

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

JULY 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, July 12, 2016 with Mayor John Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager; Randy Barfield, Public Works Director; Cynthia Byrd, Executive Director, Julia Purnell Museum; Jason Self, WWTP Superintendent; John Holloway, EMS Supervisor; and Tom Davis, Snow Hill Police Department Lieutenant

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

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

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation to honor Lt. Col. Harrington, who led the JROTC at Snow Hill High School, was read by Trish Goodsell. Lt. Col Harrington passed away in May and a memorial service is being held in his honor on July 16, 2016, where this date will be proclaimed as his day in Snow Hill.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for June 2016 by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilman Pruitt. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Pruitt questioned what the grant funding from DNR was allocated for. Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager advised that this grant was used for the comprehensive rezoning of Snow Hill.

A motion was given to approve the June 2016 Financial Report by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager advised that tax sale proceedings are being started to recover past due water/sewer bills.

Councilman Pruitt questioned who the landlords were that owed outstanding registration fees over 90 days. Mrs. Pruitt advised that she could obtain a list and update him.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Day was not in attendance. No questions or comments.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No questions or comments.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

Dr. Byrd encouraged Snow Hill residents to participate in the upcoming needle art competition. The deadline to register is August 24, 2016.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

John Holloway advised that fire staff is meeting with County departments to explore ways to increase their funding.

POLICE REPORT

Lt. Davis advised that all SHPD officers have been trained in administering Naloxone.

Lt. Davis reported vandalism to the black patrol car, citing some minor hood damage.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 2016-01

Vacant and Blighted Building Registration

This Ordinance was revised after input from the Planning Commission and now simply provides a method of registration for vacant residential and commercial properties in town.

A motion to adopt the Ordinance was given by Councilman Pruitt and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. The vote was: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution No. 2016-05

This Resolution approved the Town conveying the former Opera House to Richard and Debbie Seaton to be used for a retail business.

Councilman Pruitt stated that the Town Attorney reviewed the Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement, which includes “safety valves” to ensure all work promised will be completed. Mayor Dorman added that a credit check has been performed on the Seaton’s.

No comments were taken from the audience.

A motion to approve the Resolution was given by Councilman Pruitt and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call was taken and the motion was carried. The results were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

No questions or comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

No questions or comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Audience members voiced opposition to the Resolution and Memorandum of Agreement being adopted, as they feel it should have been discussed publically prior to any decision being made. Questions were posed regarding the plans for the building, payment, acquisition of a bond, and assurances.

Mayor Dorman advised that if the business owners do not meet the terms of the agreement the building will come back to the town.

Questions were voiced about why the building was never publically marketed and if the closed session process was overused. Some felt that the building should have been divided into four parcels and not release the entire building.

Mayor Dorman advised that business plans have been received for other town properties for review. He added that this agreement will allow the building to be occupied, as it has sat vacant for 30 years.

Audience members felt that the community should have a voice on these types of transactions and chastised the elected officials for not publically discussing this venture.

Councilman Pruitt commented that he appreciated a larger number of people in attendance and they want everyone’s opinion. He added that ideas for this building have been discussed for several years and that Mayor Dorman has been working hard to get things moving in Town. He stated that many had an opportunity to present a viable plan but chose not to. He stated that he and the Council support the Mayor on this matter.

One audience member stated that she felt misled by Michael Day, Economic Development Coordinator for not communicating the plans for the building. She feels that he painted a different picture of what was happening.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Mayor Dorman adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted: Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager