

**Town of Riverdale Park**  
**Special Legislative Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2022**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager  
Jessica Barnes, Director of Administrative Services/Town Clerk  
Ryan Chelton, Director of Development Services  
Rosa Guixens, Acting Chief of Police  
Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services  
Ivy Lewis, Director of Public Projects and Services  
Paul Smith, Director of Finance and Employee Services

**Absent**

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5

**Call to Order**

Mayor Thompson called the Legislative Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

**Approval of Agenda**

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the agenda for the September 19, 2022, Special Legislative Meeting. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

There were no changes to the agenda or stated conflicts of interest.

**Presentation**

Proclamation in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month

Mayor Thompson read a proclamation in recognition of Hispanic Heritage month in Spanish and in English.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Alan K. Thompson reported:

- COVID-19 Update: reminder to get vaccinated and boosted as multiple layers of protection were needed; installing UVC units at Town Hall; discussion regarding new variants; reminder to wear masks and avoid poorly ventilated areas
- Overview of potential development project near Town Center: The Lofts at Riverdale Park; will be meeting with the developers in the coming weeks; please contact your CM or County CM Glaros with concerns
- Discussion regarding potential development project on the Chambers Funeral Home property at Madison Street and Cleveland Avenue; recently attended a M-UTC meeting
- Food Hall open at Riverdale Park Station
- Redistricting Committee will meet on September 21<sup>st</sup>; plan to present 3 potential ward maps, will also meet on 10/19 and 11/16
- Flooding Update: received a response from the County and a response letter will be sent this week; attended a recent meeting regarding pumping station with Mayors Gant and Adams; concerned regarding speed of implementation

### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager John N. Lestitian reported:

- Upper air UVC Units installed in DPW, Town Hall, and PD last week, creating a safer environment for staff
- Close to receiving permit for the Town Hall building renovations; expect permit by the end of the week; construction could start in approximately 6 weeks
- Tree Summit on September 10<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic event; 52 attendees (including staff and speakers); great dialogue, special thanks to the Green Team for organizing the event
- Walk & Talk held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, joined by Edmonston Mayor Gant and Town Administrator Barnes to talk about potential pedestrian way project
- Hispanic Heritage Month- a good time to recognize that 55% of Town's population identifies as Latino
- Redistricting Committee Meeting scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom
- Residential Parking Permit Meeting scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> via Zoom
- Legislative Meeting scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Ethics Commission Meeting scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Monthly Finance Report**

Gentry Jones, Deputy Director of Finance Services, reported, subject to audit:

#### July

Revenue \$199,492

Expenditures \$447,814

#### August

Revenue \$195,847

Expenditures \$528,559

#### Year-to-Date

Revenue \$395,339

Expenditures \$976,413

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt the Finance Report, subject to audit. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Deputy Director Jones discussed the County's delay in sending out property tax bills. Mayor Thompson stated that the delay in sending out the property tax bills was due to supply chain issues.

**Correspondence Summary**

The Correspondence Summary was included in the Meeting Materials. There were no questions or comments regarding the Correspondence Summary.

**Fire Department Report**

There was no report from the Fire Department.

Mayor Thompson stated that he had received a letter from a Town resident regarding Fire Department volunteers.

**Council Committee & Ward Reports**

**CM Richard Smith, Ward 1**

CM Richard Smith reported:

- Sorry he could not make it to the Tree Summit and Walk & Talk; was on travel for day job
- Happy to hear about potential pedestrian way project with Town of Edmonston
- Discussion regarding future potential development in Ward 1
- Discussion regarding MARC train schedule and the need to increase the schedule
- Discussion regarding community meeting about The Lofts at Riverdale Park and community engagement

**CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2**

CM Aaron Faulx reported:

- Recently tested positive for COVID-19 and had approximately ten (10) symptoms; reminder to be aware of the multitude of symptoms related to COVID-19
- Reminder to get boosted, and wear masks
- Discussion regarding noise and speed concerns on East-West Highway
- Discussion regarding potential development in Town Center: concerns regarding height of building and traffic

*Discussion:*

Mayor Thomson stated that he had received outreach from a resident on Ravenswood Road regarding noise from East-West Highway

