

**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

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

**Minutes**

**Masks are optional.**

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, March 14, 2023, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Mike Pruitt

Councilmember Regina Blake

Councilmember Jenny Hall

Councilmember Janet Simpson

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Jr., Town Manager

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager

Andy McGee, Police Chief

Carol L Sullivan, Executive Administrator

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1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. **Invocation/Moment of Silence**: Mayor Pruitt asked for a moment of silence and prayers for Maryland State Trooper Brook Phillips who was recently injured in the line of duty.
3. **Approval of Minutes** for:
   1. February 14, 2023 Town Hall Meeting: On the motion of Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Hall minutes were approved with the amendment of the spelling of camera on page 3 by the following vote:

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

* 1. Approval of Work Session meeting minutes of February 28, 2023: On the motion of Councilmember Hall and seconded by Councilwoman Simpson minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

1. **Proclamations: A. In Recognition of Endometriosis Awareness Month.**

Mayor Pruitt read the proclamation aloud for the record**.**

**B. Women’s History Month:**

Mayor Pruitt read the proclamation aloud for the record and stated that there are a number of women-owned and operated businesses in town.

1. **Presentation by Eddie Lee regarding State legislation promoting financial literacy in Maryland’s public schools**:

Mr. Lee thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to address the issue of financial literacy in the schools. Mr. Lee asked that the Mayor & Council adopt financial literacy as a cause for the greater Snow Hill community and to host a financial literacy seminar at the local level, setting a model for how a community can promote important financial education among its young people. Mayor Pruitt acknowledged that he has reached out to members of the local education community and is aware of certain things already underway in the schools as directed by the State Board of Education. He felt that any local effort should involve the teachers, as well.

Councilmember Blake agreed with the mayor, need to have people from the Board of Education; falls more so on the Board of Education.

Councilmember Hall agrees with Mr. Lee, would like to say we could make a big difference, and it revolves around the school.

Councilmember Simpson checked with the school system; grade 5 and grade 7 have financial literacy with their social studies. At the high school level, the kids focus on what they are interested in pursuing, but it is there for them if they chose to take the curriculum.

Mr. Lee repeated his hope that the Town government would commit to making the cause of financial literacy a priority and work to supplement the activity of the school system.

Mayor Pruitt stated that there can be such a discussion going forward.

1. **Treasurer’s Report** 
   1. On the motion of Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Blake, Treasurer’s Report was approved by the following vote:

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

1. **Town Manager Report** 
   1. Town Manager Pollitt stated that we have an election this year and that March 31 is the last day to register to become a candidate. He referred to the work session of the preceding day concerning our water and sewer rates as reported by Jean Holloway. Mr. Pollitt also stated that the mayor recently presented the annual budget request to the Worcester County commissioners, including money from gambling revenue for infrastructure; additional funding for Byrd Park flooding and to restore the basketball courts at Byrd Park.
2. **Department Reports**
   1. Economic Development –No further discussion. Councilmember Simpson asked about the MOU for Dr. Plack’s building.
   2. Code Enforcement -. No further discussion. Update on the Ordinance of vacant buildings. Not a lot of progress to report. They have been going over the revised ordinance to send to Mr. Karpinski to review.
   3. Public Works –. No further discussion
   4. Water & Wastewater – Manager Pollitt gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have had several violations this year and have been trying to get a handle on the issue. Major problem is the I & I (Infiltration & Inflow) in our system. We are trying to do our part and have grants in place. Most recently we had another incident where one of the sewage haulers brought in some industrial waste that should not have been permitted. That incident is being addressed with the hauler and the State and there is no cause for public concern.
   5. Julia A. Purnell Museum – No further discussion. Mayor stated that there will be an exhibit of the work of Ms. Anne Hope this month at the museum.
   6. Police Department –Byrd Park is under water, about six inches deep.
   7. Fire Department – No report.
3. **Old Business:**

Ordinance No. 2023-01 Budget Amendment, Second Reading:

Mayor Pruitt read for the record.

In a motion Councilmember Blake and seconded by Councilmember Hall, Ordinance No. 2023-01 was passed by the following vote:

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

1. **New Business:**
2. **Comments from the Council**

Councilmember Simpson thanked everyone for coming out tonight and encouraged folks to attend meetings on charter amendments, water and sewer meetings and any public meetings.

Councilmember Hall thanked everyone for coming noting a lot of big decision are coming up and we need help in making a decision. She told Chief McGee that she recently met one of his newer officers and was impressed by his professionalism and helpfulness. She also stated the Oyster Roast is coming up.

Councilmember Blake thanked everyone for coming out and thanked Mr. Lee for his presentation, promising to look more into his request. She then thanked the Council and Mayor for all they do.

1. **Comments from the Mayor**

Mayor Pruitt acknowledged the water and sewer rates are extremely out of line and must be addressed during this budget process. It is not going to be pleasant news and the rates are going to go up. We need people to understand that water and sewer services are very expensive. He reported that the budget will be presented on March 28th and encouraged everyone to examine it closely and make their opinions known.

1. **Comments from the Public**
   1. Thomas Davidson asked if code enforcement could do something with a property on Morris Street where the owner has apparently hauled a lot of trash in as fill. Mayor stated that there is a stop order on the developer. Mr. Davidson stated that he knew of vehicles that are have been in yards for one year or more and are not tagged. He spoke to Code Enforcement but didn’t get a lot of feedback. He asked about boat update. Mayor stated that we have talked to a marine broker, an appraiser and other interested parties and hope to have a plan in place possibly in April.
   2. An unidentified lady asked if we could share the presentation on the water and sewer rate study. Mayor stated that there will be minutes available. Mayor stated this is budget session there will be several meetings. March 28, he will present the budget to the Council. She asked how will the information get out about the lead and copper pipe project. Mayor stated that it is a lengthy process and money will be available to people to help replace the pipes. Town Manager Pollitt stated there will be an inventory process to see where we have lead and copper pipes and that we have applied for a grant to help mediate the process.
   3. Rob Hall asked if the presentation for the 120 Water Lead and Copper project and the presentation by Jean Holloway on the water and sewer rate study will be on the website.
   4. Fran Price asked when will the new web site be ready? Who is updating the current website as the Board and Commissions needs to be updated.

**Adjournment**

Adjournment –Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Blake, seconded by Councilmember Simpson and approved by the following vote:

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

Accordingly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**C**arol L. Sullivan

Carol L Sullivan