

**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

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

**Minutes**

**4:30pm – Work Session**

A Work Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at The Old Fire Hall on Green Street on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Michael Pruitt

Councilperson Janet Simpson

Councilperson Regina Blake

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Jr., Town Manager

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

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1. **Mayor Pruitt called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Noted that Councilperson Hall is absent.**
2. **Tommy Mason Pavilion –** plaque ordered and delivered, ready for install and need to set a ceremony date with family
3. **Mayor’s Meetings**
   * 1. Tyson Plant – re: trucks issues - met with manager, said he’s done all he could do, but gave suggestions, will meet with specific drivers and council them; possibly PD stop and warn; maybe put up flashing light “crosswalk ahead” downtown
     2. Weston Young – Mayor wanted to meet with him as new Mayor, share ideas: library, parking garage; share meeting space with us, possibly down the road for police space, storage; County wants to put up public facility, discuss stormwater management and infrastructure plans for future needs
     3. Rick Pollitt commented: relationship building; they’re very interested in having a tight relationship, share resources; this meeting is the first of more
4. **Black-Eyed Susan**
   1. **Mayor described research, meetings with nautical experts, their inspections and assessments**
      1. Boat Captain A: owned several fishing trawlers 30 + years, dealt with Colonna Shipyard, looked at BES and gave quote about yearly maintenance above 100K/sent letter
      2. Boat Captain B: works for tug co out of Norfolk, 9 tugs roughly size of BES; sent letter, estimated maintenance cost about $100K/yr
      3. Had extensive conversation with a Captain, spoke with us over 3 hours, works on 900 foot super tanker, very knowledgeable
      4. Spoke with Suicide Bridge owner, two paddle boats
      5. Former boat owner lived on steel trawler, avg 60K maintenance/yr (8 years ago)
      6. Mayor went over handwritten notes
         1. Boat Captain C: conversation – met with Mayor and Randy and observed boat over 3 hrs; Mayor described conversation and his qualifications. Maintenance yearly = 80-150K. BES is very old.
         2. Restaurant owner/paddlewheel owner conversation (Suicide Bridge), 2 paddleboats and has been successful but qualified his remarks to include his opinion of 100K maintenance/yr.
         3. Unsolicited conversations with 2 bankers - one of the most difficult decisions is knowing when to cut losses; told to cut losses and sell right away (investment banker and has trawler)
         4. Boat operator offered that you can contact them through Mayor’s office
         5. Advised Council that this is in their court, feel free to verify what I have said
         6. Randy – discussed meeting and inspection together of BES; knew about the potential maintenance costs, wasn’t aware of death date/expiration date; talked about the stern repairs needed, at least 600K, doesn’t include maintenance daily, as long as it sits here, the more money it will cost
         7. Rick – have had interest expressed from other people who may want to purchase the boat and operate under their auspices; some who believe they could raise $1 million to save the boat
         8. Council Blake – meet with railroad interested person?
         9. Mayor – yes, bring to work session and have discussion
         10. Council Simpson – provide this info to those interested that have deep pockets
         11. Mayor – could get his notes from meetings with nautical experts typed up and provide
         12. Council Simpson - Scrap boat, make money?
         13. Mayor – will find out who may know; Pinnacle, other boat brokers
         14. Loan and grant – may still owe and have to return or ask forgiveness?
         15. Mayor asked two former Council people to weigh in
             1. Council A: Interest in railroad, etc…; may get loan forgiveness if we’re doing something to boost tourism
             2. Council B: Time for boat to go now
         16. Rick will share interested investor name with Council
5. **Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Simpson, all in favor. The time was 5:22pm.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Resto, Deputy Town Manager