**A picture containing text, clock

Description automatically generatedSNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**

**Town Hall Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 13th, 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, September 13th, 2022, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Mike Pruitt

Councilperson Regina Blake

Councilperson Janet Simpson

Councilperson Jenny Hall

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Lt. Bob Burnett

Cynthia Byrd, Julia A. Purnell Museum Director

Jerry Jeffra, Communications Officer

Lorissa McAllister, Director of Economic Development

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Rick Pollitt, Town Manager

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. Following a **Salute to the Flag and a Silent Prayer,** Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** for:
   1. August 9th, 2022 Town Hall Meeting: Mayor: Mark Nixon is not Bike Committee Chairman; needs to be corrected to Planning & Zoning Chair. On the motion of Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, minutes to be edited were approved by the following vote:

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

* 1. September 6th, 2022 Work Session: On the motion of Councilperson Simpson and seconded by Councilperson Hall, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   1. (Lounell Hamstead: Attendance not requested.) Mayor: Total Account Receivable is a lot more than the payout. Council had no questions. Councilperson Simpson: Audit has begun, will be available or finished in December, presented in January or February.
   2. On the motion of Councilperson Hall and seconded by Councilperson Simpson, the ordinance was approved by the following vote:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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: One note: Planning Commission’s first item; no word from Matt Burrier (contact for Burley Oak) if the purchase of the Fire Hall is good. (more under Old Business, Updates, section 2.)
2. **Department Reports:**
   1. Economic Development Report
      1. Lorissa McAllister: Harrison House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is hosting a community day picnic event, Friday September 23rd, 1-4pm. Staff and Council are invited.
   2. Code Enforcement Report
      1. Marty Sullivan: Absent. Rick: A few complaints, but Marty is taking care of them.
   3. Public Works Report
      1. Randy Barfield: Nothing to add.
   4. Water & Wastewater Report
      1. Russ Harrison: Absent. Rick: Nothing further to add.
   5. Museum Report
      1. Dr. Cynthia Byrd: The museum was featured in the magazine Shore Home & Garden (pages 42-43). FiberFest! will also be a bit different; the activities will be during October’s 1st Friday, Arts on the River event.
   6. Police Department Report
      1. Sgt. Bob Burnett: Chief has COVID, is recovering well. (Nothing else to add). Mayor: Few complaints about uncovered trucks on Bay Street. Also, trucks aren’t appropriately stopping at the crosswalks.
   7. Fire Department Report
      1. Mayor: Great meeting with the Fire Chief. Chief: Got a new Fire Truck for just under $700k (including equipment), should be good for 30 years. Councilperson Hall: Didn’t you have a celebration coming up? Chief: Yes, 125th anniversary Open House on October 1st, at the Fire House 11am-2pm.
3. **Old Business**
   1. Action Item: Dr. Plack Building/Logo Wall
      1. Mayor to Council: A quote from Signature Labor of $25k to fix the logo on the side of Dr. Plak’s building. Rick: Did receive a phone call from Dr. Plak last month; Dr. Plak explained he’s trying to sell his building and asking the Town if they are willing to help pay for fixing the wall where the logo is; hoping an update by mid-September. Rick responded that the Town has had Work Sessions on the subject, and while the Town is sympathetic to the events occurring and the desire to continue having the logo fixed and have it still displayed, there is an issue on using public money on a private business. Another $5-6K on top of the $25k for a possible lift. John Rankin did find a possible grant that would potentially pay for all of the expenses but is incredibly competitive and won’t open until next year. Councilperson Blake: The building is for sale now? Rick: Yes. Mayor: All in favor for getting the logo up on the building at a later date when the money is available. Councilperson Simpson: Did he give any indication if we weren’t apart of the decisions, he won’t keep the logo? Rick: No. Councilperson Simpson: He's never asked us for any money due to the logo being on his building in the past. Mayor is in favor of eventually repairing the logo but is concerned about using public money on a private business + where in the budget could it come from. Mayor asked Rick what his advice is on the situation; Rick said we just don’t have the money for any immediate action. In an informal raise of hands, Mayor & Council voted to hold off on paying the $25k for fixing the wall.
   2. Updates
      1. Black-Eyed Susan: Sent inquiries and the survey of the Black-Eyed Susan to 3 highly skilled individuals (steel haul boat operations) of what are the best rates to fix the boat. Mayor will arrange to have them meet them at the Black-Eyed Susan with himself and Randy to have them inspect the boat and give the Town their best estimated prices for fixing the boat. Mayor also wanted the Town to make more responsibility by respecting maritime laws and get a more accurate expenditure of what it takes to operate a paddleboat of this size and age on a monthly/yearly basis.
      2. Old Fire Hall/Burley Oak Brewery: Rick: Last month, the Planning Commission met in discussion about Burley Oak purchasing the Fire Hall. The commission asked several questions, such as loading/unloading, water/waste usage, etc. Rick wanted to arrange another meeting with Burley Oak but hasn’t gotten a call back from Matt Burrier yet for some weeks except for 1 text message since last Friday saying he was busy. Mayor: Appreciated the commission being on board with the process; if Burley Oak is interested in us they’ll be the ones talking to us.
4. **New Business**
   1. Delmarva Power – EV Charging Station Facilities
      1. Rick: Introduced Jim Smith (from Delmarva Power): Partnering with businesses and municipalities (town, counties, and state) to offer opportunities to install EV charging stations. There will be no cost to the Town for this service. Potential spots of interest in installing the stations are Green Street, or somewhere in downtown. Mayor: If we grant this, is there something that would cause Delmarva Power to pull out, or could the Town pull out from this project once started? Smith: That will be as long as the chargers are there. 5-year program to install the chargers. Simpson: Will these stations take up new or existing parking spaces? Smith: The EV stations will take existing parking spaces (A proposal of installing 4 was made by Smith). The spots will have an imprint on the pavement that will denote ‘for charging’, the stations will also have bollards installed next to them. Mayor: Will weather/environment cause disruptions? Smith: Low usage, will not have a significant impact on the grid. Simpson: How fast will the stations go up if approved? Smith: 3-6 months. Councilperson Blake: How many do we have at John Water Smith? Smith: 2 at JWS, and 2 at the Rec Center, 3 at visitor’s center, 4 at the farmer’s market in Pocomoke.
      2. On the motion by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Simpson, granting the rightaway for the EV charging stations for Delmarva Power was approved by the following vote:

