

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*
MICHAEL J. DORSEY
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

Conducted via Zoom

July 13, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Michael Mezey, Chairman; Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian; Michael Dorsey, Council member; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and three residents.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council heard questions and concerns from members of the audience.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

The Village Council met in closed session on June 8 at 8:38 p.m., pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the Maryland General Provisions, to discuss the payment of part-time hourly front desk staff while the Village Center is closed to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Village Council met in closed session on June 23, beginning at 5:17 p.m., pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the Maryland General Provisions, to discuss

the compensation level appropriate for a part-time receptionist to fill a current vacancy.

There will be no Council meeting in August. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to approve the minutes of the Council's public session of June 8; closed session minutes of June 8; and the closed session minutes of June 23. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for period ending June 30, 2020.

Discussion/vote on the transfer of Village funds: Due to the sale of Revere Bank to Sandy Spring Bank, staff announced that it had begun the process of opening new accounts with Capital Bank. Mr. Dorsey expressed concern regarding the transfer of Village funds. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to allow the staff to continue the process of transferring Village funds to the new bank. The motion carried. (6-1-0)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from the Community Advisory Committee: Ms. White reported that the Community Advisory Committee met via conference call on June 9 and discussed the following:

- (1) Complaints from residents that construction noise at 4620 North Park Avenue starts well before 8:00 a.m., which violates the Village regulation prohibiting construction before 8:00 a.m. Mr. Mansfield has requested the manager of 4620 remind contractors of the regulation.
- (2) Brooks Brothers' filing for protection under Chapter 11; Sur La Table's plan to close.
- (3) Favorable comments regarding the new shuttle buses. Riders especially appreciate the benefit of seat belts. In view of residents' concerns that some bus riders were not wearing masks, the Council provided bus drivers masks to offer to those riders.
- (4) A complaint that no notice of Covid-19 testing was posted in Highland House West;
- (5) Willard Towers Apartments noted as the new name for the building at 4701 Willard Ave formerly known as the Irene and under management by the same group that manages the Elizabeth.

- (6) A complaint that the shuttle bus is not always on schedule during the week;
 - (7) Compliments to the shuttle bus for staying on schedule during weekends.
- The next meeting will be August 6 at 5:15 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the Village's Response to the Corona Virus: Mr. Mansfield recapped that on July 8 the County tested 357 people for COVID-19 at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center. All but three were asymptomatic. Those with symptoms were screened at the entrance and tested separately outdoors. According to the organizers, the testing went smoothly, however, residents complained about difficulties with registering, and the County's call center was down for several days. Village staff reported these concerns to the County. Results of the testing should be received next week. No additional testing has been scheduled for the Village, due to the demand from other communities.

The County is still in Phase 2 of its reopening, which does not include senior and recreation centers. In the absence of further guidelines from the County and State, the Center will remain closed.

In connection with the Center's eventual opening and return to programming on site, Ms. O'Neil of the staff reported informally surveying several residents, program participants and volunteers on whether they would take advantage of the opportunity. All indicated they would. Those surveyed communicated their expectations that the safety protocols would be enforced: the use of face masks, social distancing and hand sanitizer, *inter alia*, as well as the installation of a plastic shield at the front desk.

Staff is working with Giant to schedule flu shots for September 30, and pneumonia shots for October 7 per CDC protocols, assuming the reopening of the Center.

Online programming is going well. Twin Springs, currently the Center's only activity on site, offers its farmers' market every Saturday.

Discussion/vote on Council mandate that masks be worn on all Village Property:

Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Mezey seconded, that the Council mandate masks be worn on all Village property to include parks and sidewalks where social distancing is difficult to maintain. The Council did not vote on the motion.

Mayor White suggested that the Council encourage residents to follow County guidelines for wearing masks. The Council unanimously agreed.

Discussion/vote on proposal to plant 15 street trees in the Village: Mr. Mansfield reported that staff solicited bids to plant 15 trees along Village streets per the Council's approval of the plan presented last month. Proposals were received (1) from Stadler Nurseries, recommended by arborist Kevin Clair, costing \$5,810, including delivery and installation; and (2) from Brightview Landscape Services, one of the companies that bid on the Village landscape maintenance contract, costing \$9,853.49. Two other interested parties did not submit proposals.

Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to approve the proposal from Stadler Nurseries to plant 15 street trees for a total cost of \$5,810, including delivery and installation. The motion carried. (6-0-1)

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on renewal of membership in Maryland Municipal League: Mr. Mansfield announced that the Village's membership in the Maryland Municipal League was up for renewal and that the annual dues for the Village's had not increased from last year.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to approve the Village's membership in the Maryland Municipal League for fiscal 2020-2021 at a cost of \$9,258.26. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Discussion/vote on August Council meeting: Mr. Dorsey stated that in past years, the Council has not scheduled a meeting in August, but during the COVID-19 pandemic the Council should meet in August.

Mr. Dorsey moved that the Council schedule a meeting in August. The motion died for lack of a second.

A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Durbin moved, Ms. Cooper seconded, to schedule a Council meeting in August if the Council determines that a meeting is necessary. The motion carried. (6-1-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Cooper moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. to enter closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provision Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance

evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Respectfully submitted,


Paula Durbin