



FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION

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Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Forest Heights Town Charter

2 of 4 Publications as Required by the Annotated Code of Maryland

At its regular legislation session on November 15, 2006, the Forest Heights Town Council passed six amendments to the Town Charter in accordance with procedures required by Article 23A of the Maryland State Code. Below is a summary of those amendments. Article 23A also provides that if 20% of the Town's registered voters submit a valid petition within 40 days of the passage of the resolutions, the resolutions will not go into effect until voted on in a referendum either at the next scheduled election (March 14, 2007) or at a special election called by the Town Council. If such valid petition is not received by December 26, 2006, the resolutions as summarized below will go into effect on January 4, 2007.

Proposed Charter Amendment 21 - This amendment to Town Charter Section 33-15 will change the term of office of the Forest Heights Mayor, by terminating the term of the current Mayor, Myles Spires, at midnight on January 4, 2007, and installing the Council President as Acting Mayor until a special election is held no later than January 24, 2007.

Proposed Charter Amendment 22 - This Town Charter amendment will add a recall provision to the Town Charter in which 20 % of the Town's registered voters can request a special election at which an elected official could be removed from office.

Proposed Charter Amendment 23 - This amendment inserts a subsection to Town Charter Section 33-18 defining the powers and duties of the Mayor. This insertion defines the Mayor as the Town's Chief Executive Officer, restoring wording that existed in the Charter prior to November 16, 2005.

Proposed Charter Amendment 24 - This amendment repeals a subsection to Town Charter Section 33-18 that was added on February 16, 2006, which defined the role of the Mayor as the Town's Chief Executive Officer and provided specific instructions regarding the Mayor's consultations with the Council after a budget was approved.

Proposed Charter Amendment 25 - This Town Charter amendment establishes consistency between the change to Charter section 15 as provided for in Charter amendment 21 above, and the four year term for the Mayor provided for in Charter Section 33-32.

Proposed Charter Amendment 25 - This amendment to Town Charter Section 33-32 provides that the election of Councilmen scheduled for March 2007 will be held at the special election in January 2007, and then revert to the four-year cycle for that group of Council members in March 2011.

The full text of all the resolutions containing the proposed amendments can be found on the Bulletin Board at the Forest Heights Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.

Special Election of the Mayor and Three Council Members to be held on January 24, 2007

The Forest Heights Town Council passed six amendments to the Town Charter on November 15, 2006 that will result in Myles Spires being removed from office as Mayor of Forest Heights. The Council is scheduling an election for January 24, 2006 at which a new Mayor and three Council members will be elected by the registered voters of Forest Heights according to the procedures established in the Forest Heights Charter.

Forest Heights citizens who are registered voters in the Town (or their respective ward for Council seats) at least one year prior to the January 24, 2007 election are eligible to run for these offices. Those persons choosing to run for these offices may begin campaigning for these positions at any time. At a date yet to be set in December 2006, eligible citizens wanting their names to be placed on the ballot will be required to submit a nomination form which is available in the Town Clerk's office. This will be the same form that was used in prior Forest Heights Town elections.

Furthermore, persons filing the nomination form will be able to submit a campaign statement to the Town Clerk. The statement will be distributed in January to all residents in Forest Heights, in keeping with past practices of the Town in general Town elections.

Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Forest Heights Town Ordinance

2 of 2 Publications as Required by the Section 33-12. Ordinances

At the regular Town Meeting on November 15, 2006, the Forest Heights Town Council introduced two amendments to the ordinance code as summarized below, which will go into effect 30 days after its passage.

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 36- 06
INCREASE THE SALARY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
SECTION 1.2. COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILPERSONS.**

Town Council of Forest Heights proposes to amend the Ordinance Code of the Town of Forest Heights Section 1.2 Compensation of the Mayor and Councilpersons.. The amendment of the Ordinance Code of the Town of Forest Heights shall be enacted by striking the following words:

“The Mayor shall receive a salary of \$2,600.00 per year payable quarterly. Each councilperson shall receive a salary of \$1,000 per year payable quarterly. “

And insert the following wording:

“The Mayor shall receive a salary of \$10,000.00 per year payable monthly. Each Council person shall receive a salary of \$5,000 per year payable monthly.”

**RESOLUTION NO. 37-06 TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED
LEGISLATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES ACT OF 2006**

Legislative Body of Forest Heights shall hereby amend the Legislative Practices and Procedures Act of 2006 in the Town of Forest Heights, Article 24 of the Forest Heights Code of Ordinances by striking paragraph 2 which now reads:

“2) No councilperson, other than the Mayor, shall solicit or communicate with agencies with whom the town may or is attempting to procure funding, expedite funding, or manage funding. Permission to make any such communication must be with the written consent of the Mayor.”

And inserting a new paragraph 2 to read as follows:

“2) No councilperson, other than the Mayor, shall solicit agencies with whom the town may or is attempting to procure funding, expedite funding, or manage funding. Council members shall keep the Mayor informed about any communication they may have with such agencies.”

TOWN TRASH COLLECTION

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

PICK-UP DAYS BEGIN AT
6:30 a.m.

MONDAY—*Recycling*

TUESDAY—*Trash*

WEDNESDAY—*Bulk & Yard
Waste*

FRIDAY—*Trash*

*You must use trash
containers with lids*

Trash consist of all mixed combustibles and non-combustibles including garbage, household trash, paper, rags, and cardboard. Trash should be placed within two feet of the curb line.

The County also collects recyclable materials in the Town on **MONDAY** (plastics, newspapers, etc.)

Every WEDNESDAY, tree trimmings, grass and leaves will be picked up, provided they are no longer than 4 feet and tied in small bundles. Grass clippings should be in trash bags.

Whenever Prince George's County Government holidays are celebrated on a Tuesday or Friday, trash will not be picked up on those days, nor will there be a make up date. However, trash will be picked up on the next regular scheduled pick-up date. Your cooperation with Town Ordinances for disposing of residential trash is important for maintaining health and property values

in the Town.

THANK YOU!

There will be trash pick on Friday, November 24, 2006.



RECYCLE BINS FOR
RESIDENT

PLEASE CALL (301) 952-7630

WORK SESSION & TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE

****TOWN MEETING****

December 20, 2006



Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. during the months of September - June.

Mayor/Council Work Sessions are held on the first Monday of the month (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary).

Meetings are open to the public.

Mayor/Council Work Session

- Monday, Dec. 4 @ 7:30 pm
- Monday, Jan. 8, 2007 @ 7:30 pm

Town Meeting

- Wednesday, Jan 17, 2007 @ 8 pm
- Wednesday, Feb 21, 2007 @ 8 pm

Deadline to submit articles for the December 2006 newsletter is November 24, 2006. Articles are to be turned in via email to townclerk.fh@verizon.net or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.