTION 3. THAT the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be as prescribed in Sec. 13-42 of the Code of Takoma Park, Md., 1972, as amended.

2. Appointment of Acting Police Chief Stephen W. Carter to the position of Chief of Police. City Administrator Gilsdorf recommended that Acting Police Chief Carter be named Chief of Police; that in view of his excellent performance, his position as Acting Chief be changed to the permanent status of Police Chief. Upon motion by Councilmember Ricks, duly seconded by Councilmember Saloma, the Council unanimously approved the City Administrator's recommendation to name Stephen Carter Chief of Police. Mayor Abbott noted his own enthusiastic support of this move by the Council, and that if given the chance, he would also have voted in the affirmative.

3. Regarding the Transportation Systems Management (TSM) grant application, Mayor Abbott stated that proposed application is for the Department of Transportation (DOT) Management Assistance Program, which was announced in the Federal Register, December 1, 1980; that a letter of interest and proposal for the grant must be submitted to the Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board, the Maryland Office of Transportation Planning, and the State Highway Administration, for their endorsement prior to it being forwarded onto the Federal Highway Administration for final consideration; stated that he has placed this item on the agenda to secure Council approval of the proposal; noted that the deadline for submission of all information necessary is March 1, 1981. Mr. Carl Iddings, Chairman of the Citizens Traffic Committee, stated that he had brought the grant proposal to the Mayor's attention just a week ago, not realizing the deadline to be so close; that he had attended the Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board meeting on February 18 as the alternate for the Mayor, presenting the

Board with a letter of interest from the Mayor and grant proposal estimated at \$130,000; the proposal would entail funds for the hiring of a part-time TSM coordinator so the City could take advantage of the numerous TSM projects offered region-wide, funds for implementation of the coordinator's projects, and funds for implementing a demonstration project that is conceived to be bikeways through the City from the Metro station to Sligo Creek Parkway and possibly farther; Mr. Iddings noted that the only possible drawback would be that it is suggested there be a local match of funds - \$2 locally for each \$1 of federal money; stated that this local match could be made in "in-kind" funds, or services/money already budgeted/supplied by the City. Some Councilmembers noted that while this may be a worthwhile grant to investigate, they felt it was inappropriate for the Mayor and Mr. Iddings to pursue this, without the Council's input on it, since it has come down to their approval at this time; Councilmembers also noted their reservations of matching funds, with the City budget problems as they are at this point. Councilmember Ramsey stated that he felt the Mayor had done the appropriate thing by making the presentation to COG, taking into account the March 1 deadline. Mayor Abbott stated that if matching funds cannot be acquired through the City, that they will be obtained through other sources, noting that Montgomery County has kept over \$250,000 of Takoma Park taxpayers money that was specifically allocated for Park and Planning; that conceivably, if the City should receive the grant, Park and Planning, knowing that the money is coming, could make good use of the extra money collected from City residents and not spent here, by contributing the matching funds for the grant. Mayor Abbott made a motion, duly seconded by Councilmember Ramsey, that the Council approve the grant application. After a lengthy discussion during which Councilmembers noted that they did not know the specifics of the application and would like to have something written on this before them, Councilmember Ricks moved that the motion be amended to state that the City has no matching funds available at this time; this amendment was discussed, but not seconded. Councilmember Weisman made a motion, duly seconded, that the Mayor's motion be amended to state that matching funds would come from Park and Planning, as the Mayor had noted, and other sources; when the motion for amendment was put to a vote, it was approved by the Council. When the original motion to approve the application, with Councilmember Weisman's amendment included, was put to a vote, it was approved unanimously by the Council.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 A.M., to reconvene on Monday, March 9, 1981, at 8:00 P.M.