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Description automatically generatedSNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**

**Town Hall Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 14th, 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, June 14th, 2021, with Mayor Jewell presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Jennifer R. Jewell, Ph. D.

Councilperson Regina Blake

Councilperson Rob Hall

Mayor Michael Pruitt

Councilperson Janet Simpson

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy McGee, Police Chief

Retiring Fire Chief, Trey Heiser

Dr. Cynthia Byrd, Julia A. Purnell Museum Director

Jerry Jeffra, Communications Officer

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager

Lorissa McAllister, Director of Economic Development

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Rick Pollitt, Town Manager

Russ Harrison, Water & Wastewater Superintendent

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1. Following a **Salute to the Flag and an Invocation** by Reverend Mary Haggard, Mayor Jewell called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** for: Work Session May 31st, 2022: On the motion of Councilperson Blake and seconded by Councilperson Hall, minutes were approved by the following vote:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Snow Hill Service Award presentation**
   * 1. Mayor Jewell read the submission to the public, awarding a Service Award to Diana Nolte for her impeccable fealty and dedication to the Town and its community.
2. **Ordinance No. 2022-03 FY’22 Year-End Budget Amendment – Second Reading and Adoption**
   * 1. Mayor Jewell read the ordinance to approve the FY’22 Year-End Budget Amendment.

**Approval of the Ordinance**: On the motion of Councilperson Blake and seconded by Councilperson Hall, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Rob Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

1. **Swearing In of Newly-Elected Officers**
   1. Susan Braniecki, for Mayor Mike Pruitt
      1. Mayor Jewell introduced Susan Braniecki, who then swore in Snow Hill’s newest Mayor, Mike Pruitt.
   2. Mayor Mike Pruitt, for Eastern District Council Janet Simpson
      1. Mayor Mike Pruitt swore in Snow Hill’s newest Eastern District Councilperson Janet Simpson.
2. **Proclamation – retiring Fire Company Chief Trey Heiser**
   * 1. Mayor Pruitt read the proclamation for the retirement of Fire Company Chief Trey Heiser, thanking him for his service.
3. **Town Manager Report**
   * 1. Rick Pollitt: Most of everything is on the paper. Wanted to recognize Lounell Hamstead again for her incredible service last year. Yesterday, she was honored with the Maryland Municipal League’ Roland B. Sweitzer Municipal Employee of the Year.
4. **Department Reports:**
   1. Finance Reports:
      1. Lounell Hamstead: Nothing to add.

On the motion of Councilperson Blake motioned and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, financial reports were approved by the following vote:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **2** |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Economic Development Report:
     1. Lorissa McAllister: Nothing to add.
  2. Code Enforcement Report
     1. Marty Sullivan: Nothing to add.
  3. Public Works Report
     1. Randy Barfield: Nothing to add.
  4. Water & Wastewater Report
     1. Russ Harrison: Nothing to add.
  5. Museum Report
     1. Dr. Cynthia Byrd: Kids program starts in July. Juneteenth Freedom Walk is this Saturday, June 18th.
  6. Police Department Report
     1. Andy McGee: Shooting on Cypress Street is still under investigation.
  7. Fire Department Report
     1. Report: Michael Creech is taking over as chief, nothing else to add.

1. **New Business**
   1. Updates
      1. Mayor Appointments: Mayor Pruitt has appointed Councilperson Regina Blake as Secretary, and appointed Councilperson Janet Simpson as Treasurer. Both councilpersons have accepted.
2. **Comments from the Council**
   * 1. Councilperson Blake: Thanked many people on staff, and the mayor for her service. Councilperson Simpson: Thanked the community, and the Eastern District for voting for her.
3. **Comments from the Mayor**
   * 1. Excited and humbled to be here as mayor and declares he will do his best as such. Mayor Pruitt noted the large amount of change that happened during many positions in Town since his leave of the Council 5 years ago. Wants to investigate some of the older businesses of the previous positions/administrations. Wants to get to know more of the citizens of Snow Hill. Recognized Rob Hall for his duty for filling in for Eastern District Councilperson.
4. **Comments from the Public**
   * 1. Attendee #1: Community Bible School at Byrd Park, wanted to reassure that security will be present. First week of August leading up to Blessing of the Combines weekend. Dinner will be provided. Attendee #2: Concern about shooting on Dyton and Cypress, is worried about the ‘slow process’ of responding to the shooting, and wants to see more police presence, more security. Chief: The first officer was on scene under 3 minutes, there were also unmarked units investigating the wide area of interest/setting the perimeter. Attendee #3; Senator Carozza: Congratulated the outgoing Mayor. Advocated for the public safety of everyone in Snow Hill, and highlighted an initiative happening in Maryland: Maryland General Assembly passed a bill that will allow for an elevated walkway connecting Snow Hill with the forest park, eventually connecting Snow Hill and Pocomoke.
5. **Proclamation** – Mayor Dr. Jennifer R. Jewell
   * 1. Mayor Pruitt, along with Councilpersons Simpson and Blake, Town Manager Rick Pollitt, and Rob Hall, read a resolution to recognize the service and dedication of outgoing Mayor Jewell. Outgoing Mayor Jewell was awarded both a plaque and The Key to the City of Snow Hill.
6. **Adjournment** 
   1. Adjournment –Motion for adjourn by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Simpson for approval. The time was 7:48pm.

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| **NAME** |  | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Regina Blake** |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** |  | **2** |  |  |  |  |

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Jeffra