



**MEETING OF  
UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEO AND AUDIO CONFERENCE  
7:30 p.m.  
April 3, 2023  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: *Mayor Biermann at 7:32PM***

**Present:** Mayor Biermann, Mr. Dubayah, Ms. Gathercole, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Wells and Mr. Sweet  
**Absent:** Ms. Morrissey and Mr. McGaughey

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion: To amend the agenda requesting that item 6A be moved between items 3 and 4.

**Moved by: Ms. Wells**

**Seconded by: Ms. Gathercole**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *March 20, 2023***

**Moved by: Mr. Sweet**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wells**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**A. RESOLUTION HONORING ANN AND HAROLD FREEMAN**

Mr. Morgan moved that we adopt the resolution to honor Ann and Harold Freeman for their service and their time in University Park.

**Moved by: Mr. Morgan**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wells**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A resident thanked Chief Baker and Staff for helping to find a missing person. He also stated that he was disappointed with the budget regarding the Town Administrator position and the park plan.
- A resident wished Ann and Harold Freeman the best. He also stated that the discussion of putting lights in the park is taking away money that can be spent on other things.
- A resident stated that her primary concern is with using ARPA funds to justify a tax decrease, etc.
- A resident supports further conversation regarding the lighting in the park.

**5. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

**Mayor Biermann**

- ARPA spending did not factor in any way into the proposed tax cut, and it cannot in any way factor into a tax cut under the federal rules. In the budget, everything related to ARPA is an expenditure that the Town would otherwise not be making. The ARPA funds are not funding the police force or the Department of Public Works. Remove ARPA from the equation, and our tax base is still funding Town operations. It's funding everything in town operations, and we can still fund Town operations through our tax base even with a tax cut—that's why I put it in there. For many of us in the workforce, we can attest that raises are not outpacing inflation, so this seems like the reasonable thing to do.
- With respect to the Town Administrator position, I am in support of having a capable person in this role. I made two nominations to this position that I thought would knock this role out of the park. I am also of the belief that at every level of government when a chief executive makes an appointment, there should be some deference to that appointment. People can disagree, but in general that's how America operates. I gave two names. One is off the market now. The other one who is a retired lieutenant colonel who was the chief of staff to a general officer, he's still available. He's a town manager in another state who recently reached out again to see if there was interest in hiring him, and he has impeccable qualities.

**The Police Traffic and Public Safety Committee – Ms. Gathercole**

- The next meeting is April 12.
- Will discuss the possibility of placing parking restrictions at Wells Parkway and lighting in the park.

**The Development and Overview Committee – Ms. Wells**

- The next meeting is April 13.
- There will be a presentation by the developer of the 9 Pond/Dewey project.
- The floc tank appeared to have disengaged in the past week or so. There have been some issues with mud in the creek. DPIE, Soil Conservation District (Environmental Protection) and County Councilman Eric Olson have been notified.

**Public Facilities and Services Committee – Mr. Morgan**

- Will prioritize recommendations in RKK's Stormwater Management Report, and
- begin talking about Town Hall.
- The next meeting is April 20.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

**Motion:** To approve the appointment of Michelle Wedge as a Supervisor of Elections to fulfill the remainder of the two-year term vacated by Heidi Bulich that began on March 1, 2022.

**Moved by: Ms. Gathercole**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wells**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**C. APPROVE NEW UPPD GENERAL ORDER 306.8, *JOB DESCRIPTION, CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER***

**Motion:** To approve new General Order 306.8, Code Compliance officer job description.

**Moved by: Mr. Sweet**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wells**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**D. APPROVE NEW UPPD GENERAL ODER 321.0, *CONSTITUTIONAL POLICING***

**Motion:** To approve new General Order 321.0, Constitutional Policing

**Moved by: Mr. Dubayah**

**Seconded by: Ms. Gathercole**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**E. APPROVE NEW UPPD GENERAL ORDER 1200.0, *HANDLING COMPLAINTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS.***

**Motion:** To approve new General Order 1200.0, the handling of Complaints and Administrative Investigations.

**Moved by: Ms. Gathercole**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wells**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**F. APPROVE NEW UPPD GENERAL ORDER 1300.3, *PHYSICAL FITNESS***

**Motion:** To approve new General Order 1300.3, Physical Fitness.

**Moved by: Ms. Wells**

**Seconded by: Mr. Morgan**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

**G. INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 23-O-03: FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET  
(*Introduction*)**

**Motion:** To approve the introduction of Legislative Resolution 23-O-03: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

**Moved by: Mr. Sweet**

**Seconded by: Ms. Gathercole**

**Yea: 5**

**Nay: 0**

**Abstain:**

- Ms. Gathercole read the comments below submitted by Ms. Morrissey as she was unable to attend the meeting.

*This is Laurie Morrissey, Town resident since 2007 and Ward 3 Councilmember since 2018. I want to comment on two things. First, I want to thank former Mayor Harold Freeman for his years of service to our Town. I wish him and his wife much happiness in their new home.*

*My second comment is about the Mayor's proposed budget. There are a number of alarming proposals in it that would be detrimental to the Town if enacted. The Mayor has decided to nullify his January 5 request for me to lead a search for a new Town Administrator and wasted considerable time and money in the process, not to mention my trust. CMs Gathercole and Morgan and I have worked hard to create a new draft advertisement for the posting and have met with the Mayor in good faith to find candidates who would suit his and the Town's needs. He has gone back on his word and blindsided me in the process. I am out of state for the next 6 days, but when I return, I will share his seemingly honest and heartfelt request to me on January 5 with the Council and others in order to document what has transpired. The Town desperately needs consistent professional management and it has had none since mid-December. I tried my best to meet the Mayor's requirements in good faith. After meeting with him, Ms. Gathercole and Mr. Morgan on February 6, the Mayor agreed to move forward with that recruitment. The process was further delayed despite a unanimous Council vote on February 21 to proceed with this recruitment effort. This was all for naught. I am deeply disturbed and appalled to find out that that Town funds and our time were wasted. But it is the residents of our Town who are harmed the most.*

*Also, several weeks ago I tried to explain to the Mayor why lights in the town park are unnecessary and harmful, yet he proceeded with putting this expensive and wasteful expenditure in the budget anyway, while cutting funding for other functions in the Town.*

*Regards,  
Laurie K. Morrissey*

**7. ADJOURNMENT by consent at 9:14 p.m.**

**\*\* A Closed Session may be called \*\***