

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

APRIL 12, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station at 200 Belt Street on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 with Mayor John Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor John Dorman; Councilman Michael Pruitt; Councilwoman Alison Cook; and Councilwoman Jenny Hall

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager; Michael Day, Econ. Development Coordinator; Randy Barfield, Public Works Director; Cynthia Byrd, Executive Director, Julia Purnell Museum; and James Pilchard, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation from Rev. Trish Goodsell.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for March 2016 by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Pruitt voiced concern regarding the 90 days past due on water/sewer bills. He will follow up with Kelly Pruitt at a later date.

A motion was given to approve the March 2016 Financial Report by Councilwoman Cook and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

In Mrs. Pruitt's absence, Trish Goodsell highlighted that the town newsletter was available at tonight's meeting and that the Town Clean Up Day is scheduled for Monday, April 25th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Day reported that the Vacant Building Ordinance draft has been sent to the Planning Commission for review.

Comcast is finalizing the installation of the WiFi boxes downtown on April 18th.

The Bayside Gazette newspaper will have coverage for Snow Hill starting April 13th.

The Rosenfeld's Deli food truck will be in town next Wednesday and each Wednesday thereafter. Mr. Day spoke with the owners of Harvest Moon, who are in support of the food truck.

Councilman Pruitt asked what the MD Heritage Grant was for. Mr. Day explained that his is a project with conservation consultants Jim Rapp and Dave Wilson who will be assisting with an outdoor plan for tourism.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director stated he reported the Martin Street project as being finished by April 15th. Unfortunately, the weather has delayed the project and they plan to start either this week or next to finish.

WWTP REPORT

Mayor Dorman reported that all the schools have checked their water for lead and the WWTP staff has performed random testing in town and all tests have shown evidence that there is no lead in the water. Tests will continue.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

Dr. Byrd reported that the season opening reception was the best attended since she has been with the Museum, with close to 80 attendees. Lizzie Waters' family were in attendance and were very touched with the presentation of her photo being placed as an exhibit.

The new Museum Asst. Director is working on the website with a completion time of next month.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

No questions/comments

POLICE REPORT

Chief Pilchard reported that in March 75% of the departments drug evidence was destroyed, leaving approximately 40 open property records.

Chief Pilchard attended the Worcester County Health Department with the town officials and some staff. There was a panel discussion on the opiate problem in the County. He plans to take a "pulse" of the town to see if there is interest in a community meeting that would include the presenters from that conference. He advised that he also looked at starting a SHPD Facebook page where he can connect with the Town and the Chamber for feedback.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Dorman advised that, as Mr. Day stated, the Vacant Building Ordinance has gone to the Planning Commission for review. Councilman Pruitt asked if the Comprehensive Rezoning Plan has gone to them yet. Mayor Dorman advised that it has not.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Business Loan Diane Armstrong

Diane Armstrong applied for a business loan for \$2,574.85 to purchase a lift chair for her senior or disabled clients. This amount would be refinanced into her current loan.

A motion to approve the loan application was given by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilman Pruitt. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

2. Reallocation of Funds

\$38,000 was allocated under Line Item 1252-7022 with the intent of purchasing a recycling trailer. The quote came in for \$15,252, leaving \$22,748. Approval is requested use some of the funds to purchase a new lawn mower for \$9,784, leaving \$12,964.

A motion to approve the reallocation of funds was given by Councilman Pruitt and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

3. Budget Amendment

This amendment is to move monies from the Street Department Line Item 1252-7022 to Parks Line Item 1814-7906 to be used for repair of the pavilion concrete wall in Sturgis Park.

A motion to approve the budget amendment was given by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Housing Review Board:

Mark Shockley and Joe Ingolia are willing to continue serving, with their term expiring in 2020. Mike Labesky and Sylvester Dale are willing to continue serving, with their term expiring in 2018. Clint Bickford has agreed to serve, replacing Fannie Birckhead.

A motion to appoint and reappoint the persons listed was given by Councilman Pruitt and seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

Board of Elections Supervisors:

Pauline Rogers and Nellie Purnell are willing to continue serving, with the term expiring in 2018. Melissa Etnoyer has agreed to serve, replacing Leslie Mulligan.

A motion to appoint and reappoint the person listed was given by Councilman Pruitt and seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

5. Ordinance No. 2016-05 Annual Budget – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

This Ordinance adopts the budget for the FY2016-2017. This is a first reading and the Ordinance will be presented for adoption at the May Town Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. April 14th-17th is Paint Snow Hill. The auction will take place on Sunday in the firehouse.
2. April 19th – Art Festival, Pocomoke High School
3. April 22nd – Govenor Hogan will be in Snow Hill for 1 hour
4. April 26th – the work session will be cancelled due to the Mayor and Council attend the Worcester County Awareness Reception and awards banquet
5. May 3rd – Secretary Holt of DHCD will be in Snow Hill
6. May 3rd – 5th – Spring Fest in Ocean City
7. May 3rd – work session at 430pm

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Councilman Pruitt thanked Mayor Dorman for reaching out the Governor and all the State agencies. He thanked Chief Pilchard for his presence in the neighborhoods, as he has seen him more often. He also thanked Cindy and Randy for all they do.
2. Councilwoman Hall and Councilwoman Cook extended the same message as Councilman Pruitt and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Carolyn Brown asked when the street lights will be completed. Mr. Barfield advised that Carter Electric will be finishing the job tomorrow.
2. Sylvester Bratten asked what the plans were for the old recycling trailer once the new one has been purchased. Mr. Barfield advised that it would either be auctioned or sold.
3. George Waters asked for the status on whether residents who don't use the new trash carts can opt out of the fee. Councilman Pruitt advised that he has been arm wrestling the Town Manager on this issue but he has lost the battle for now.
4. Mike Karnis asked if a survey has been done to see if recycling collection is down now that the carts are being used. Mr. Barfield advised that there has been no change in the recycling collection.
5. Carolyn Brown asked what could be done regarding trash carts sitting in the yards of vacant properties. Mr. Barfield will collect the carts and store them at Public Works until the properties become occupied, but reminded everyone that the fee would still be applied.

