

## Town Council Workshop May 24, 2021

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/Treasurer Valerie Walls

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### Special Session

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

- Ordinance No: 2021-001 – to amend Section 6.5 Signs of the Chesapeake City Comprehensive Development Ordinance

Councilman O'Hara: In response to an application that has not been turned in, he finds the ordinance to be clumsy at best. There is not a clean indication for figuring out the size of the sign and does not feel is easily understood. If he can't figure it out, how can he pass this for our constituents? He agreed to work with the Planning Commission to clean it up.

**MOTION:** Councilman Adams made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-001, seconded by Councilman McLennan. Vote: Aye: 4 Nay: 1 E O'Hara. Motion carried.

- Budget Ordinance 2021-002

**MOTION:** Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman O'Hara to approve the Budget Ordinance 2021-0002. All in favor, motion carried.

Introducing Ordinance No: 2021-004 permitting the possession and consumption of alcohol in Pell Gardens and the dedicated surrounding areas on the day of the Chesapeake City Running Festival

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

### Old Business

- Elementary School Re-development

Continued discussion regarding the senior housing. Home Partnership would like an MOU that determines the expectations of Council to proceed or do something else. There will be no vote tonight, just some direction to where we want to go.

Council has agreed to take a tactical pause. It's clear that this is not something to push through. The Mayor recommends to take a pause and revisit the vision for the property. Home Partnership has gone above and beyond, bringing in resources and done a tremendous amount of work. We owe them a great deal of thanks that they've gotten us to a point of, yes we like it or no we don't. We will put

the process on hold (for an certain amount of time not determined). Hope to address a plan at the June workshop. The Mayor also stated there needs to be an economic driver.

- Covid 19 Policies

Town Hall –

Town Manager: Maryland numbers are down and encouraging people to open businesses. Questions the decks/patio's erected for outside dining to help during the Covid restrictions, how we conduct the meetings – and the commissions. How long will we continue the Zoom Meetings? And when will the public be able to attend in person? Some businesses have mask requirements, some don't. What will be the "normal".

Councilman Vari stated to "trust the science and the doctors". Open meetings in July. Let people decide if they want to wear a mask; they should wear a mask if not vaccinated.

The Mayor agrees with July and keeping the meetings virtual for the residents. Town Attorney agreed that it seems to be the trend right now. Wearing masks is based on an honor system. Still need a time frame for businesses to remove the tables/chairs from decks and parking area. No date or deadline has been set. Some residents are requesting that Prime 225 remove it sooner than later. Councilman Vari feels that since the businesses are at 100% capacity, we need to put a time limit when it comes down.

#### Mayor & Council Comments

Councilman Vari: June 4<sup>th</sup> Bo Manor commencement will be taking place. He will be attending along with the Mayor.

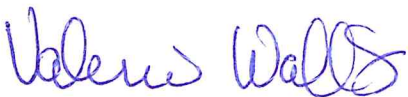
**Resident:** Is it true the Community Service person is only putting warnings on? No it's not.

He's mixing up the schedule ans working towards the noise ordinance compliance. His primary goal to help people with parking. If a ticket is questionable, it should be a warning. He averages 12 hours a week. It's not a revenue generating position, we want compliance and to help folks, not punish them.

**Resident:** Impressed with the Museum in Franklin Hall. Wants the Town to send letters of appreciation to the group that did the work.

Workshop adjourned at 8:26pm.

Submitted:



Valerie Walls  
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III  
Mayor