

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Work Session

March 30, 2021

A work session with Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Old Fire Hall on Green Street, observing current COVID-19 protocols, on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 with Mayor Tammy Simpson presiding. The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Tammy Simpson
Councilperson Melisa Weidner
Councilperson Regina Blake
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Gary Weber
Administrative Assistant Margot Resto
Police Chief Andy McGee
Purnell Museum Director Dr. Byrd

Fire Chief Trey Heiser

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *Budget/Work Session and Closed Session March 23, 2021* - Motion to approve (Harrison), seconded (Weidner), all in favor.
2. **Election** – Deadlines: Candidacy Filing and Voter Registration
3. **Mayor’s comments:**
 - a. Facebook guidelines – Mayor & Council do not engage directly with Facebook. Listed all manner of options for public communication besides, discourse welcomed and encouraged, not on social media.
 - b. Go back to Zoom? Add this to in-person? Agreement that more open communication is best.
 - c. Fire Department has been moved to next week’s agenda. Meeting with Trey tomorrow. Discussion on funding and County involvement.
4. **Rt. 12 Annexation** – some property owners across bridge are interested, will then become referendum vote – citizens’ choice. Costs involved are prohibitive for property owners, past visitation of this subject. Discussion on pros and cons. Still gathering information. Mayor asked about environmental issue, critical area. TM replied it’s under river, not through. Council Harrison asked questions if there are some who are not interested. Mayor says bypass property. Council Blake asked if we would have weigh-in from those 8 to be annexed and citizens first? Yes, right now in research stages. Council Weidner – how many properties? TM: Eight, all have been

contacted. Past history voted on it to be annexed, owners not interested, didn't want to cost-share. Now, worth a conversation. Possible grant at later time. Continue to gather information.

5. **Mayor's comments:** Ordinances were in packet, moved to Town Hall meeting. Charter protocols.
6. **5:00pm - SPECIAL SESSION** – Community Organizations Discussion: Inclusion and Racial Equality at Events. Present (see attached). Mayor gave introduction as to meaning for meeting. List of some events in Snow Hill. Want to begin the discussion. Discussion of giving Easter events to PD with support from Town. Bring committee info back to Town to work together. Jenn Jewell gave introductions, background. Discussion on perception of non-inclusive nature of events. First Friday – African American people not feeling welcome. Start with music. Asked to bring DJ back, told it was competing, not a discussion. Maybe different genre other than rock or country. Mayor asked if spoke with Jere? Sylvester Bratten: Possibly bring cornhole tournament. Fish fry, baking tables. Alcohol also a draw? Allowed where? Mayor specified designated areas on map where legal. Rules that apply. D. Allen: Not about exclusion, but not feeling invited. Promote to more than downtown. Dr. Byrd discussed events that draw best, maybe need to communicate more. Council – church bulletins? Other ways than social media. Candidate Jewell – downtown is seen as a place where you come when you don't have money. Working with Chief – Snow Hill United will give out bikes for Community Bike Ride so all can participate. Give out at 1st Friday in May. Have to ask others how they feel they've been treated, don't realize our impact. Mayor discussed upcoming events, COVID precautions. Oyster Roast moving to November. WC Fair maybe Sept. First Fridays – start in May. Easter Egg Hunt – not this year. Easter Bunny will be out and around. Return to Goat Island – in talks, covid concerns. Blessing of Combines not this year. Independence Day – do it with social distancing, Chamber event, not sure if it will be held. Natl Night Out Aug 1st – still unsure. Museum events: Dr. Byrd discussed events limitations due to covid, but in Fall begin to plan – Oktoberfest. Pushing towards normal in Fall. Working with diverse artists. Council Blake – Hilltop Day – 4th Sat in July. Not sure yet. Slowly becoming more diverse. SH United planning 3 movie nights. Candidate Jewell – being intentional in reaching out to leaders, community members of color. Dr. Byrd comment had privilege of not having to think about why isn't it more welcoming; ask what is wanted, no tokenism. Continue to educate our White community.

7. **Closed Session – Covington Lots and Black-Eyed Susan RFP:** Motion by Council Weidner, Second by Council Blake, all in favor. Council Harrison read closing statement. Discussing salaries and Covington lots. 6:01pm.
8. **Return to Open Session at 6:53pm.** Mayor shared overview of what was discussed. Motion to return made by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Weidner. The time was 6:49pm. Mayor described overview of discussion in Closed Session. Decision to accept Sylvester Bratten’s offer for Covington Lots. RFP will need further discussion next week in closed session. Council Harrison motioned to vote on decision to accept Sylvester Bratten’s offer, Council Weidner seconded. All in favor.
9. **Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn made by Councilperson Weidner, seconded by Councilperson Blake. All in favor. The time was 6:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant