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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Town Meeting

July 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held via telephone conference on Tuesday July 14, 2020 with Mayor Gary Weber presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Gary Weber
Councilperson Melisa Weidner
Councilperson Regina Blake
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison
Senator Mary Beth Carozza

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Officer
Andy McGee, Police Chief
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager
Cynthia Byrd, Purnell Museum Director
Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant
Jeré Johnson, Media, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator

SALUTE TO THE FLAG/INVOCATION

Mayor Weber called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MAYOR'S OPENING COMMENTS

Briefing on Mayor, two Council and one staff member visit to Havre de Grace.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve June 30, 2020 Town Hall Closed Session meeting minutes. Council Weidner motion to approve, Council Harrison seconded and approved. Council Harrison motion to approve July 7, 2020 Work Session minutes. Council Blake motion to approve, Council Blake seconded and approved.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for July, 2020 was presented, no changes. Council Weidner motion to approve, Council Blake seconded, all in favor and approved.

MEDIA, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR/Main Street Manager

The Media, Marketing and Promotions Report and Main Street Manager Report for July, 2020 was presented, no changes. Expounded on their visit to Havre de Grace.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Official absent due to medical leave. Mayor reports Marty's recuperation. Huntingfields agreement coming to completion.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Report was presented for July, 2020 was presented. Discussion on quotes for air conditioning at Fire Hall, waiting for them and will provide to all asap. Reported he will have ADA information next meeting.

Council Harrison asked timeframe for air conditioning implementation. Randy Barfield said it would be approximately one month from decision.

WWTP REPORT

Wastewater Report for July, 2020 was presented, no changes. Need for a pickup truck, in bad shape. This is in addition to the Public Works trucks that were needed.

MUSEUM REPORT

The Julia A. Purnell Museum Report was presented for July, 2020. Cautiously open. No large groups. Typical admissions comparable to last year, PPE in place, attendees are social distancing and cooperating. Projects brewing, feeling encouraged, will share when firm details are known.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Police Department Report for July, 2020 was presented, no changes. 40 cases of COVID, gone from 30-40 in last 7 days. Continuing to monitor restaurants and other groups for observation of protocols.

Council Blake asked question regarding if a customer goes into store without a mask and refuses, what happens? If business wants customer to leave they can have them leave, if they don't then they're trespassing, so far luckily no issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Referendum vote for salary increases – Mayor reported that Melissa Etnoyer is consulting town attorney on legal details, no new news to report tonight.

Ordinance draft review – stops signs, speed signs, speed camera, speed bumps: just to familiarize Council. Awaiting Town Attorney's approval.

Street Sweeper Grant – discussion on lease terms, free for one year, grant process and timing. Possibility for loan from Taylor Bank. Weighing options.

Riverwalk/Boardwalk Construction – Mayor met with Keith Lackey, who met with Critical Areas, we'll be able to accomplish this with them.

Malone Homes Agreement/Huntingfields – Mayor referred back to his opening comments on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Hill United – Group gatherings of 10 or more in public spaces – Because we went up in COVID cases 33% in the last week, temporarily stopped gathering in parks and public places of 10 or more. Safety above all. Adaptation of planned events discussed.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Harrison shared excitement of possibility of paddleboat and what it could do for the Town. Council Regina also excited about the paddleboat. Thanked all Department Heads, Council and Mayor for work they're doing.

Council Weidner excited and inspired by visit and resources gained and potential of boat as well.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Yielded floor to Senator Carozza.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Beth Carozza – shared experiences of effects of COVID-19 on our state, her constituent work, our citizens, navigating assistance, restaurants hit. Monitoring numbers on daily basis, Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset are lower compared to State overall. Restrictions can be treated on area by area basis, offered to help us to see what that looks like for us. Offered support and assistance also with paddleboat. WCED Grant applications until July 22nd. Thanked Mayor and Chief for event on Mr. Munroe's birthday.

Citizen question – flags for Fourth of July weren't up, why? Mayor wasn't aware of this, apologized, shared respect and gratitude for servicemen and women. Possibly because of changes to event/cancellation. Will look into it.

Citizen question – asked Senator about level of gatherings – is it 50 or 10 or more? Senator said she would advise to defer to Mayor and local municipal guidance. Mayor more in detail on why he is working from 10 or more, safety above all.

Citizen from Snow Hill United commented and thanked Mayor and Chief for support. Are understanding, and are looking at ways to encourage and continue dialogue on systemic racism. If Town is unable to fund events, we will find ways to find funding. Mayor offered possibility to support and fund and to work with Council on this.

Council Harrison asked about drive-in movie at Rec Center, how did they get audio? Fee is about the same at \$175. May be a safer option for Snow Hill United.

Council Blake read the Closing Statement for Closed Session. Council Weidner motioned to move into Closed Session to discuss Town Manager position, Council Harrison seconded, all in favor, time was 7:55pm. Will attempt to resume at 8:45pm if finished in Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

Began at 8:10 pm

PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councilperson Melisa Weidner
Councilperson Regina Blake
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Administrative Assistant Margot Resto

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to adjourn Closed Session and return to Open Session made by Council Weidner, seconded by Council Blake, all in favor. The time was 9:37pm.

Administrative Assistant called in to conference line, eight heard in attendance. Summary of Closed Meeting topics shared on the phone conference line. Announced that Council had made a decision regarding the Town Manager and related personnel matters and would share this information and the details once they're completely ironed out at the next public meeting/Work Session on July 28, 2020.

Citizen asked why they were asked to wait this long and told no information. Mayor and Administrative Assistant explained that the Maryland Open Meetings Act and its requirements were being observed and how. Administrative Assistant apologized for their long wait and asked for their patience as the Council had very important matters to discuss and needed that time to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Council Weidner, seconded by Council Blake and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Resto