**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**

**Town Hall Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 10th, 2023**

**7:00pm – Regular Session**

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at The Old Fire Hall on Green Street on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Mike Pruitt

Councilperson Regina Blake

Councilperson Janet Simpson

Councilperson Jenny Hall

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy McGee, Police Chief

Carol Sullivan, Executive Administrator

Jerry Jeffra, Communications Officer

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Rick Pollitt, Town Manager

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1. Following a **Salute to the Flag and a Silent Prayer for the late Bob Fisher,** Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** for:
   1. December 13th, 2022 Town Hall Meeting: Mayor: On the motion of Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   1. Councilperson Simpson: Nothing to add.
   2. On the motion of Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Blake, the treasurer’s report was approved by the following vote:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Town Manager’s Report**
   1. Rick Pollitt: An aggressive work session calendar scheduled for the rest of this month and the next, several of which are positive impacts to the community. The legacy logo on Dr.Plack’s building will be returning after being awarded a grant that will fund the restoration. The electric charging stations are fully installed and operational at no cost to the Town.
2. **Department Reports:**
   1. Economic Development Report
      1. Lorissa McAllister (Attendance not requested): Rick: Nothing to add other than successful holiday events over the holidays. John Rankin and Lorissa McAllister were successful in obtaining grants that will go into the bikeways project. Simpson: 2 outstanding grant cases (Byrd and Sturgis), what are the news? Rick: Still awaiting further update.
   2. Code Enforcement Report
      1. Marty Sullivan (Attendance not requested): Rick: Morris Street, truckloads of filled dirt to create a subdivision, no enforcement mechanism for stormwater management ordinance. To speak with the county on this, to come up in a future work session.
   3. Public Works Report
      1. Randy Barfield: Simpson: Update on Purnell Street? Randy: No, had a meeting with DBF last week on the sewer lining upgrade project on Market Street. Design was submitted to MDE. Both projects to be started sometime in June or July.
   4. Water & Wastewater Report
      1. Russ Harrison (Attendance not requested): Nothing to add.
   5. Museum Report
      1. Dr. Cynthia Byrd (Attendance not requested): Nothing to add.
   6. Police Department Report
      1. Chief McGee: This month is training month. Chevrolet order has been cancelled, will have to wait for additional vehicles. Simpson: Did a survey of traffic on Washington Street, can you give a summary? Chief: 400 vehicles travelling on it every day, including speeds. Traffic has mostly obeyed the speed limit, a stop sign can slow down the speed. The intersection of Martin and Collins could benefit from a 4-way stop sign. Mayor: Will get sidewalk/crosswalk upgrades eventually.
   7. Fire Department Report
      1. Fire Chief (In audience): Chief: The report was made on December 29th, since then there were additional calls after submitting the report; 2 additional fire calls, 14 additional EMS calls. Continuing to work with the county and other fire chiefs to receive additional ARPA funding to fully upgrade their self-contain breathing apparatus.
3. **Old Business** 
   1. **Ordinance No. 2022-05, Second Reading:** State-mandated updates on Town Ethics Ordinance
      1. Rick: Read the ordinance out-loud to amend chapter 16 of the town code, updating additional language for conflicts of interests (employees may not knowingly accept gifts on behalf of an affiliation) and disclosure of confidential information. Once council passes it, it’ll take effect in 20 calendar days.
      2. On the motion of Councilperson Blake and seconded by Councilperson Hall, the ordinance was approved by the following vote:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Black-Eyed Susan Future Course of Action**
     1. Mayor: A vote to find out what we need to do with the boat, to do what the Town needs to do to get the costs off of the taxpayers. Some entities have shown interest in obtaining the boat. Mayor wants to authorize the processes with Rick and the Council to start discussions and planning on releasing the boat from the Town’s ownership. Simpson: Is there a criterion on how the boat is released / what’s its current value is? Rick: Yes, wants to obtain an appraisal, wants to obtain an expert’s opinion on it as well. Hall: Are we looking to sell and completely get out of the boat business? Rick: More than half a million to get it repaired, with hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep it operational every year. Mayor: Costs are increasing in other departments, reaching a resolution with the boat is in the Town’s priority of interests to help ease the incoming financial burdens.
     2. On the motion of Councilperson Blake and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, the task to remove the boat from the Town’s ownership and budget was approved by the following vote:

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| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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1. **New Business**
   1. Appointment of Chase Phillips to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Ed Phillips, who resigned, until April 1, 2024
      1. Mayor: Recommended Chase Phillips to the Planning Commission.
      2. On the motion of Councilperson Simpson and seconded by Councilperson Hall, appointing Chase Phillips to the Planning Commission was approved by the following vote:

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| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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* 1. Swearing-in of Chase Phillips
     1. After council passed appointing Chase Phillips, Mayor swore in Mr. Phillips.

1. **Comments from the Council**
   1. Councilperson Blake: Thanked everyone for supporting Snow Hill.
   2. Councilperson Simpson: Citizens of Snow Hill had a wonderful time during the holidays, including Main Street and the businesses. Glad to see new grants coming in. EV stations are also exciting. Black History Month program to be coming to the museum in the coming month.
   3. Councilperson Hall: Thanked everyone who worked on all the holidays and events.
2. **Comments from the Mayor**
   1. Mayor: Asked Rick to introduce Carol Sullivan, newest employee to Town Hall, who has taken the mantle after Margot Resto’s leave. She will serve as Executive Administrator. Starting budget process, meeting with department heads. Water and Sewer rates may be going up due to increasing operation costs.
3. **Comments from the Public**
   1. Attendee #1: 3 things: 1 – Fire Department, did an excellent job with Santa during the holidays. 2 – BES, is there any way to rent it currently to bring in even just a little money? 3 – Logo on Dr.Plak’s building, does the new purchaser have to keep the logo on their side of the building. Mayor: MOU with Dr.Plak’s and Town to keep it up for several years.

Attendee #2: Represents NYP&N Railroad. Wants to get an approval and establish further communications with Rick over the BES. Going to be submitting a proposal soon.

Attendee #3: That proposal will include (while the boat is still owned by the Town) both maintenance and activities on the boat for the first few months, will also have an expert do an appraisal for the Town, after the work has been completed.

Attendee #4: Construction near/on Washington Street was washed out by rainwater; will it be looked at? Mayor: Yes, will have Marty/Public Works follow up.

Attendee #5: Crosswalk in front of the High School (Coulbourne and Church) cars are not stopping (near school). Will have Chief McGee have a closer look.

Attendee #6: Doesn’t the school hire crossing guards? Mayor: Unsure, can talk to schoolboard about that.

Attendee #7: First Friday went well, glad to see the Town going great on the holidays. Extending thanks to the Snow Hill Fire Department for their help.

Attendee #8: Works for elementary school, has a safety concern. At the elementary and middle school, in the mornings and afternoons traffic is congested. In the talks to make it safer.

Attendee #9: Big trucks still being an issue. Mayor: Officers will be on site to stop any loose cannon drivers.

Attendee #10: Really enjoyed working with everyone, and wanted to thank Diana. Liked the goat drop and dickens weekend.

Attendee #11: Thanked the Fire Chief for lowering the toy goat.

1. **Adjournment** 
   1. Adjournment –Motion for adjourn by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Simpson for approval. The time was 7:57pm.

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| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Jeffra

Communications Officer