**MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND**

**Work Session 3-31-2020**

A work session with Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held via telephone conference due to the COVID-19 protocols on Tuesday March 31, 2020 with Mayor Weber presiding. The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Gary Weber

Councilwoman Alison Gadoua

Councilwoman Melisa Weidner

Councilwoman LaToya Purnell

Chief Andy McGee

Jere Johnson

Margot Resto

Randy Barfield

Ann Gibb

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**MEETING MINUTES**

3-4-2020 motion to approve, seconded, approved.

**COVID-19**

Discussion of concerned citizen email regarding grocery stores not having signage about 6 ft distancing and unavailable cleaner for carts and pumps; issue with stealing of paper towels and bleach put out at Food Rite, reward offered for who stole it.

Governor’s March 30 order clarification- still go get carry out, walk, grocery, but may change. Chief input from their standpoint – governor restricted all traffic except essential. Police will not stop you to identify you, not true at this point. Don’t go out of state, if do, Exercise allowed, small group; local and county govt decide if close local parks. Good supply of hand sanitizer and shields from Royal Plus at station, masks in every car, every officer. Some getting a little stir crazy, but no major incidents. If you can, stay home, wash hands.

Council question – a lot unknown, have we started for backup plan for election.

Mayor – investigative mode, may have to postpone election, right to do so. Possible mail-in ballot process, state and county processes. Keep everybody posted, done in way that’s fair, above reproach.

Spoke with Fire Chief, 2 people tested negative in Snow Hill. Resident asked and was clarified. Calls were down, not overtaxed at this moment.

Put together a COVID Task Force – wade through red tape of loans, grants, etc…from stimulus package. Jere Johnson gave update: so much info, to see what is applicable to us. CARES Act approved, portion to small businesses and large part to Unemployment. MD Dept of Commerce – many funds available. Food drives and other meal programs available, mortgage, auto loan deferrals, etc…Xfinity made all HotSpots free. Gathering all information in one place. Get together several times a week, keep info digestible. Lorissa at DBC went through applications.

Council asked for communication regularly of this info.

Recycling stopped – what rationale? Germs on all open containers. Recycling doesn’t have outlet anyway at this time. One less trip of exposure.

**COUNCIL PERSON WESTERN DISTRICT REPLACEMENT**

* Regina Blake running unopposed. Mayor asks to place her in the seat to fill out the term. Councilwoman Gadoua agrees. Mayor mentioned has spoken with Kevin who agrees this is the best way, similar to when Mayor Weber came in during middle of term. Wait until April 14th Town Meeting to vote, invited Regina Blake to come to this meeting at 7pm. Meantime first person to swear in over telephone. Ms. Freeman offered congratulations.
* Mayor discussing comfort with HUD documents for HUD loans.
* Purnell – in past had whole packet, credit score, references.
* Gadoua – don’t get all info at first; don’t bring bad info to meeting, pre-screening happens first, if decent credit score, bring to Open Meeting; Open Meetings Act – people’s money, must be in Open Session; Be careful with SS#’s, should be redacted. Review everything on loan, have consensus, then brought to Town Meeting to vote.
* Mayor – what documentation do you want now, whatever is proper.
* Credit score, payment history, collateral very important.
* Simple form for recommendation for Council.
* Purnell request someone to get Ms. Blake up to speed on these loans.

Mayor Gary Weber - uncontested

Western – Regina Blake uncontested

Eastern – Lisa Outten Harrison & Cathy Freeman

Referendum

Melissa Entnoyer – have to fill out an application for an absentee ballot to verify they are a registered voter. Deadline for absentee ballots for requests – check with Kevin. Not counted until after election date. Cathy Freeman – will have to campaign, shelter in place, difficult without technology, not everyone has access to that.

Mayor – up to candidates. Under state of emergency, if interferes with electoral process, make a decision that’s fair and legal. Mayor – we are looking at that, many people are postponing the elections. Will be voted on by Council, equitable and fair to all candidates.

Council Purnell – Date of Voter registration cutoff? April 3rd.

Mayor – HUD loans deferral – Council? Councilperson Weidner all for it – anything to help small businesses. Councilperson Gadoua – tack on to end. Mayor – like banks, time stands still, March -July payments wait until a later month, no penalties.

Announcement of Budget Workshop tomorrow. Mayor’s Proposed Budget.

**COMMENTS**

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn, the motion received a Second. All in favor to adjourn. The time was 5:27 pm.