

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

CLARA M. LOVETT, *Mayor*

JOHN R. MERTENS, *Chairman*

MICHAEL J. DORSEY, *Vice Chairman*

PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*

KATHLEEN COOPER, *Treasurer*

DAVID LEWIS, *Parliamentarian*

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Historian*

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

LESLIE STRATHMANN, *Village Manager 1987-1996*

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APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING July 13, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Clara M. Lovett, Mayor; John R. Mertens, Chairman; Michael J. Dorsey, Vice Chairman; Paula Durbin, Secretary; Kathleen Cooper, Treasurer; David Lewis, Parliamentarian; Melanie Rose White, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and approximately 25 residents.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Mertens called the Village Council Meeting to order.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Lovett made the following announcements:

The Council's Communications Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:00 p.m., in the Village Center. This meeting will be open to the public.

The Council's Capital Improvements Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 4, at 5:30 p.m., in the Village Center. This meeting will be open to the public.

There will be no Council meeting in August. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Center.

There will be an executive session to discuss personnel issues following tonight's meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The public and executive session minutes of the Council meetings held on June 8, 2015 and the executive session minutes of the Council Personnel Committee meeting held on June 17, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Cooper presented the financial summary for the period ending June 30, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on nominees for the Program Advisory Committee: Mr. Mertens recommended the following nominees for the Program Advisory Committee: Elaine El-Khawas, Stephanie Olshan, and Laura Pirocanac.

Elaine El-Khawas, Stephanie Olshan, and Laura Pirocanac were approved for the Program Advisory by unanimous consent.

Discussion/vote on pricing for Village history book: Mr. Mertens stated that as part of the Village Centennial celebration, the Council authorized the printing of 1,000 copies of a Village history book on the first hundred years of the Village. He noted that the question before the Council relates to the distribution, specifically whether and what to charge for the history books.

- (R) Mr. Durbin moved; Ms. Cooper seconded, to distribute the Village history book free of charge—one copy per household. Interested residents and others may pick up the book at the Village Center front desk after giving their name and address. Discussion ensued. The motion carried. (4-2-1)**

Request from The Carleton to remove five trees in the courtyard: Mr. Mertens stated that the Carleton has requested permission to remove five trees from their courtyard. A written recommendation from their arborist, ValleyCrest, indicated that the trees are older and in decline. The trees have several dead and dying branches and are also infested with a variety of insect pests.

The request from The Carleton to remove the five trees from their courtyard was approved by unanimous consent.

Discussion/vote on proposals to provide increases for maintenance staff and security guard: Mr. Mansfield reported on the proposal from Gali Service Industries, the Village maintenance contractor, to provide a 3% increase in the hourly rate for Hector Garcia, the full-time maintenance employee, and Sandra Ramos, the evening/weekend maintenance employee. Both employees continue to do very good work. The increase for Mr. Garcia would increase the contract cost to the Council by \$2,137.80 per year. The increase in contract cost for Ms. Ramos is a little harder to quantify because of fluctuation in her hours of work. The 3% increase for both employees would be effective July 1, 2015. These increases were anticipated in the FY16 Budget. Mr. Mansfield noted that there is no increase requested from the security contractor for security guards at this time.

- (R) **Mr. Dorsey moved; Ms. Lovett seconded, to approve the contract from Gali Service Industries to provide an increase of 3% in the hourly rate for Hector Garcia and Sandra Ramos effective July 1, 2015. The motion carried. (7-0-0)**

Discussion/vote on renewal of membership to Maryland Municipal League: Mr. Mertens stated that the Maryland Municipal League membership dues for this year is \$8,413.25. This amount represents a 2% increase from last year.


The renewal of the Maryland Municipal League membership in the amount of \$8,413.25 was approved by unanimous consent.

Presentation by Casey Anderson, Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board: Ms. Lovett introduced Casey Anderson, Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board. Mr. Anderson's presentation included economic trends and changes in demographics in the Chevy Chase and Friendship Heights area over the last fifteen years. Retail trends in the area, the successes of this urban location, and some possible enhancements were also highlighted. A brief question and answer session ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Mr. Lewis moved; Mr. Dorsey seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and move to Executive Session as cited under Section 3.305(b)(1) of the Maryland State Code. The motion carried. (7-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Paula Durbin
Secretary