

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

Work Session

09-01-2020

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, September 1, 2020 with Mayor Tammy Simpson presiding. The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Tammy Simpson
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison
Councilperson Melisa Weidner

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Gary Weber
Public Works Director Randy Barfield
Public Works Supervisor Larry Lynch
Finance Manager Lounell Hamstead
Police Chief Andy McGee

The Mayor read a statement and formally introduced herself.

MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2020 Town Hall Meeting minutes were presented for approval.
Motion to approve by Councilperson Harrison, seconded by Councilperson Weidner, all in favor, approved.

COVID-19 Update

Mayor Simpson: current cases at 68, reached our nursing home residents and staff. Discussion on loosening guidelines to 50 indoors, 100 outdoors, must adhere to social distancing, mask-wearing, restaurant protocols. Not renting public spaces, parks at this time. No gathering at public spaces, no large gatherings at all. If gatherings, strongly urge you to use social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines. Urged citizens to call Town Hall with any questions.

Ordinance 2020-03 – Stop Signs, Speed Bump, Speed Limit and Speed Camera – Introduced and read into record. Councilperson Harrison motioned to accept first reading, Councilperson Weidner seconded. All in favor.

Water/Sewer Bills - Past Due – Town Manager

Bills are owed, will not be forgiven. If you need help, reach out. There is COVID funding that may help. Call Town Hall.

Riverwalk Update

Town Manager reported on history of project, discussed first steps beginning. Will be ADA compatible, attractive, stormwater management, connecting two parks, funding is there for it. Mayor Simpson described its location.

Huntingfields – Phase 1 - Mayor commented on Washington Street work being done leading into Huntingfields, Town Manager discussed process, timeline. Builders excited, single family homes, entry-level pricing, new income for Wastewater plant.

Randy Barfield – asked for clarification on parks and gatherings; Mayor said yes to 10 or less only.

Recycling & Trash

Mr. Barfield read the Non-recyclable material list aloud. Will post to social media, website, kiosk.

Mr. Barfield offered to provide public with code information on trash collection, description of reasons for non-collection.

Council person Weidner offered suggestion of a sticker on trash cans with info.

Mr. Barfield – suggested door hanger instead to avoid blowing away or not receiving it.

Town Manager – discussion on need for code updates on this. Losing money on current amount of tipping and volume of trash collected, not being paid for. Need special work session to rework the code.

Mayor discussed working up loss numbers with Mr. Barfield, option of eventually only taking Town of Snow Hill cans, etc...

Limbs & Grass Clippings

Mayor discussed notification of citizens, massive storm and massive cleanup, then weather caused fast growth, causes hardship on residents. However, many violations. Discussion on regulations.

Limbs problem, will be enforcing them, hangers will be mode of communication. Encouraged to call Town Hall. Public Works will also help to understand regulations. Snow Hill pride, safety purposes.

Mr. Barfield – discussed recent purchase of trash truck, street sweeper, citizens' tax dollars. If help is needed, please notify. Discussed cost of Public Works taking care of trimming, etc...will make it affordable, fair.

Mosquito Spraying

Mr. Barfield - Spray every Tuesday and Wednesday between 8pm-5am. There is a bee buffer – can't spray within 300 feet of property. Got list from Dept of Agriculture of who keeps bees. Went out to property, talked to every resident on that list, discussion of decision to spray or not, permission of bee keeping/dept of agriculture, can get exception.

Councilperson Harrison – discussion on 300-foot buffer, but one location has no bees, but no spraying. Mosquitoes are so terrible. People's safety is more important. Give letter to resume spraying by Monday before spraying.

Mr. Barfield – told those affected to come to meeting. Suggest giving certified letter to property owner before spraying. Recommends spraying the Town.

Councilperson Weidner agrees.

Mayor agrees, get letter out to notify. Need to delve into bee buffer observance.

Discussion on whether or not it can be done closer than 300 feet, or just not on property.

Air Conditioning – Old Fire Hall

Town Manager – discussed four bids, different types of systems. Ducted has filtration system, but does not filter smaller particles like COVID that deeply. Recommends Hickman, ductless, large crowds, 100-200 people, lowest price.

Councilperson Harrison – question regarding budget.

Town Manager – confirmed yes, we have budget for this.

Council discussed going forward with recommendation of Hickman quote.

Councilperson Harrison motioned to vote to move forward with Hickman quote, Weidner seconded, all in favor. Mr. Barfield will contact, warned that there may be a delay due to COVID-19.

Water/Wastewater Plant Software

Councilperson Weidner motioned to vote to move purchase/renew software, Councilperson Harrison seconded, all in favor.

Service Awards

Councilperson Harrison: Local teenager, Andrew Brown picks up trash on his own accord. Suggest creating a service award and present to him.

Mayor Simpson – likes idea, pride in town, community service, encourages young people to get involved. Set up guidelines. Contact councilperson to nominate. Suggests working on guidelines and present at October town meeting. Put on Work Session prior. Councilperson Weidner agrees.

Riverview Square

Mayor Simpson – idea project. Promote walkability, green space, welcoming, comfort level. Discussion on recent parklets projects. Brainstorming with Town Manager re: strategic plan, Campion Hruby. Description of idea – location, design. Service entire downtown area. Begins gateway to Sturgis Park, Riverwalk.

Town Manager – dream, hope project; trial basis, block off street, walk from Corner Shoppe to Fire Hall without being hit by car, pergolas, picnic tables, umbrellas, crepe myrtles. Part of feasibility study for downtown. Savannah square the inspiration, water feature, gathering place in old Victorian style. Governor has given Mayor freedom to do this.

Councilperson Harrison feedback positive, helps businesses, gives possible riverboat as focal point.

Councilperson Weidner agreed, beautiful, renderings; let's get things rolling.

Mayor Simpson credited Gabe's girlfriend for renderings. Commented on countless hours of discussion on how to

Councilperson Harrison – put renderings online?

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilperson Weidner – Addiction Awareness month, purple lights, yard signs, tents, swag from Worcester Goes Purple. Can pick up swag from Snow Hill Business Center.

Mayor commented on how great it looked, and great to have awareness.

Mr. Barfield – discussion re: bulk pickup. Talked about putting out roll-offs for people to bring bulk items to. October is approaching. Cost of tipping. Don't want to put public works staff at risk. Have supervision, one-day thing.

Mayor Simpson said will discuss further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

RE: stop signs – Green Street needs to be addressed.

Ms. Nolte – questions about Riverview Square plan.

Mayor Simpson – commented, answered.

Ms. McAllister – questions about Riverview Square budget, ordinance?

Mayor Simpson – explanation of plan and beginning steps.

Councilperson Harrison – asked Ms. Nolte if interested in umbrella for parklet or need help?

Ms. Nolte – correct furniture more urgent. Discussion about needs, umbrella status.

Ms. Fletcher – thank you to Randy and Town, price to get limbs taken care of? Town stop signs with overgrown bushes?

Mayor explained how public works and police department scan town regularly, but invited call-in from citizens when they see it.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made to adjourn by Councilperson Weidner and seconded by Councilperson Harrison, all in favor to adjourn. The time was 6:06 pm.