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Description automatically generatedSNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION**

**Tuesday, October 5th, 2021**

* **Minutes -**

**4:30pm – Work Session**

A Work Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at The Old Fire Hall on Green Street on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021 with Mayor Jewell presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Jennifer R. Jewell, Ph. D.

Councilperson Regina Blake

Councilperson Melisa Weidner

Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Town Manager

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant

Lorissa McAllister, Media Marketing & Promotions Coordinator

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1. **Approval of Minutes** for: Town Hall Meeting September 14th, 2021: On the motion of Councilperson Harrison and seconded by Councilperson Weidner, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Lisa Outten Harrison** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Discussion Items** –
   1. **Boards and Commissions Vacancies** – Advertised the empty vacancies that have been opened for more than a month. Candidates to be discussed in closed session.
   2. **Council Vacancy** – Councilperson Harrison will be stepping down as of next month. Advertised and have found 2 potential people. To be discussed in closed session. To be sworn in November.
   3. **Resolution No. 2021-05 Support for Community Legacy Grant Applications (review only)** – Reviewing and editing only. Applying for grants; PNC building needs more work, especially on installing an elevator. Owned the building for several years. May use some of its space for tourism, heritage appreciation, may move some municipal offices there, etc.
   4. **Trash Cans** – Councilperson Harrison: Discussed the concern a year ago. Monday night, a person who lived out of town put a trash can in town. Randy Barfield: Every home is supposed to have 1 minimum can from the Town. Cans needed to be compatible for the trucks. $70 a ton of trash for the Town. Randy told the prior council that the Town has been taking trash, even cans that aren’t from the town, and the town has been losing money since. Several attendees disagreed/displeased of how some of the trash policies are being handled, or potentially not being able to use the ones they purchased elsewhere. Councilperson Harrison is raising the point that a person is paying the same amount if they own 1 trash can from the Town, as the same as 4 cans from another person without being from the Town. Mayor: Town doesn’t recycle and wants to engage on the topic at another time to encourage the Town to increase recycling. Randy: Discussed with Gary how to save money on disposing trash but fell through. 2015-2016 is when cans were acquired. Councilperson Blake: Raised the point that it’s cheaper to buy a can from elsewhere, rather than from the Town. Randy: Can get approximately get a number of how many Town cans versus non-Town cans.
   5. **Festive Street Lights** – Public works are putting up the lights for Halloween. Councilperson Harrison wants to explore a potential committee to setting up lights. Public concerned of being adequately trained for setting up/breaking down lights. Randy: Doesn’t have enough people in Public Works to do the lights and all the other duties at the same time. Marketplace business representative: Downtown people can help set up decorations. Potentially working on permanent fixtures of lights. Mayor: To explore setting up multi-purpose, color changing controlled lights to fit different themes to make setting up lights more efficient. Mayor: Marketplace to do Halloween; Randy and Public Works to do Christmas lights.
   6. **Trees at Social Services** – Problem with a wire and a tree. So far nothing yet to be done. Unsure of who owns the tree/land near social services. Randy: To talk to Marty about who owns it. Mayor: Potentially cite them to clean up the tree, will also bill them for taking down the tree. Mayor wants to start documentation on the history and citations/billing of the tree.
   7. **Department Heads** – Randy: Water tower to be online soon, is chlorinated and any further tests that are needed. Expected to be up on Friday, October 8th. Randy to public: Run water for about 10-15 minutes when Water Tower is online.
   8. **i**. Mayor to Jerry Jeffra: Make a Canva about the Water Tower, celebrating the online / running the water.
2. **Public Comment** – (A, B and C are of different topics. Trash, loose dogs, tree)
   1. Attendee: Was told they could buy their own trash cans for ease. Asked if weeds can be placed in normal trash cans, Randy confirmed. Also asked about what kind of plastics we recycle. Randy: Info is available by the county. Website: To be designed with trash facts, Q&A available. Another attendee: Doesn’t want to see recyclables end up in landfills due to fallouts with contracts. 3rd attendee: Also raised the concern that recyclables are heading to the trash instead to the appropriate destination. Doesn’t feel motivated to do so if they don’t know it’s being sent correctly. Randy: Before COVID, recycling was much more prominent. Attendee: Idea, set up a deadline to have certain bins/containers to be certified by the Town as serviceable, grandfather the existing cans in. Mayor: Wants to gather some data from how other municipal bodies handle their trash. Councilperson Harrison to Randy: To get permanent fixtures or identifiable labels on trash cans.
   2. Attendee: A house in front of the attendee’s (a year ago) reported that two dogs (possibly pit bulls) killed a cat. Few years ago, found another cat, mangled same way. Last Sunday, got stalked and aggressively approached by two dogs. Has (fuzzy) pictures of the attacking dogs. Minorly injured during incident. Reported incident to police but has yet to respond back to the assailed attendee, and reported the incident to animal control, no response yet either. Is greatly displeased from the response of the officer and animal control. Heard from a neighbor that the dogs typically get loose. Mayor: Follow up with the officer on the incident. Animal Control doesn’t fall in the jurisdiction of the Town. Different Attendee: Wants to see every dog on a leash. Another Attendee: Attendee’s cat was also killed by loose dogs.
   3. Attendee: Asking about the tree near social service; stated name of possible owner, offered public help to chop tree down.
3. **Closed Session** – **Councilperson Harrison read closing statement and motioned to go into closed session at 5:42pm. Councilperson Harrison motioned to a Closed Session, with Councilperson Weider seconded.**

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| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Lisa Outten Harrison** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Boards and Commissions Vacancies
  2. Council Vacancy

1. **Return to Open Session –** Councilperson Blake motioned to move into Open Session, Councilperson Harrison seconded, Councilperson Weidner and Mayor voted aye.

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1. Mayor: For Boards & Commissions, agreed on a selection on a couple of members.
   1. Margaret Anne Fletcher was approved for Elections Committee.
   2. Historic District: 3 applicants were approved: Jen Divis, Kathryn Culbertson and Jan King.
   3. Possible revisions to the code of the Housing Commission for responsibilities and expectations of the position.
   4. Still need committee members for Housing and Zoning Committees.
   5. Will continue to search for members to fill vacancies until November.
2. For Council Vacancy. Two self-qualified nominees. At the next Work Session (end of October), will bring in the two candidates for an interview during that Work Session’s Closed Session.
3. Rick: Randy asked for an equipment purchase of a new Power Washer for his department for $11,100. In range of required formal bids but can through non-formal bidding due to the good cause of the purchase and wanted to make Mayor and Council aware of the purchase. Mayor and Council has no issues with the purchase.
4. To decide on the bids of the proposed Bikeway.
5. **Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Councilperson Weidner, seconded by Councilperson Harrison, all in favor. The time was 7:00pm.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Jeffra

Intern