

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Town Meeting

September 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held via telephone conference on Tuesday September 15, 2020 with Mayor Tammy Simpson presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Tammy Simpson
Town Manager Gary Weber
Councilperson Regina Blake
Councilperson Lisa Outten Harrison
Councilperson Melisa Weidner

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Lounell Hamstead, Finance Officer
Andy McGee, Police Chief
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager
Cynthia Byrd, Purnell Museum Director
Margot Resto, Administrative Assistant
Jeré Johnson, Media, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator
Ann Gibb, Grants Administrator

SALUTE TO THE FLAG/INVOCATION

Mayor Simpson called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was recited. Town Manager Gary Weber gave the invocation.

MAYOR’S OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Simpson expressed excitement about areas of progress, activities happening in Town, cautiously optimistic.

PROCLAMATIONS READ

Retiring Grants Administrator Ann Gibb
Mayor Gary Weber

MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve September 1, 2020 Work Session meeting minutes. Council Weidner motion to approve, Council Harrison seconded and all approved.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Reported on new things happening: Riverview Square, Oaked 110 opening soon, Martin's PT moving to Artiques, possible annexing across river to Cannery, River Rally, staff returned to work into Town Hall, safe watchful approach. Fruitful lunch with Senator Carozza.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report for August, 2020 was presented, no changes. Council Blake motion to approve, Council Weidner seconded, all in favor and approved.

MEDIA, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR/Main Street Manager

The Media, Marketing and Promotions Report and Main Street Manager Report for August, 2020 was presented, no changes. Mayor asked if she wanted to expound, Worcester Goes Purple. Still swag available at Jerry's Woodcraft. October First Friday! Planning November First Friday, cautious.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Official absent due to medical leave. Hoping for his return very soon.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Public Works Report was presented for August, 2020 was presented by Randy Barfield. No changes.

WWTP REPORT

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

MUSEUM REPORT

The Julia A. Purnell Museum Report was presented for August, 2020. Thanks to Randy – fixed leak so quickly. Hours are back to normal. Fiber Fest – do plan to have it in whatever capacity seems feasible.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Police Department Report for August, 2020 was presented, no changes. Up to 81 cases of COVID. Watching Hurricanes in Atlantic.

Mayor explained discussion with Health Dept and suggestions received for guidelines, mainly could not stress enough that mask-wearing and social distancing work to deter spread of virus.

OLD BUSINESS**Charter Review Committee**

Mayor: At a standstill at this time, Jim Washington volunteered to chair, but a citizen thought it was inappropriate since he is married to Mayor's mother, so duly elected mayor would appoint chair of committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Riverview Square - Mayor: In its infancy, temporary structure at this time. Discussion on how utilized, traffic patterns, American Legion, location. Gateway to Sturgis Park; Council commented that they enjoyed it today.

Delmarva Now Article

Needs to be addressed. Timeframe for it to come out – took so long. An article was already published at time of Mayor appointment and Town Manager hiring. Our main focus is to make progress, move forward. It's damaging to Town, also hurtful. We stand behind our statement that was presented to public.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilperson Harrison commented on the fact that they did what was right for the Town, gave it much consideration and time to make the decision. Hopes for moving on, do good things and help Snow Hill rise, work together.

Councilperson Weidner – too much negative energy put into this. Never had secret agenda to go against others. Wish for forward positive movement.

Councilperson Blake – move forward for betterment of Snow Hill, one family, have to work as one.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor understands that many opinions exist, want to hear them, productively discuss. We are one family, to make the biggest amount of change we must work together.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor opened floor for comments.

Resident – questions about police body cameras and approval of meeting minutes.

Mayor again opened floor. None heard.

CLOSED SESSION – 7:38pm.

Councilperson Weidner read closing statement. Motion to move into Closed Session made by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Harrison, all in favor.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 8:18pm

Motion to move into Closed Session made by Councilperson Blake, seconded by Councilperson Harrison, all in favor.

Council stated that after discussion, they made the decision to sign contract of intent for the Riverboat, contingent upon financing and public support. Announced special Work Session to take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6pm to receive public support and input. Mailer to go out to all residents by the weekend with more information. Final decision whether to put in bid will be Council vote at regular Work Session on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Business owner – question about boat offer; volunteered to be on planning committee for boat.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Council Blake, seconded by Council Weidner and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Resto