

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Town Meeting

June 16, 2020

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held via telephone conference on Tuesday June 16, 2020 with Mayor Gary Weber presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

- Mayor Gary Weber
- Councilperson Melisa Weidner
- Councilperson Regina Blake
- Councilperson-elect Lisa Outten Harrison
- Outgoing Councilperson Alison Gadoua

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

- Martin Sullivan, Code Enforcement Officer
- Lounell Hamstead, Finance Officer
- Andy McGee, Police Chief
- Russ Harrison, WWTP Superintendent
- Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
- Cynthia Byrd, Purnell Museum Director
- Larry Lynch, Public Works Supervisor
- Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant

SALUTE TO THE FLAG/INVOCATION

Mayor Weber called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MAYOR’S OPENING COMMENTS

- Celebrated 108th birthday of Mr. Munroe.
- Swearing in of Eastern District Council person, Lisa Outten Harrison.
- Proclamation read by Lisa Outten Harrison for Alison Gadoua’s service on the Council.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve May 12, 2020 Town Hall meeting minutes. Council motion to approve, seconded and approved. Motion to approve June 2, 2020 Work Session minutes. Council motion to approve, seconded and approved.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for May, 2020 was presented. Motion to approve, seconded and approved.

MEDIA, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR/Main Street Manager

N/A – not present.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Code Enforcement Report for May, 2020 was presented, no changes.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Report was presented for May, 2020 was presented. Added that the job fair was moved to next Tuesday if it does rain. Also, outdoor movie will be held June 26th. Council clarified job fair is moved to next Wednesday due to rain.

WWTP REPORT

Wastewater Report for May, 2020 was presented, no changes.

MUSEUM REPORT

The Julia A. Purnell Museum Report was presented for May, 2020. Started soft opening, put up plexiglass, etc. Following standard procedure for museums at this time. Setting up an archive reading room area for people to search family history and past events.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Police Department Report for May, 2020 was presented, no changes.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-03: Budget Adjustment. Lounell Hamstead: Don Giancoli tightened up all line items, going forward, have less line items, much improved process. Resolution read into record.

Speeding problems: Chief McGee – identified 2 main areas of concern: Morris Street needs stop sign to deter speeding. Morris and Martin – Council consider 4-way stop. Federal St from Chicken Man almost to Church, potential 4 way stop at Ross and Federal. Martin Street: qualifies as a school zone to lower speed limit, public experience higher penalties. Educate public first. Discussion on possible speed camera installation on Church Street before school starts, still researching speed bump possibility, locations of highest speed offenses. Stop sign may be a better option. Council asked if there's money in budget for this, Mayor affirmed there is.

Mayor: point of order: need Motion to approve Budget Adjustment Resolution; Councilperson Blake motioned, Councilperson Weidner seconded, all in favor.

Councilperson Blake: Asked more about speeding: Green Street enforcement? Chief – yes, still researching speed bump, looking for most practical option. Mayor said at this time only stop signs and speed limit change to see if problem is solved. Will revisit if needed later.

Councilperson Weidner – open up Resolution to public before approval?

Mayor opened to public input. None made.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works – Truck quotes: Larry Lynch: discussion on quotes received and decision to go with cheapest, all same quality. Must order before August 10th or have to begin process all over again. Could be up to 12 weeks to get trucks in due to COVID and needing to be built to Town municipal specs. Asking for 2 trucks, will be equipped with snow removal. Discussion on history of current trucks, diesels

very costly to repair, systems are failing, 8-10K to repair, due for repair again, will both be put into auction to help pay for one new truck. Skid steer quotes discussion; have a Bobcat 1998 – time to be rotated out of cycle, got 3 quotes, Kubota came in cheapest and the way to go in quality. Will take old one as a trade for decent amount of money. Councilperson Harrison asked: will this new skid steer help with demolitions of blighted homes? Yes, larger, higher capacity work, faster. Attachments needed/spec'd out in addition: large sweeper broom, 9-foot snow pusher, portable boom lift.

Riverwalk/Boardwalk Construction – wooden sidewalk put in, planking nailed, do that in-house, will bring boardwalk as close to bridge as possible; next phase is creating handicap accessible pathway. Randy Barfield, Public Works, materials estimated at \$3500-\$5000. Waiting for call from lumber company, labor in-house. Budgeted – park budget has enough.

Malone Homes Agreement/Huntingfields – Mayor: been in process – approved 14 years ago. In discussions with attorney, developers, County, engineers. Town would be responsible for water and sewer, want to make sure all are in agreement on how this project goes, then can begin to move dirt. 50 homes, benefit to tax base. High of 189-200K, up to 2000 sq ft.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilperson Regina Blake thanked all for the Racial Injustice Peaceful Vigil held last week, looking forward to movie showing, ideas for being united as a community.

Councilperson Weidner seconded her comments, officially welcome Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison. Councilperson Harrison concurred about wonderful event last week, proud to be a part of it. Expressed concern for social distancing not always being practiced, let's be safe and stay healthy. Town/Mayor's Discretionary Fund has purchased ribbons, 200 black and 200 blue representing unity of African American Community and our police officers. Available by Thursday June 25th, call Town Hall. Thanked all for the welcome to the Council.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

COVID-19 – recent relaxation of Governor has been taken beyond what was intended. Advised all to err on the side of caution, requiring masks, 6-foot distancing, is continuing enforcement of social protocols.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cindy Byrd – thanked Mayor for cautiousness with COVID-19 and not pushing us to open, giving us time to be ready when we felt it was time.

Alison Gadoua – commenting about Huntingfields progress, hope that Council will be working collectively, encouraged Council to follow-up ask questions, keep informed.

Randy Barfield – asked Margot give Lisa and Regina his cell and give him theirs.

Citizen – status of recycling? Cancelled until safe to collect it again. Bulk trash? Same.

Mayor motioned to move into Closed Session to discuss Town Manager position, seconded, all in favor, time was 8:16pm. Will attempt to resume at 8:45pm if finished in Closed Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councilperson Melisa Weidner
Councilperson Regina Blake
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison
Administrative Assistant Margot Resto

Motion made to return to Open Session at 10:00pm. Administrative Assistant called in to conference line, none heard in attendance. Summary of Closed Meeting topics shared on the phone conference line.

ADJOURNMENT

Lisa Outten Harrison, Motion to adjourn, Melisa Weidner seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Resto