

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

JULY 10, 2018

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 10, 2018 with Mayor John Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor John Dorman
Councilwoman Latoya Purnell
Councilwoman Jenny Hall
Councilwoman Alison Cook

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager
Jon Hill, Code Enforcement Officer
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
Cindy Byrd, Museum Director
Tom Davis, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

Mayor Dorman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation from Councilwoman Purnell.

PUBLIC HEARING – WWTP UPGRADE

Mayor Dorman opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm. Mrs. Pruitt advised this was a hearing after-the-fact, as MD DHCD had required two public hearings on the project and the town only held one. After their recent audit, the town was advised that a second public hearing was required to be compliant. This project was completed in 2014. Richard Thompson questioned if there were any consequences due to the second hearing not being held on time. Mrs. Pruitt responded there were no consequences and that this hearing will resolve the matter. With no requested speakers, the hearing was closed at 7:01pm.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for June 2018 by Councilwoman Purnell 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was given to approve the Finance Report for June 2018 by Councilwoman Hall 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.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

No questions or comments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In Michael Day's absence, Mayor Dorman reported that interviews for this position were being conducted by the Council.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Barfield reported that he will have a date for paving of Coulbourne Lane either tomorrow or Thursday. Additionally, the other paving projects will begin in approximately 4-6 weeks.

Mayor Dorman complimented the staff for their work on the Independence celebration.

Mr. Barfield advised that staff will be preparing and working for the Blessing of the Combines event in August.

WWTP REPORT

Mr. Barfield reported that the Ironshire Lift Station project will begin in Fall 2018.

MUSEUM REPORT

Dr. Byrd reported that she will be working all three days of the Salisbury Folk Festival for the Food Ways booth.

Dr. Byrd advised the children's program begins tomorrow from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Museum. She encouraged parents to bring the children.

The Museum would like to collect election signs that are not needed, as well as election banners. They will be used for a children's project this summer. Please contact the museum if you would like to donate yours.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Dorman complimented the staff for their work on the Independence celebration.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Amendment PNC Bank Purchase

The amendment is to move funds from the reserve fund account to a new line item titled “PNC Bank Purchase” for \$268,060.06.

A motion was given to approve the amendment by Councilwoman Hall 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.

2. Budget Amendment – Street Paving

The amendment is to move funds from the reserve fund account to street maintenance in the amount of \$10,000 to be used toward paving projects throughout town.

A motion was given to approve the amendment by Councilwoman Purnell 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.

3. Budget Amendment – Copell Property Purchase

This amendment is to move funds from the reserve fund account to the water and sewer capital improvement line item in the amount of \$98,486.25 to each line item, totaling \$196,972.50.

A motion was given to approve the loan application 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.

4. Committee Reappointments

A request was given to reappoint Nancy Thompson to the Historic District Commission.

A motion was given to reappoint Mrs. Thompson by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilwoman Purnell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

A request was given to reappoint Judi Menavich to the Planning Commission.

A motion was given to reappoint Mrs. Menavich by Councilwoman Purnell 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.

5. Ordinance No. 2018-05 Halloween Regulations

Mrs. Goodsell read the Ordinance into record, which is to amend Chapter 96 of the Town Code to change the maximum age for persons to wear masks and trick-or-treat in town. The Code states the age is 12 and under. This Ordinance would change the age to 15 and under.

Resident Carolyn Brown questioned why the change is being considered, pointing out that the current age has not been an issue and by increasing the age to 15 you will have a difficult time determining a teenager from an adult. Resident Sylvester Bratten agreed, stating he feels increasing the age limit is “opening a can of worms”.

This Ordinance will be presented for adoption at the August town meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Dorman encouraged everyone to attend the Blessing of the Combines on August 4, 2018.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Councilwoman Cook advised that Council and town staff will be traveling to visit a butterfly garden on June 26, 2018. The town is hoping to partner with the Lower Shore Land Trust to have a butterfly garden as part of the Sturgis Park Redevelopment plan.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Resident Deborah Baines of 104 Purnell Street voiced concern on several matters:
 - Speeding on her road is very bad, especially in the early morning hours. She recently saw a jogger bumped by a speeding vehicle and is concerned for people’s safety. She suggested speed limit signs and police presence for monitoring. Chief Davis stated he will have patrol officers in the area for monitoring.
 - Parking is an issue, as the road is very tight. She requested consideration of making part of the street one-side parking to prevent further issues with not being able to exit your own driveway. Chief Davis advised that he will meet with Mr. Barfield to assess the street and determine if they can accommodate one-side parking.
 - Loud music from vehicles is a problem, especially at night and in the early morning hours overnight. She requested the police department to patrol the area during these times. Chief Davis advised he will have officers monitor the area, starting tonight.
2. Resident Carolyn Brown questioned if docking fees have been enforced prior to now. Mayor Dorman advised they had not and she questioned why. Mrs. Pruitt responded that they had been trying to increase boat traffic but that has not been successful.
3. Carolyn Brown reported the light on the corner of Belt Street and Washington Street only works at times. Mr. Barfield advised DP&L has received the report but takes awhile to respond.

4. Resident Edward Lee questioned the procedures on the agenda regarding closing a meeting, specifically regarding the June 5th work session where Council voted to enter closed session to discuss property. Mayor Dorman advised this is done for negotiations or reviewing plans prior to bringing the information to the public. Mr. Lee commented he is concerned about the law and will review his notes for comment at a later meeting.
5. Mr. Lee questioned the status on discussion for Charter Amendment changes. Mayor Dorman responded they were discussing potential changes from those in 2012. Mr. Lee requested full disclosure and advertising of meetings on these issues, as they are critical and deserve public input. Mayor Dorman assured Mr. Lee public meetings would be held and advertised.

Mayor Dorman called for a motion to enter Executive Closed Session for personnel matters. Councilwoman Purnell gave a motion to enter closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilwoman Purnell, seconded by Councilwoman Cook, the Council voted to meet in closed session at 7:29pm at the Train Station for personnel, as permitted under the provision of Section 3-305 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Topics discussed, and actions taken included:

- Discussion had for two personnel matters

Mayor Dorman left Executive Closed Session and re-entered into open session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager