

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

FEBRUARY 13, 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, February 13, 2018 with Mayor John Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Councilwoman Alison Cook
Councilwoman Jenny Hall
Councilwoman Latoya Purnell

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager
Jon Hill, Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Day, Economic Development Coordinator
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
John Holloway, EMS Supervisor
Tom Davis, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

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

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for January 2018 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial report was not included in the packet. It will be presented at the next town meeting for approval.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Pruitt reported that there are six properties being sent to the attorney for tax sale notice.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Day thanked Councilwoman Purnell and Councilwoman Hall for attending the merchants meeting this evening. The merchants have decided to change First Friday to “First Friday Weekend”, to include a Saturday event instead of third Saturdays that were being held.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mr. Hill reported it had been a busy month, with increased rental inspections and re-inspections. He added that Brews Up should open this week and Antiques by the River is progressing with renovations.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No questions or comments.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

No questions or comments.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

Mr. Holloway reported it had been a challenging month with the weather events.

POLICE REPORT

No questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS

No questions or comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 2018-01 Ethics Ordinance Amendment

Mrs. Goodsell read the Ordinance into record. This Ordinance will amend Chapter 16 of the Town Code of Snow Hill, entitled “Public Ethics”, to address changes mandated by legislation (House Bill 879) enacted during legislative session that local governments must incorporate, including provisions that preclude former elected officials from lobbying in a matter that is subject of legislative action for one calendar year after the elected official leaves office; clarifies prohibited uses of prestige of office; restricts public access to home addresses on certain financial disclosures; and alters the contents of financial statements to include only indebtedness to entities doing business with the Town.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Dorman was absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

No comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Resident Carolyn Brown questioned the process of reaching the police department for non-emergency issues, especially during the day hours and how voice mails are responded to. Chief Davis advised that the administrative aide works rotating part-time hours and is not always present to answer the calls, but voice mails are checked daily and should be responded to.

Resident Margaret Cylc advised that she left a voice mail three weeks ago on the Chief's voice mail but has not received a return call. Chief Davis responded that he did not receive a message and would check the voice mail system for error. Mrs. Cylc advised she had called to report a trailer parked in the road on Federal at Collins Street with no reflectors and no way for emergency equipment to travel. Chief Davis advised if it was not illegally parked he could not do anything about it, but he would follow up on the matter.

Mrs. Brown questioned if a police officer could get calls from the station transferred to his cell phone while he was on duty.

2. Mrs. Brown questioned when the street light on the corner of Washington and Market Street would be replaced and who pays for the replacement. Mr. Barfield reported it was not going to be replaced, as it continues to be hit by tractor trailers. Mrs. Pruitt advised that the insurance companies of the tractor trailers have paid for the cost involved. Mrs. Brown agreed it should not be replaced.

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

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilwoman Cook, seconded by Councilwoman Hall, the Council voted to meet in closed session at 7:19pm at the Train Station to discuss personnel, as permitted under the provisions of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Topics discussed, and actions taken included: Personnel – future discussion will be scheduled

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Purnell left Executive Closed Session and re-entered into open session. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager