

**MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND**

Town Meeting

March 10, 2020

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station at 200 Belt Street on Tuesday March 10, 2020 with Councilwoman Purnell presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Councilwoman LaToya Purnell  
Councilwoman Melisa Weidner  
Councilwoman Alison Gadoua

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Martin Sullivan, Code Enforcement Officer  
Lounell Hamstead, Finance Officer  
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director  
Cindy Byrd, Director of Purnell Museum  
Police Chief Andy McGee  
Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant

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**SALUTE TO THE FLAG/INVOCATION**

Councilperson Purnell called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation.

**MAYOR’S OPENING COMMENTS**

Not present

**MEETING MINUTES**

Motion to approve February 11, 2020 minutes, seconded and approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Finance Report for February, 2020 was presented. Motion to approve, seconded and approved.

Question from Public

General Fund – why keep so much? Working on this to have it changes so grants become avail.  
Water Sewer grouped together? Consultant discussing this.

**MEDIA, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR**

Not present

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

The Code Enforcement Report for February 2020 was presented.

Question on “Mayor passed Certification” – what means? That was the Mayor congratulating Mr. Sullivan.

Question Purnell Street. Applied to town for demo-ing funding. Make payments to Town.

Possibly doing that with other properties in town, many people don’t have financial means.

Discussion on how long it’s been. Code Official working on it, can’t speak to what happened before he was here, but working on it.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Report was presented for February 2020.

Stage construction - students did great job. Teacher said they’d love to help with anything else.

Paving on Town lot, Circle, checking with Council tonight for green light. Money left in budget for FY’20. Council approved. Concrete – working on it.

**WWTP REPORT**

Wastewater Report was presented for February 2020.

**MUSEUM REPORT**

The Julia A. Purnell Museum Report was presented for February 2020.

Conducting research on 100<sup>th</sup> Amendment – women’s right to vote. Looking for stories and memories of local women who voted for first time – may be descendants of these women. Also want to collect stories of women who are voting for the first time. Intersectionality – want to hear from women of color, differently abled, all voices with challenges to getting out to vote. Exhibit to be up in the Fall, looking for photographs, etc...

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Police Department Report for February 2020 was presented. Parking- Franklin St has been addressed, paint and signs up. Pleasant Manor working hard on problem tenants, one has been removed. Remind caution – wash hands, stay home when sick. Daily calls with Governor’s office State of MD. Ms. Byrd comment: disinfected every door knob, bathrooms etc... Don’t want people to be afraid to come, especially older population. Following precautions.

Question from resident: Are speed cameras cash cow for Snow Hill? Chief explained placement of cameras and purpose. Were cameras put at stoplight? Don’t qualify, not enough traffic.

Do something about Green Street & Market? Why trucks come through at night? Avoiding scales in VA. Very noisy in last couple of weeks. Chief will educate people on Green.

Comment – need more police presence on Maple. Market down Maple flying around corner, children there. Comment – at stoplight, vehicles don’t stop at line that says “Stop Here.” Ticket

issue? Yes, citations have been issued. SHA design issue. Noticed informational signs in VA showing what speed – yes, Chief has been looking into that.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None to report.

**NEW BUSINESS** –

Circuit Rider Program – discussed, will look into further.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL -**

Makemie Meeting – gathering of local organizations found youth issues – biggest need. What we can do, Summer school, deficit of programs for youth. Fill void of Fridays, Summer. Invited suggestions and help. Resident talking about youth basketball league possibility June-Aug. Resident asked – help feeding kids? Yes, food, GED's, housing, clothing, prenatal care, education on infant care and parenting, impressive. Wants to get list going that shows it all. Churches have free meal programs, decrease last Summer, may be due to advertising. Backpacks with food over weekend, rotary doing this. Have doubled the number of students they're serving. Only during school year. In Wico Cty, bring food to parks – those who don't go to Summer school – find out how to do this. Got local restaurants to fill out additional 4 weeks beyond what federal funding 6 wks could do. Resident offer of help to Council on this project. Middle school hardest to reach because they fear judgement of peers.

Met with Campion Hruby.

Working on MOU with LSLT for Butterfly House. Acknowledgement, memorialize donors. Elections by end of month. Alison is not running. Thanked all for entrusting her in this role. Encouraged candidate filing.

Purnell is resigning from seat as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Moving out of Snow Hill. Staff will ask Mayor about procedure in this case.

**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

Encourage all to attend budget sessions.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Collins Street – porch falling down. Across from cemetery. Very close to street – could fall into street. Police tape on sidewalk? What can be done? Code – can't get a hold of owners, sent several certified letters. Trying to get demo'd, difficult process. It's in a trust. Check with County – nobody's paid taxes on it, prob went to tax sale. Resident knows the owner, will. Asked where Mayor got info – limited EMS, why people are moving out of town. County Commissioners meeting is where info came from. Carolyn Brown is disagreeing with this being the main reason for people moving out; believes there are other reasons.

Council – meeting of Mayors happened. Wants unrestricted funds, what is he planning on doing with that? Council said it was there historically, didn't have a work session with Mayor about this.

Where are we in budget process? March 18<sup>th</sup> is next budget meeting when dept heads make request. Mayor and Mr. G. will meet and another meeting in April. Request for proposals for audit – put it out for bids for future. Auditors raised rates.

Question about Town Manager – are we getting one? Council has not seen resumes.

Referendum about salary increase going to be on ballot?

What are we going to do about youth having nothing to do? Need more for kids to go. Roaming the streets.

How can we have a budget process with no staff? Budget creation needs time. Why don't we have the interim Town Manager. Hired consultant, was Town Manager, like format and changes he's making. Resident says consultant doesn't manage anything. Council – way our charter's written, we're stuck right now without Town Manager.

Has anyone filed for candidacy? Mayor Gary Weber and Lisa Harrison for Eastern District.

Consultant – how much per hour? \$45. Responsible to Mayor? Yes, as he should be. Staying on as consultant after he's done with budget. Can we change the charter so that we're not left high and dry. Can you three Council present a change in the charter? Council – we've spent too much time and money on who's responsible for what. Council asked if they can change the charter – haven't discussed it fully. Council commented on need for clarity. Resident – Mayor being able to fill Town Manager position. Council wants it to be collective. Staff should have clear direction as to who they need to go to. Mayor in charter has administrative power.

Has there ever been discussion about appointing a Town Manager – temporary acting manager. Council – 3 full time people resigned. Had to spend time to stabilize. Many are new. Many people have applied, Council not part of it. Resident – that's the way it's supposed to be done, right? Resident confirms it's not Mayor, it's law of charter.

Councilperson Weidner – I've seen several applications come in and none are up to par; I know this because I go to Town Hall.

Resident – never heard of hiring a manager without other people involved.

Resident – Mayor is only following charter.

Resident – Former manager – didn't have Master's, but was there a long time, so that's why she was paid this much. Large gap between staff and TM salary.

Table discussion on TM until Mayor returns.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Resto