**CM David Lingua, Ward 3**

CM David Lingua reported:

- Unable to attend Walk & Talk due to a scheduling conflict related to jury duty
- Appreciated efforts of staff and input from residents on projects in Ward 3
- Seeking more ways to be climate resilient
- Resigned from CKAR CDC Board in July; great group to work with and doing good things along the Kenilworth Avenue corridor; encouraged other members of Council to consider joining
- School back in session; appreciates the lane marking on Rivertech Court as part of the Walk, Bike, Drive Safety Initiative; looking forward to hearing more about additional projects to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety

**CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4**

CM Thomas Sadiq reported:

- Upcoming trip overseas
- Cannot get boosted yet, must be six months after last infection

**CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6**

CM Hala Mayers did not have a report.

**Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Consent Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on non-agenda or consent agenda items.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda items:

1. Fence Permit Request: 4711 Riverdale Road; 6-foot wood fence in backyard (Ward 1)
2. Street Closure Request: 6200 block of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street on September 17, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for annual Block Party (Ward 1)
3. Minutes: June 27, 2022, Special Legislative Meeting; June 27, 2022, Work Session; November 22, 2021, Work Session; December 6, 2021, Legislative Meeting

CM Faulx made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Sadiq. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

**Legislative Action Items**

1. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-14 amending the Emergency Repair Grant Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-14 amending the Emergency Repair Grant Program in response to flooding in Town. The motion was seconded by CM Faulx. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Development Services Director Ryan Chelton provided an overview of the amendments to the Emergency Repair Grant Program.

CM Smith asked about the threshold for the waiver of the matching grant and Director Chelton provided an overview. CM Smith stated that he was concerned that the threshold was too low, and Town Manager Lestitian provided additional clarification.

CM Sadiq asked what documentation needed to be provided and CM Chelton provided an overview.

CM Lingua asked for clarity regarding Airbnbs and whether they were qualified to receive an Emergency Repair Grant. Town Manager Lestitian stated that Airbnbs were not addressed in the legislation and staff would review the matter over the next several months to determine if it needed to be addressed.

CM Smith asked for clarification regarding qualified businesses. Director Chelton discussed the programs available for new businesses. Town Manager Lestitian discussed the types of repairs that would qualify for the Emergency Repair Grant.

Mayor Thompson asked about the definition of a natural disaster and Director Chelton stated that it would be interpreted by the Grant Review Committee.

CM Lingua stated that he appreciated the staff efforts to amend and expand the program.

2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-15 establishing the Flood Prevention and Damage Mitigation Program

CM Lingua made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-R-15 establishing the Flood Prevention and Damage Mitigation Program. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Director Chelton provided an overview of the Flood Prevention and Damage Mitigation Program.

CM Smith stated that he appreciated staff's work to develop the program as many Ward 1 residents would be able to take advantage of the program.

CM Lingua also thanked staff for their work in establishing the program.

Mayor Thompson asked about the County flood plain qualification and Director Chelton provided an overview.

**New Business**

1. Motion regarding Street Closure Request: 4500 block of 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Oliver Street and Riverdale Road, on October 1, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Block Party (Ward 1)

CM Smith made a motion to approve the Street Closure Request for the 4500 block of 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Oliver Street and Riverdale Road, on October 1, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Block Party. CM Faulx seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained  
CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Aye  
CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye  
CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye  
CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye  
CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent  
CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye

*Discussion:*

Resident Jillian Villars discussed the event and stated that block parties were a great way to meet neighbors.

2. Mayor Thompson stated that he recently saw a tweet about a municipality on the Eastern Shore that was banning disposable plastic bags and he looked forward to learning more about their experience.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**Adjournment**

CM Faulx made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Smith. Vote: 5-0-1 (Favorable)

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Alan K. Thompson: Abstained

CM Richard Smith, Ward 1: Absent

CM Aaron Faulx, Ward 2: Aye

CM David Lingua, Ward 3: Aye

CM Thomas Sadiq, Ward 4: Aye

CM Karen Mejia, Ward 5: Absent

CM Hala Mayers, Ward 6: Aye