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

* 1. Safety Services Agreement
     1. Rick: Certain problems were observed at the Water/Wastewater facility, as well as other workplace areas. Has worked in the past with Safety Resources LLC: Got 2 quotes for training the water/wastewater employees (potentially others). One was 8 hours of work and safety training; $4k. Second option is 16 hours and $6k annually or $3300 twice a year. This is all for training our workers into safety and will inspect properties for potential hazards. Mayor: Where will the money come from? Rick: Can’t exactly say where it will (perhaps savings) but wants to urge the importance of the service. Mayor: Wants to have this discussion at later work sessions to establish a better source of where the money will come from. Margot: Can also check with Legit to see what they can offer.

1. **Comments from the Council**
   1. Councilperson Blake: Thanks everyone for coming out and thanked all the department heads. Also wishing the chief the best. Councilperson Hall: Thanked everyone for coming. Councilperson Simpson: Thanked everyone for coming. Wanted to bring awareness of the trash pick-up schedule change. Also thanked Lounell for her work on the financials, and Dr. Byrd for getting the museum on the magazine.
2. **Comments from the Mayor**
   1. Nothing to add.
3. **Comments from the Public**
   1. Attendee #1: Didn’t have trash pick-up (lives in W Market). Randy: The way the pick-up is set up is due to school traffic, having the crew start at Byrd Park and moves towards the eastern side. (As of now, one of our trash trucks is off being repaired, so residents West of Church Street are having their trash pickup normal times, but resident east of Church Street need to put their trash out Tuesday night, as the pick-up will happening Wednesday morning.) Attendee #2: What was the reason to paint a bicycle on the street on the intersection with all the trucks entering and turning (hazard concern for bikers). Mayor: Will see if the biking committee can take a look at it. Another question, vacant building ordinance, 201601, where is that? Mayor: Is still hanging, Planning & Zoning department will be cleaning that up. Fire Chief: With the approval of the EV charging stations, can there be fire training or information given to his department? Smith: Yes. Attendee #3: Some trucks have been speeding and the uncovered trucks have been spilling a lot of dust around town (near Bay Street). Mayor: Will request a meeting with Tyson to see if there can be a solution to the lingering issues.
4. **Adjournment** 
   1. Adjournment –Motion for adjourn by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Hall for approval. The time was 7:52pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Jeffra

Communications Officer