

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Work Session

5-26-2020

A work session with Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held via telephone conference due to the COVID-19 protocols on Tuesday May 26, 2020 with Mayor Weber presiding. The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

- Mayor Gary Weber
- Councilwoman Alison Gadoua
- Councilwoman Melisa Weidner
- Councilwoman Regina Blake
- Administrative Assistant Margot Resto
- Police Chief Andy McGee
- Public Works Director Randy Barfield

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

4/14/2020 – Town Hall Meeting: Motion to approve, seconded, all in favor, approved.

4/21/2020 – Work Session: Motion to approve, seconded, all in favor, approved.

BLIGHTED HOUSES

Code Official – need Council feedback. Nine beyond repair, 4 in this meeting. Up to \$20,000 per house to demo and finish grade, per lot. None imminent safety issue. Discussion on process on how to get to demolition order.

300 Purnell Street, owner wants to demo, Town finance it, if not making payments, forfeit property to Town.

208 E Martin Street, owner deceased, no next of kin to inherit. Publicize, town pay to demo.

105 Collins Street – boarded up porch, in a trust, next of kin difficult to get a hold of.

Covington Street – Town owned, need to demo, was previously going to be demo’d for Habitat for Humanity, but nothing was ever done.

Council asked how many liens do we have on properties like these.

Code Official - have to research.

Council - Advertising to sell any of these properties? Lead by example if owned by Town.

Maybe sell and get tax dollars back.

Mayor recommend create budget item in Capital improvement, 2 per year, 4.5 years all down.

Agree with Council - lead by example.

Mayor - Covington St be taken down in-house?

Public Works – can take it down. It would be slow, but have done this before and can do it. Mayor discussed bringing cost down this way. Rent needed equipment. Look into cost-savings, insurance coverage on this. Start with Covington ASAP first, next see which properties are at the point in the process to demo expeditiously. Capital budget amendment may be needed. Work in progress.

Council inquired – total houses? Nine total, 4 to start, goal to demo all over time.

Riley Funding Request

Description of Riley Fund. Annual request. Councilperson Gadoua served on this committee, now need another Council member to step up to be part of committee. Town holds account, committee submits request list based on wishes of Riley fund, comes up for Council review, finance manager cuts check.

Mayor described that part of fund is digitizing surveyor Pitts land records from turn of century, only record because of fire. In support.

Motion to approve, seconded, all in favor.

SPEEDING COMPLAINTS

Martin, Federal 30 mph in 25mph zone, can control this. Green Street – complaint in February Town Hall meeting. Possible speed bump. Council input?

Mayor asked if bumps are portable and removable.

Where to put on Green Street. Defer to Public Works. Should use the ones that get epoxied in – if something happens overnight, rods, etc... do come loose in time, 911 can take it off road, less damage to road and to repair. Signs need to be put up that there is a bump. Have tried law enforcement, took out a hydrant at one point, don't want to put a law enforcement there all day.

Discussion on snow plow usage, height above a certain point not to interfere with bumps. May cause requests for speed bumps all over town.

Try bump with epoxy for 6 months, not too costly, see how it works, with enforcement.

Approx. \$600 with everything installed. In budget.

Mayor recommend trying one at Green Street. May have to do Ordinance to install.

Council – what budget to use – Public Works – street supplies. Money is there.

Council concern that you may be asked to do a traffic study.

Police chief can do a 72-hour traffic study and get results next week. Not as accurate because of pandemic situation with schools and businesses closed. Two-three complaints per week for Green. Martin and Federal study because higher speeds, complaints from residents, will do Green Street study.

Public Works asked Chief – 7-9am in Fire Hall bay. Feedback by June 2.

In process, will get feedback from attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Thank you for working on blighted houses problem. Thanked Councilperson Gadoua for service.

Side note - Code Official – also working on sidewalk issue, relating to safety as well, working on grants to get repairs and installations, goes hand-in-hand with blighted houses.

Resident – looked into grant funding for demolition?

In the past, yes, spoke with Grants Administrator, have tried in the past with no luck. Will look into that again. Usually not awarded to residential, only commercial, usually they encourage resident to find funding. In process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn, the motion received a Second. All in favor to adjourn. The time was 5:16 pm.