

Town Council Meeting
Zoom Meeting
April 13, 2020

Present: Mayor-Rich Taylor, Lee Adams, Frank Vari, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara, Town Attorney Tom Yeager

Absent: Randy McLennan (working front line)

Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Lockwood, Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls

The Mayor called the meeting to order via a Zoom meeting call at 6:35pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

March 9, 2020 minutes

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to approve the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Adams: Gave updates from the last Planning Commission meeting. The Public Hearing is pushed back to the next meeting. W/S no leaks on either side. Waiting for final review for the funding of the Sewer Plant; Expenses at both plants – cleaning the EQ tank, need to rent a container to pump the sludge into while cleaning the tank. NS has a hole between the tanks. Getting estimates, County quoted \$13,500 for repairs. The flows were read and the report is part of the Minutes Book. 716 Biddle is very interested in hooking up water sometime this year.

Councilman Hill – bank balances were given, the budget has been sent to all the councilmen electronically and a hard copy is in their mailboxes. An update given from the previous Historic District Commission meeting.

Councilman O'Hara – Economic Dev & Tourism has been hit very hard with Covid-19. Businesses are at a standstill. Most restaurants are offering take-out, but no sign on when things will be getting back to normal. Having some boat traffic staying at the dock

Councilman Vari - All non-essential spending has been put on hold; Complimenting Staff for the work done; Residents believe the Town is running smoothly. Parks: moving playground equipment to higher ground at Helen Titter Park is on hold right now, trying to cope with extra trash accumulating with people working from home – more trash is going to landfill than normal, need to help MPK out, putting trash in a can and no bags beside the containers. Special pickups should be called to MPK and worked out with them. Hoping to hear about recycling numbers for the year, next month from the County. Haven't cancelled the race in June, decision will be made in early May. Conquer the Bridge still on, so far. Oct 3rd, 7a-330p is Hazard Waste Day October 4th. Snowflakes: bought 10, should get 5 or 6 for free; they are ordered. MML Convention, waiting to hear if it will be held. Need to make sure the 2020 Census is filled out and everyone is counted. St. Basils Church is celebrating 100th year Anniversary in Chesapeake City this year, the Town will have a letter in the Anniversary Book. Cell Tower appeal is June 3, 2020 Bob Jones and Town Attorney Tom Yeager will both be able to speak.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager: covered most of status report. As you can imagine procedures changing in Town Hall, thanking Staff and residents for being understanding and cooperative during this time.

Val Walls, Clerk/Treasurer: Continued work on the budget, should have information for the workshop.

Mayor – Prepare any questions regarding the budget sent to Valerie; public hearing at the Workshop. We have suggested to keep the current rate and not the Constant Yield. Will generate an additional \$6K, maintain the constant yield would generate less funds. Continued discussions at the workshop. State is tracking Corona Virus by zip code, However, take those numbers with a grain of salt – numbers released 24 cases in the county –

21915 does not show cases. A big thank you to the Fire Company for chauffeuring the Easter Bunny around Town on Saturday.

Acton Items

Charter Amendment 2020-01 that grants the enabling power to the Mayor and Council to postpone the election by Resolution in the Event of a State of Emergency.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to approve Charter Amendment 2020-01. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution of the Mayor and 2020-01 Postponing the power to the Mayor and Council postponing the Election and setting a new date.

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari to approve Resolution 2020-01. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion at the Workshop regarding mail in ballots.

Historic Commission Appointment

Sarah O'Hara and Ashley Miller

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill, to appoint Ashley Miller to the Historic Commission and consider Sarah O'Hara for the next opening on the Commission.

Aye: 3, Nay: 0 Abstain: Ed O'Hara.

Event Application for Chesapeake Inn 5K – date change

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to change the date change to August 15, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

Cell Tower Update – information discussed during Councilman Vari's reports.

Public Comments

Zoom Comment: At least two in Chesapeake City have tested positive; there's nothing on the website.

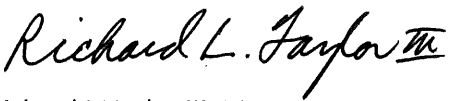
Councilman Vari: Thanking Rob and Tonya for setting the Zoom calls up. The Town has sent over 400 masks to Union Hospital, Clinics and Nursing Homes. There's plenty of fabric for more masks. Also asking for non-perishables and monetary donations for the food pantry. They will accept food on Mondays.

Mayor Taylor: Thanking staff for keeping the Town running, JoAnne Healey working with Town Hall in the plantings, making it nice for tourist and our residents. He has also received calls about the Ben Cardin Trail; Currently there is no plans to close the trail at this time. It is getting a lot of use and people are social distancing.

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted:


Valerie Walls Clerk/Treasurer


Richard L Taylor III, Mayor