

## Town Council Meeting September 9, 2019

Present: Randy McLennan, Lee Adams, Frank Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara,  
Town attorney Tom Yeager  
Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, W/S & Code Enforcement Tanya Lockwood,  
Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls

### Approval of Minutes

Town Council Meeting August 12, 2019

**MOTION:** Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to accept the minutes from the August 12, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Council Workshop August 26, 2019

**MOTION:** Councilman McLennan made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2019 workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

New Principal of the Chesapeake City Elementary School Sherry Issac introduced herself to the Council. One of her goals this year is to work with the Community. There is a volunteer orientation for the school on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of this month at 10am. There will be a Halloween Parade (at the school for safety reasons), on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30p or rain date of October 29<sup>th</sup>. Her email is [sissac@ccps.org](mailto:sissac@ccps.org).

New Editor of Cecil Whig is Bea Raymond. She introduced herself at the meeting. She will also be taking over the coverage of meetings from Jake Owens. Her email is [editor@cecilwhig.com](mailto:editor@cecilwhig.com) her cell phone is 443.963.6007.

### Reports:

**Councilman Adams:** Reviewed Planning Commission meeting; working on changes to CDO. Allocations for the new elementary school have been reduced by the engineers; we are reviewing again. Town Manager reviewed the County summaries for August 2019. Leak today on Mt Nebo repaired. Real issues with the line, it's not on Town Property, water to four properties, continued repairs. Materials used are falling part. Estimated for repairs is \$50-60,000. Over the last three years we've paid over \$28,000. Discussion with the attorney regarding if the Town can assess those properties for further repairs. Unfortunately, there is not a public works agreement. Out of Town properties are not subject to our taxing authority. We can charge up to double the regular rates (currently it's 1.5 times our rate). The Town Attorney will look to see if there's any recourse for the Town.

**Councilman Hill:** No Historic meeting last month. Capital Improvements are listed in the Town Managers report. Treasurer distributed the P&L reports in the packets.

**Councilman McLennan:** Met with Sgt Black for adjusting the hours on weekends and traffic monitoring on the weekend. Have not noticed any excessive speeding on Biddle Street. Moved radar sign to the "S" curve into Town. Met with the Community Service Patrol, will be starting random spot checks regarding noise; Requested statistics from Trooper Proctor. The new ambulances goes into service this week.

**Commissioner O'Hara:** Nothing to report for Economic Development. There were spindles and flooring repaired on the dock

**Commissioner Vari:** – Public works: sidewalk on 1<sup>st</sup> St at the alley includes lights that light the path in the evening. Continued work on bid package completed for potholes and sealing sidewalk repair. Meeting at landfill past week, changing where we take recycling; Hazard waste Day is October 6<sup>th</sup>, 730a-3p, it is a free event. Planning to do another one in Spring, around Earth Day. Waste Rebate still in effect. Tipping rate is \$79 for trash; \$22.50 for recycling. Contamination is basically the same – food waste belongs in your trash – plastic bags, too. We are now able to recycle shredded paper in paper bags, aerosol cans and 5 gallon buckets (take off metal). Parks & Rec: Helen Titter Park we need to move playground to higher ground. Racing program – 11<sup>th</sup> year. For the January 1<sup>st</sup> race we are looking for Volunteers and Sponsors. Cell tower – County Board of Appeals denied the application; waiting for an alternative plan from AT&T. The Ben Cardin Trail was voted top new trail in state of Maryland. Maryland Day to Serve – Wednesday the 11th, food, clothing and toy drive, with a Town-wide clean up day. Asked by Cecil County be on their Census Counting Committee.

#### Town Manager Report

Public works report update. State working on ADA repairs on the corner and update on Safe Routes to School.

Mayor: Updated on Boaters visiting our Town

#### New Business

October meeting to Columbus Day

**MOTION:** Councilman McLennan made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Hara to move the October meeting to Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Public Comment

Gwen Clayton – thanking Council for the hard work regarding Mount Nebo road repairs specifically in front of her place, (may already be on the list). Curious about Non-Residents sitting on committees, she would love to help, too. There is the concerned about some non-residents serving on committees, does not feel their hearts are in it as much as a residents.

Mayor: Residents serve on a Commission; Ad-Hoc (non-voting) are more of a consultant, an advisory committee such as an auditor, engineering, are not town residents, they do not have a vote.

Rob McLaron: Ordinance requires the Planning Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan. Does this committee report to the Planning Commission so they can review what the committee has done?

Short answer from Mayor is yes. They are not doing the Planning Commission's work.

Attorney – An Ad-Hoc committee has no authority or power, they only giving advice. No one is required to take it into consideration. It can be dismissed. Compare it to any other consultant. Does not have to be a resident. Not living in town does not disqualified from Ad-Hoc committees. Council has the approval of all the committee members.

#### Council Comments

Councilman McLennan: Setting the record straight, is not in favor of getting rid of State Police and not in favor of Sherriff's Department either. There is no personal gain for either department. For noise complaints, use common sense. Call 911, not his cell number. They can't always respond immediately. I'm not the guy to respond on a dime.

Councilman Adams: The Chesapeake Bay Magazine published an article on the Marine History Boats in the Canal. NS Savannah towed as a dead ship, we should see around 7am tomorrow. Original nuclear powered freighter, will be leaving Baltimore at 8pm this evening.

Councilman Vari: Agreeing with Commissioner McLennan; bring noise complaints to Town Hall or a meeting. You're not always going to see the police checking things out. We need to support them and Commissioner McLennan. It's not an easy job.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Vari made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLennan to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Valerie Walls, Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor II, Mayor