**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**

**Town Hall Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

**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, May 10, 2022 with Mayor Jewell presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Jennifer R. Jewell, Ph. D.

Councilperson Regina Blake

Councilperson Melisa Weidner

Councilperson Rob Hall

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Town Manager

Andy McGee, Police Chief

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager

Martin Sullivan, Code Official

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Dr. Cindy Byrd, Julia A Purnell Museum Director

Lorissa McAllister, Economic Development Director

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager

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1. Following a **Salute to the Flag and an Invocation** by Council Hall, Mayor Jewell called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** for: Work Session April 19, 2022: On the motion of Councilperson Weidner, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Town Manager Report**
2. **Department Head Reports for May 2022:**
	1. Finance –Motion for approval by Council person Weidner, followed by second and approval:

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Economic Development Director
		1. First Fri resched to 2nd Fri due to weather
		2. Community Bike Ride
		3. Dancing Under Stars
		4. Movement for electric charging stations; library lot
	2. Code Enforcement – no changes
	3. Public Works – Fiber optic installations, will be fixing properties, residents can pull flags up to mow now; basketball courts will be opened back up tomorrow morning, bringing in youth/community folks to help clean
	4. Water & Wastewater – Randy expressed that Russ’s wife has been having medical issues, keep in prayers
	5. Museum
	6. Police Dept – hoping to have someone to add to Academy soon, still one position short
	7. Fire Dept – not present, no report attached
1. **Old Business**
	1. **Ordinance 2022-02: Mayor’s Proposed Budget FY’23 Second Reading – passed with updates/edits. Motion to pass and adopt Ordinance/FY’23 Budget made by Council Hall:**

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

1. **New Business**
	1. **Ordinance 2022-03: FY’22 Year-End Budget Amendment. Motion to adopt first reading of Ordinance made by Council Blake:**

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Election Results:** Unofficial – Mike Pruitt and Janet Simpson projected winners. Official results presented at June 14th Town Hall Meeting.
	2. **Toole Design** – Final Report of Bikeways Feasibility Study
		1. **Path description**
		2. **Phases**
		3. **Next steps**
		4. **Funding sources**
	3. **Letter of Support** for Vendor Fee reduction for Worcester County
	4. **Martin Street Sale** agreement – 102 Martin Street; Preston Reed interested in purchasing property; Rick Pollitt gave details; Karpinski drew up settlement agreement; cost 12K to tear down property
		1. **Motion to adopt Martin Street agreement made by Council Blake:**

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Melisa Weidner** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** |  |  | **X** |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** |  | **1** |  |  |

* 1. **Black-Eyed Susan**
		1. Mayor presented current cost estimates for floating venue
		2. Options: fix to become floating venue or sell
		3. Grants and loan we would default on if sold
		4. Were told Colonna quote was accurate, possibly higher; as it sits not worth anything; only if we invest
		5. Spoke to Coast Guard -just patch boat to get it back, tow it without large investment, Coast guard wouldn’t budge, repairs must be made to tow it
		6. Sell/cut losses; what it represents in opportunity is valuable as economic engine/tourist attraction; weigh benefit of limited facility
		7. Town attorney gave info on liability weight
		8. Can’t afford to keep or sell, M&C make value judgement
		9. 192K in repairs to get boat back to SH, then go after grant sources
		10. Council ask: budget? 200K ARPA, 100K CIP
		11. Operator Jim Washington said he’s all in if it’s a viable business
		12. If sell, still be liable for hundreds of thousands of dollars
		13. $300/day, have all information to make a decision
		14. Could we use ARPA to pay back loan? No.
		15. Grant money is not looked upon favorably.
		16. Mayor – boat represents hopeful, future, people have visited and taken pictures, without even going on the boat; we lose either way; if we were to fix it, it does allow time to solicit funds from the state; is opportunity for money to come in future; we have to make a decision
		17. Council Hall – don’t have an official assessment of boat, perhaps 200K, highly unlikely that boat would be worth a million dollars
		18. Town Manager – as a business plan, as I said, doesn’t make sense
		19. Council Weidner – likely we could get grants?
		20. Pollitt: Fed & State acknowledged that it could be an economic driver, but that process would take time to go through proper channels
		21. Randy Barfield – described process of boat’s purchase, and since, been to Norfolk twice per week, asking to drop prices; what you owe is more that it’s worth; boat won’t sit on yard much longer, they have the right to make a decision what to do with it; doesn’t have COI; can’t hold them off much longer; decision must be made as soon as possible before we incur more costs;
		22. Pollitt made suggestion that if we can’t make decision tonight, we contact attorney in closed session to be advised on grants/loan liabilities details
		23. Council Blake made motion in favor of saving boat, patch as a floating venue until more funds can be collected. Council Weidner seconded.

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| **Rob Hall** |  | **X** |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** | **1** |  |  |  |

1. **Comments from the Mayor**
	* 1. Not a popular decision, thank you all for input
2. **Comments from Council** - none
3. **Comments from the Public (Attendees will be allotted a maximum of 3 minutes each.)**
	1. Mike Pruitt – re: Old Fire Hall and Planning and Zoning expectations
	2. BES – suggest divesting of boat that will cost thousands and thousands of lost dollars; maintenance plan? If it sinks it will be a liability.
	3. Separate the dream from the financial liability; taxpayers that are affected by this decision; no business plan and marine survey; lack of due diligence; citizens need to know about how that won’t happen again
	4. Mayor -when boat brought back, next admin should be very mindful
	5. Find it implausible that we didn’t know condition of hull; seems like there is culpability, maybe lawyer
	6. Council Hall – there was a marine survey, dry-docking determines total damage
	7. Thank you for tearing down house Mr. Sullivan
	8. Backstreet Bikes – excited about Bikeways
	9. Concern about Church and Martin – can’t see either way; does it take an accident to make change? SHA – Randy has talked to them but they are responsible for it. Rick will talk to District engineer to find a solution.
	10. Trash trail – potholes. County responsible. We will talk to County, provide email contacts.
	11. What is town doing about low-income housing? Apartments? Belt Street – town property where it was torn down. Habitat Housing?
	12. Mayor – definitely something additional that planning commission can address. Can make it part of the Comprehensive Plan coming up.
	13. Suzanne T – thank you for transparency, as a business owner. All of us are jaded by previous administration. We have been left to clean up the mess. Current admin has been transparent, and thank you for it, unfortunate situation. Please have mercy on and respect for those making this decision.
4. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Councilperson Weidner, seconded by Councilperson Hall, all in favor. The time was 8:49pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Margot Resto**