

## **Council Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2023**

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL AND IN-PERSON

**Council Members Present:** Andrew Kauders; Susan Fattig; Arthur Alexander; Katie Howard; Jeff Blander

**Residents and other Attendees:** Village Manager: Michael Silliman; Building Administrator: Doug Lohmeyer; Village Attorney: Ron Bolt; Keith Allen (Turner Ln.); Larry Wasson (Delfield St.); Marty Langelan (Chestnut St.); Joel Kliksberg (Quincy St.); George McAleese (Melville Pl.); Lorie Mitchell (Cummings Ln.); Doug Grob (Shepherd St.); Susan Kahn (Bradley Ln.); Peter Kahn (Bradley Ln.); William LeoGrande (Chestnut St.); Steve Howard (Taylor St.); Lynn Welle (Oxford St.); and Yasmina Mudarres (Shepherd St.).

### **7:30 PM Call to Order: Kauders.**

Weather: Keith Allen gave his weather report. We are expecting some rainstorms and a much colder month in April compared to the first part of this year. We've had a very dry and warm Winter and start to Spring.

**7:33 PM Building Administrator's Report: Lohmeyer.** Doug Lohmeyer delivered his report.

**7:35 PM Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: Kauders.** Susan Fattig proposed an amendment. The Council agreed to postpone the passing of the March minutes.

Andrew Kauders raised an issue that has been on his mind. The March meeting devolved into an unpleasant scene. He apologized if any residents were offended or impacted. Andrew said he's calling for the Council to go into closed session, to obtain legal advice, to address this matter further.

### **Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments.**

Larry Wasson brought up infrastructure and safety issues again. He thanked Katie Howard for showing up to support during flooding and gas leaks. Larry also said he finds removing villager comments from the minutes objectionable.

Marty Langelan asked if live questions would be allowed at the Candidate Forum. She also asked that the Village invite everyone in the Village to building variance hearings and preconstruction informational meeting. Marty also asked that the Council table the charter amendment to change the language around voting criteria. Lastly, she asked Arthur how much money we have in our savings account.

Joel Kliksberg commented that his tour of the Village has been spirited but has revealed to him a deep divide in the community. He asked the other candidates to use the Candidate Forum to help move this community beyond this divide.

### **Committee Updates: Kauders.**

**Community Engagement:** Keith Allen invited residents to the Community Engagement Committee meeting. He said the committee will be discussing the Celebration on the Sidewalk, the Shepherd Street Block Party, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, and the Movie nights.

**Election:** George McAleese reported that the election is well underway. Reminder: the Candidate Forum is next week, and the committee is currently accepting questions. The Voter Roll has been sent to the vendor. Ballots will go out shortly after the Forum.

**8:12 PM Ethics:** Lorie Mitchell delivered the Ethics Committee report.

### **Discussion and Possible Introduction of a Charter Amendment (No. 2023-1) to amend section 301 of the Village of Martin's Additions Charter.**

Village Attorney Ron Bolt provided the context and background of this proposed amendment. Language was included to clarify that residents who are temporarily absent are still considered to be residents of the Village and therefore still able to vote in Village elections. There was discussion and agreement that further discussions will be had after this charter amendment is introduced. Arthur moved to introduce. Susan seconded. Charter Amendment No. 2023-1 was introduced unanimously.

### **8:33 PM Discussion of Introduced Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Ordinance (No. 2023-2) and Tax Rates Resolution (No. 2023-3).**

Arthur Alexander went over the amendments to the March introduced budget.

**Treasurer's Report: Alexander.** Arthur Alexander delivered the treasurer's report.

### **Discuss resident requests to remove parking spaces from behind their driveways and the practice and methods of indicating no parking.**

Village Manager Michael Silliman explained the two issues at hand here. First, several residents have requested the public parking spaces across from their driveways be removed as access to those driveways can be difficult. Second, yellow paint does not by itself legally indicate no parking, under the Code as currently written. Yellow paint used in prior years therefore does not indicate no parking. Instead, the Village uses no parking signage to indicate no parking. The Council directed Michael to ask the Village Traffic Engineer Joe Cutro to provide his expert advice and make a recommendation.

**Manager's Report: Silliman.** Michael Silliman delivered his Village Manager's report.

### **Opportunity for Council to Hear Residents' Comments**

Larry Wasson commented that water issues on Taylor are being talked about before the issue of water coming down his driveway. Larry also asked about the Village relationship with the Chevy Chase fire board and appointing a third member to that board.

Lynn Welle issued a complaint about the illegal parking on the corner of Oxford and Quincy. Lynn further recommended that the snow removal budget roll over from year to year so that the money would accumulate when not used.

Susan Kahn commented on the need for stop signs and crosswalks on Brookville Road. Susan also brought up the idea of establishing cut-throughs between the streets other than the Brookville sidewalk. Lastly, Susan said she recalled that the Election Plan said that the Candidate Forum would not be moderated at the sole discretion of the Election Committee. Susan brought up the question about the option of live questions at the Forum.

Marty Langelan thanks everyone for a good meeting. She suggested a community forum to discuss safety and other infrastructure issues and that the Village Manager make a task management page on the website to communicate everything going on in real time.

Jeffery Goldberg made a comment that there is enough water to make an aquarium on Oxford and Quincy streets.

**10:50 PM Closed Session.** In open session, Jeff moved to enter closed session pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(7) to, and Susan seconded. The Council obtained legal advice on how to improve interpersonal relationships, maintain decorum and civility at meetings and how to respond to a Public Information Act request. The Council obtained legal advice. The Council directed the Village Attorney on how to respond to the PIA request. No other action was taken.

**11:29 PM Adjournment: Kauders.** Susan motioned and Arthur seconded. Adjournment was unanimous.