

**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**Old Fire Hall, 212 W. Green Street, Snow Hill**

**Minutes**

**Masks are optional.**

**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, February 28, 2023 with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Michael Pruitt

Councilmember Janet Simpson

Councilmember Regina Blake

Councilmember Jenny Hall

Rick Pollitt, Jr., Town Manager

Carol L Sullivan, Executive Administrator

Lorissa McAllister, Economic Development Director

Martin Sullivan, Code Enforcement

1. **Discussion and Review Item:**
2. **Bank Street Streetscape Plan**:

Economic Development Director McAllister gave an overview of the Bank Street Promenade. She stated that at the September meeting they were asked to carry the design from Green to Bank and River to Bank. As the final design is coming together, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is accepting new grant applications. We qualify to have a matching grant of $78,279, with our monies we have on hand and our volunteer hours. Diane Nolte and Harrison Saunders gave an update of the design. The Bank Street Promenade is a redesign of the access street between the downtown historic shopping district in Snow Hill and the Pocomoke River at Sturgis Park. Along this street are a number of commercial properties, as well as the Snow Hill branch of the Worcester County Library and, at the end of the street, the Lower Shore Land Trust property, which abuts Sturgis Park. This project will increase pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety by decreasing traffic speed and provide ample shared space. It will create an inviting and engaging thoroughfare and promote walkability between two key Snow Hill destinations. It will also provide flexible recreation space through the installation of removable bollards for festivals and events and outdoor leisure areas. These goals will be accomplished with features such as storyboards, outdoor art, and outdoor seating. Streetscaping with lights and native plant landscaping will promote safety and environmentally friendly stormwater management systems while making Bank Street a destination in and of itself.
The redesign of Bank Street includes raised street beds. Pedestrian areas will be differentiated, not by elevated sidewalks, but by pavers which are different in color than the vehicular right of way. The first block will have ample outdoor seating to promote outdoor dining and gathering. The Second Block, between the Snow Hill Branch Worcester County Library and various offices, will have a performance area, built-in seating, and points of interest such as additional outdoor art and storyboards to reflect the heritage of our local area.

Mayor Pruitt thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

Councilmember Simpson thanked the committee and is looking forward to the completion of the work.

1. Surplus Properties:

Staff has prepared an inventory of Town-owned properties that serve no current public use and might be considered for disposal. Town Manager Pollitt noted that the disposition process requires the Council to declare that the properties are considered “Surplus Public Property” and should be offered to the general public for purchase. Two of the properties do not contain enough land to qualify as a building lot and might be better offered to adjoining property owners for their acquisition. Mayor Pruitt stated that at the end of the day we may not sell any properties but he believes the Town should not own any real estate beyond what is necessary to serve the public needs.

Code Enforcement Officer Sullivan gave a brief description of the following properties: 309 N. Washington Street, (old PNC bank); 301 Willow Street; 209 Pettit Street; 203 Martin Street; 427 W. Market Street; 425 W. Market Street; 423 W. Market Street and provided a packet of information containing legal descriptions and a map of each site. He noted that there has been conversation in the past about possibly building a new police station on the Market Street lots but is unsure if the topic is still on the table.

Mayor Pruitt stated that if the Council decides to move forward with disposition of any of the properties, a real estate agent should be consulted. Mr. Pollitt added that there has been interest expressed in the former PNC bank building, the property on Willow Street and the property on Pettit Street.

The matter will be scheduled for consideration and possible action at an upcoming Town Hall meeting of the Mayor & Town Council.

1. **Adjournment:** With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol L Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan

Executive Administrator