

Town Council Meeting June 08, 2020

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Moment of Silence for Harriett Davis was held. A Celebration of life will be held for her in Pell Gardens at 11am Saturday.

Approval of Minutes

- Town Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Council McLennan to accept the minutes from the May 11, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

- Town Council Workshop Workshop

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to approve the minutes with grammatical corrections. All in favor, motion carried.

- Town Council Special Session/Closed Session

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari to approve the minutes with grammatical corrections. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Councilman Adams: Planning Commission met on June 3rd with one action item, change of use, demolition, outside work and fencing was approved. The Zoning Administrator approved seven applications for smaller projects. Water & Sewer – answers to the question for the USDA have been submitted and the project is out for bid. Contractor meeting on June 17th; it is a public meeting, with Covid restrictions. Meeting will be recorded for Open Meeting Act Requirements. Town Manager gave the flows for north and south sides, copies are attached in the Minutes Book.

Commissioner Hill: Updated the financial accounts; Updated the Historic Commission plans for 219 Bohemia Ave – cleaning out the garages and put in a garden with seating, rock wall, outdoor dining seats approved; approved request by the Bayard House for an arbor-like structure over the bar temporarily. Approved two small signs for DJ for the cruise boat. Official letter from Bob Kidner, has cancelled the car show for 2020; will return August 2021.

Commissioner McLennan: Trooper Procter updated the State Police report – not much done in April with Covid, numbers have picked up in May. There were multiple business checks; seeing an increase in traffic this month. Social Distancing is not being followed. Multiple speeding complaints on north side have five stops yesterday himself. Commissioner O'Hara-there was an incident this past Saturday and put in a call into 911. Was told no one was available to come.

Commissioner O'Hara: 6/1 a third business owners virtual meeting was held with encouraging signs, businesses visited and restaurants doing better with outside dining, limiting number of people in stores. Meetings every two weeks, owners sharing positive and negative feed-back. It's a good way for owners to share experiences; discussions of ways to help businesses in Town, not in

Historic District in Town. In discussions for holding a Farmers Market in Town, vendors in at a time not as busy, to increase foot traffic. Interested in reaching out to the owners at Broken Spoke, list of potential vendors to maybe organize market and Greg Shelton, Ghost Walk and Christmas Market. Looking for People to run with it. The Mayor is in favor with the idea; MPK would help with cans and pick-ups. A resident mentioned having it at the ball field at the elementary school.

Commissioner Vari: Regarding public works, met with SHA, reviewed the ADA sidewalk at 4th & George and 3rd & George. There is concern a couple of the corners will not work. Met at 2nd & Bohemia there is cracking of the sidewalk and curb. Plan on doing the intersection. Contract is the end of the year. Repaving from 2nd & George down towards Town Hall. Concerned about coming out from the school. Want to see how it works first. Spoke with MPK, received totals for month of May – running 4 tons higher in trash than normal months, will also check on what June looks like. Collected metal totaling a ton and a half, we're ahead from last year. 24% recycling rate for 2019. Parks & Rec – vandalism at Helen Titter Park with the soccer nets. One is completely destroyed, the other is damaged. Looking for help, please contact Commissioner to see what the plan is. The Racing Program, continued planning with Conquer the Bridge and Taste of Chesapeake. A few have register – a few concerned that October may be too soon to race. Bayhead had a 5K for August 15th –and they have cancelled. The Inn still has theirs scheduled. Special Events: please complete the Census, deadline has been extended to July 1st. June 16th 930 in Circuit Court for AT&T. Town Attorney mentioned there's been another change, postponed July 23rd at 1:30pm. He will be out that week, will contact to see if they can move to another date. MML Convention is a virtual event, June 29th & 30th, at 10am a segment of four different towns Chesapeake City being one, on things that are being done for the community. We have had the CCEA making and donating masks, 700+ and collecting over 600 pounds. Encouraging residents to continue following the Governor's guidelines.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager: Commented that SHA has been easy to work with, homeowner is tickled pink with her new curb in front of the house. Playgrounds opened last Friday afternoon. Labor Day Weekend, September 5th is the new date for fireworks.

Valerie Walls, Treasurer spoke about election and mailing of ballots

Mayor Rich Taylor: meeting with Rob, discussion of covid testing; suggested testing at the high school for this end of the county. Will be ignoring emails lacking the information of who they are. Political emails on the Town accounts are not appropriate.

Action Items

- MPK Contract

Cost unchanged from the current year – doing a good job first year in, Councilman Vari suggests to extend the contract for another year.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to extend the contract one year with MPK, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

- Maryland State Police Contract

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman McLennan to extend the contract with the Maryland State Police for another year, beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

- Boat Ramp- Army Corp of Engineers

No maintenance right now, long term boating ramp, there is funding to move the access for more parking. Lots of opportunities for the Town, we can sublet (prior approval needed).

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded to Councilman McLennan to accept the lease from ACOE for twenty-five years. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

- Open Spot on Historic Commission

Sarah O'Hara is still interested.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made an motion, seconded by Lee Adams to appoint Sara O'Hara to fulfill the open position from Harriett Davis passing. Aye: 4 Abstain: 1 Ed O'Hara Nay: 0 Motion carried.

- Open Spot on Election Board – With the passing of Harriett Davis there is an open spot. The alternate Karyn Huddleson has agreed to fill her spot for the current election, but wants to remain the alternate for next year. Someone from the south side is required.
- Pell Garden Music in the Park: Val Walls has asked for some guidance with the passing of Harriett Davis to continue with Music in the Park. Harriett before her passing wanted the music to continue. Discussions included moving the music to August and September, keeping with social distancing. There is no liability to the Town.
- Music Permits – town manager – the music did council want to consider a reduction in fees - getting started late – to generate enforcement of permits. None are paid at this time. Discussion came up while we were putting together the packets. Restaurants are struggling with no indoor dining.
MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman McLennan to reduce the Music Permits by 50% for this year. All in favor, motion carried.
- Mailing ballots to registered voters
MOTION: Councilman O'Hara made a motion seconded by Councilman Hill to mail each registered voter a ballot, including a postage paid envelope to return the ballot in, to be received in Town Hall by Monday July 6th. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

- Bayheads use of Beck's Landing

Two weeks ago they request to use the Becks Landing; it was successful. Last weekend with out-door seating, not as successful. The motion voted on, was for just that weekend or whenever there's no

indoor dining. Asking for a second vote to use Becks Landing on weekends while no indoor dining in Maryland. Town Manager to draw up a lease for them for Saturday and Sunday.

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman McLennan to allow Bay Heads Brewing the use of Becks Landing, including waiving the fee. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments

Facebook – several comments regarding Harriett’s Memorial

Mayor & Council Comments

Councilman Adams interested in the costs of the election.

Councilman O’Hara – will miss Harriett, she made an extra effort to make them feel welcomed when moving into Town.

Councilman Vari – thanking John & Zach for their continuing work throughout Town

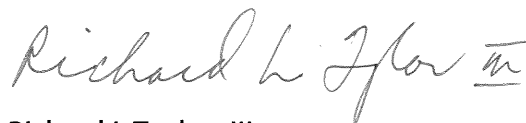
Town Attorney: Reminding everyone to stay safe and act responsible.

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted:



Valerie Walls
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III
Mayor