

Town Council Workshop/ Closed Session-ZOOM MEETING
July 27, 2020

Present: Randy McLennan, Lee Adams, Frank Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara
Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Adams, Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls Admin Asst.
Jesse Cloud
Absent: Town Attorney had a meeting in Cecilton, MD.

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

PROCLAMATION – Tommy Scott

Mayor Taylor read the Proclamation declaring Monday Tommy Scott Day in Chesapeake City, MD.

OLD BUSINESS-none

NEW BUSINESS

- Cecil Solidarity-cancelled for this evening, will reschedule.

- Community Safety- Councilman McLennan would like to set up an advisory panel, with one member having some background in public safety and one with HR to work with Randy and Rich to increase police presence in town and to consider creating a police force. Karen Webster is concerned with safety issues with the speeding and hot rodders; she's had drivers coming up from Pine Street fishtailing behind her home. She suggested a 2-way Stop Sign at Fourth and George Sts. The problems are all the time and worse on the weekends.
Councilman Vari has requested speed bumps from the SHA on George Street and Biddle Street. He will talk to them about the stop signs, but they are reluctant to put up stop signs without a study. He will get back to Council.
Councilman Hill stated this is a habitual problem, the State Police are pulling people over. He feels these are a out of state cars and people are not thinking about it being a residential area. People need to understand they are driving in a neighborhood. The noise meter is to monitor crowd noise, not necessarily vehicle noise. Enforcing is that is a harder issue.

- Issue of pedestrian noise when bars close
State Police will not step in to tell pedestrians to quiet down. If there's an altercation, residents should not step into it – they should call 911.

Donation source towards camera's and speed bumps. While the donations are appreciated, there are ongoing costs to consider. It is felt that the greater concern is the drunk drivers

coming out of the establishments. A burden is the policing. Councilman Vari to check with state to allow the rumble strips on state roads.

Public and Council Comments

Councilman Adams – Opening bids for the WWTP came in higher than expected; we will be seeking additional funding from the State and Federal entities.

Councilman Ohara – Update on the potential farmers market; working with Greg Shelton and Poplar Hall, planning a soft opening around August 7th, Fridays in August and September with 10-12 vendors, not sure of location as of yet.

Councilman Vari – Restroom is in Helen Titter Park, about to get hooked up to electric and then water and sewer. Possibility of postponing Conquer of Bridge & Taste of Chesapeake

MOTION: Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman McLennan to go into a Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

SPECIAL SESSION

Introduce Ordinance 2020.005 an ordinance for the consumption of alcohol on Bohemia Avenue north of 1st Street for the Barktoberfest.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to go into a Closed Session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. All in favor, motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION –To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Back into Special Session:

MOTION: Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to approve the items discussed in the Closed Session. All in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman O’Hara to close the Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Back into the Workshop

Councilman Adams: Supporting the community advisory panel for safety.

Councilman Hill: Agrees the committee is a good idea; We’ve had these issues for forty years or so, discussing them since the 70s and 80s.

Town Manager Bernstine suggested a retired officer as a part-time employee to the Town for back up for the extra hours. Residents shouldn't be involved in street altercations, please call 911.

Councilman Hill stated the cars with loud mufflers, by the time the police arrive, they are gone. We are unable to enforce the loud motorcycles or boats.

The Workshop adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted:



D. Valerie Walls
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III
Mayor