

**Town Council Meeting**  
**May 11, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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

Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Lockwood, Clerk/Treasurer Val Walls, Admin Asst Jesse Cloud

6:30 pm - Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

A Moment of Silence for the passing of Lee Hutton.

**PROCLAMATION:** Police Week

**PROCLAMATION:** Boater Safety Week

**Approval of Minutes**

Town Council Meeting April 13, 2020

**MOTION:** Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman McLellan to approve the minutes from April 13, 2020. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Council/Public Hearing/ Workshop April 27, 2020

**MOTION:** Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari to approve the workshop, Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Council Closed Session on April 27, 2020

**MOTION:** Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Adams to accept the minutes from the Closed Session. All in favor, motion carried.

**Reports**

Councilman Adams –Updated on the Waste-Water Plant status followed by reviewing the past months flows.

Councilman Hill- the Franchise Fee from Atlantic Broadband has been received \$11,170 and updated balances were read. Items will be voted on for the budget year 2020/2021.

Historic Commission- a shed, shed and fence, and roof replacement were approved.

Councilman McLennan-have not received report from State Police; the trail was shut down on Friday afternoon due to the shooting at the Veterans Cemetery, no danger to the residents. State Police have been training the K9s in the area.

Councilman O'Hara-meeting with the business owners with a zoom call. The intent was to get some feedback from the business owners affected by the pandemic. Several issues discussed, safety of the employees and guests, many employees are making more on unemployment with the bonus and not ready to come back, but encouraging to see the business preparing and offer help to their colleagues within the community. It was well received, expect to it every week or two weeks.

Councilman Vari: Starting next week on making the sidewalks ADA, working on reflectors for Lock and Biddle Streets. Asking residents to call in potholes or sidewalk repairs. MPK is experiencing excess trash during the pandemic, asking for help from the Town. The Town has authorized an additional \$675.75 per month to help with the tonnage rate, for March April and May, and to reevaluate in June. Unofficially Chesapeake City recycling numbers are high, and hopefully we'll be 10 years in a row, number One recycler in the County. The June race has been cancelled, moving sponsors money to Conquer the Bridge in October. Reminding residents about the Census 2020 and to be counted. Circuit Court meeting – courts are closed through June 8<sup>th</sup>. Courts will be opening in phases, will not be business as usual. The Hearing is now schedule June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Chesapeake Inn Race has been moved to August, and will depend on Governor's Phases. Please continue to social distance, wash your hands and wear your masks.

Councilman McLennan asked about the Lions Club Car Show – we have not heard from them yet. Councilman Hill – Lions Club is waiting on the Governor's dictate before making a decision; On hold like everything else right now.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager-Received a letter clarifying the playground from the Health Department recommends keeping closed, setting up a cleaning schedule; the floating dock on North side was moved with help of the Fire Company

Valerie Walls, Treasurer- reviewing the insurance policy

Mayor Rich Taylor was on call with Rob with the Health Department regarding playgrounds. Can not meet the cleaning criteria. There's not a dedicated person to wipe it down during the day. Painting the hydrants two coats of paint and nozzle caps painted after flow testing. Thanking John Zach and Maureen for the work done.

#### **Action Items**

- Constant Yield Tax Rate

Proposing for the fiscal year 2020/2021 is to maintain the current rate., \$4.688 would generate an additional \$6000 for the Town.

**MOTION:** Councilman McLellan made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to maintain the current rate of \$4.688. All in favor, motion carried.

- 2020-2021 Budget-is an exhibit to the Ordinance.

Discussion of comparing insurance rates versus LGIT; suggested that Council forgo their stipend. It would be up to individuals to contact the Clerk/Treasurer.

- Ordinance No. 2020-003 Town of Chesapeake City Budget Ordinance

**MOTION:** Councilman Hill made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2020-003 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021; seconded by Councilman Adams. Aye: 4 Nay: 1 Councilman O'Hara; motion carried.

#### **New Business**

Changes to the CDO – Councilman Adams reviewed the changes present. Public Hearing the next meeting. Town Attorney suggested it has to be presented in an Ordinance, he suggests a formal

introduction at the Workshop/ Special Session. Changes would not be to the subject matter, more in presentation.

Fireworks-Town Manager will contract the vendor for the date to make a decision to move the fireworks. County has suggested not to plan on larger gatherings in July. Suggestions included moving to Labor Day, Taste of Chesapeake City (October) or New Year's Eve.

#### **Old Business**

Sale of Town Property – Complete the offer discussed, meeting after workshop in a Closed Session to review the terms.

Election Process- will be encouraging the mail in ballots. It was suggested to have one polling place. June 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Candidates to file and residents to register to vote. Council is leaning toward two polling places.

#### **Public Comments-No Comments from Facebook**

#### **Mayor & Council Comments**

Councilman Adams – hoping the restaurants to open soon. Concerned about the water & sewer budgets if they don't. Does not want to put money before safety.

Councilman Hill – During the video meetings, we are using employees personal equipment, Want to get a laptop for the Town, possibly two to use for the video meetings.

Councilman McLennan – Thanking people for reaching out after his fire at his home. Stay safe during these times.

Councilman Vari- Thanking John and Zach and Maureen for maintaining the Town during the pandemic. Diane from the Tap Room has also passed away losing her battle to cancer. She's been at the Tap Room for over thirty years. Be Safe and Be Careful.

Town Attorney- thanking Tonya and Jesse for getting him set up in the conference room.


Mayor commented on the amount of people yesterday. Stay Safe and be patient. Thanking the efforts from staffed.

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

Adjourn

Submitted:

  
Valerie Walls, Clerk/Treasurer

  
Richard L Taylor III, Mayor