

**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

**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, December 13, 2022, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Mike Pruitt

Councilperson Regina Blake (ABSENT)

Councilperson Jenny Hall

Councilperson Janet Simpson

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Jr., Town Manager

Andy McGee, Police Chief

Martin Sullivan, Code Official

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Lorissa McAllister, Director of Economic Development

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager

Jerry Jeffra, Communications Officer

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager

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1. Following a **Salute to the Flag and Prayer,** Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** for:
   1. November 9, 2022 Town Hall Meeting: On the motion of Councilperson Simpson and seconded by Councilperson Hall, 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** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

1. November 29, 2022 Work Session of Councilperson Simpson and seconded by Councilperson Hall, 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** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Treasurer’s Report** 
   1. On the motion of Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, 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** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **PKS - Audit Presentation**
     1. Leslie Michalik & Ryan Taylor in attendance.
        1. Leslie M. gave presentation after already having presented it to Mayor, Town Manager and treasurer
           1. Gave clean/unmodified opinion of Town’s finances. Highest level can give.
           2. No instances of non-compliance
           3. Internal controls – no material weaknesses.
           4. ARPA– encumbered by 2024, spend by end of 2026
           5. town in a good financial place
           6. Water and Sewer fund review: look at your fees, not meeting costs of operating plant
        2. Ryan T. gave an over view of the following: general fund, general expenditures, capital outlay-significant decrease, loans; BES, police cars, capital projects, 5.5 months operating expenses, grants, expenditures, water and sewer fund review, ARPA funds: breakdown of expenditures.
        3. **A. Mayor asked** – time spent on audit?

**Answer**: 3-4 people approximately 2-3 weeks

1. **Mayor commented** – good financial condition, but need to take a look at infrastructure costs and on how to pay for it
2. **Town Manager Report**

* 1. Updates – Planning commission postponed meeting to Jan 9th.
  2. EV Charging Stations – started construction, complete by tomorrow
  3. Announced Carol Sullivan, new hire for Executive Administrator position.
  4. Annexation petition – submitted to our attorney, taking next steps to public and Planning Commission

1. **Department Reports Mayor and Council reviewed department reports**
   1. Mayor and Council gave kudos to Lorissa for speaking at LESMA dinner.
   2. Dr. Byrd was asked to give a special museum presentation.
   3. Mayor Pruitt gifted a gavel to the museum, given to him by former Mayor George Gering.
2. **New Business**
   1. **Action Items**
      1. Ordinance No. 2022-05, First Reading: State-mandated updates
   2. Motion to accept First Reading by Councilperson Hall, seconded by Councilperson Simpson for approval. The time was 7:56pm.

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| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** |  |  |  |  | **X** |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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1. **Old Business**
   * 1. **Black-Eyed Susan**
        1. Mayor explained process for tonight, not going to vote tonight; Councilperson Blake not here due to family emergency, want her present when we decide fate of the boat.
           1. Gave overview of conversations with various captains/nautical experts of similar vessels, estimated cost of operating them/maintenance, their experiences with owning/operating vessels like this
        2. Motion to move Public Comment by Councilperson Simpson, seconded by Councilperson Hall for approval.

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| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** |  |  |  |  | **X** |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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* Mayor asked for list of those who signed up to speak
  + Ms. Price declined comment
  + Mr. Paffrath – commented on rail service and Black-Eyed Susan; gave personal background; dinner train, various ideas and invitation to buy shares and serve on board
  + Bob Blevins – pastor in Pocomoke; let me raise a million dollars; spoke of another project he led with large fundraising – approx. 500K in 6 mos.; wants to collaborate
  + Mr. Malik – there are competing interests; also concerns about debt service or grants on boat; are other modes of transportation could be brought into it, railroad; pastoral uses, murder mystery; if stakeholders could meet and meet those needs together; stakeholders now have time to meet in the next 30 days
  + Mayor reported on grant and loan and discussions with County
    - * Motion to Close Public Comment by Councilperson Hall, seconded by Councilperson Simpson for approval.

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| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
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1. **Comments from the Council**
   * 1. Councilperson Hall – wait to comment until Councilperson Blake is present; Merry Christmas to everyone
     2. Councilperson Simpson: a lot to take in; take into full consideration of the taxpayers; very positive about River being focal point of economic vitality; Happy Holidays and going to be a great 2023; thanked all employees for events, brought a lot of people to town, thank you all for your hard work
2. **Comments from the Mayor**
   * 1. Have a great Christmas, enjoy Snow Hill, support all businesses
3. **Presentation of Resolution No. 2022-04** recognizing outgoing Deputy Town Manager, Margot Resto.
4. **Adjournment** 
   1. Adjournment –Motion for adjourn by Councilperson Simpson, seconded by Councilperson Hall for approval. The time was 8:12pm.

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| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** |  |  |  |  | **X** |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

Respectfully Submitted,

Margot Resto

Deputy Town Manager