

## Town Council Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021

Present: Lee Adams, Ed O'Hara, Frank Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Todd Greco

Staff: Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Clerk Tonya Lockwood, 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.

Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION:** Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Councilman Greco to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2021. All in favor, motion carried.

**MOTION:** Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Greco to approve the minutes from the Closed Session on August 9, 2021.

**MOTION:** Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Vari to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

### Councilman Reports

Councilman Adams: No water breaks. attended meeting for the new plant, #9 Summary work draw was completed. Gave the Effluent Flow Summaries in comparison to the previous years. Reports are part of the Minutes Book. Because of the condition of the EQ tank and sludge holding tank. The Operators have been asked to start tinkering directly from the clarifier to help remove sludge from the plant. Planning Commission: Resignation Rob McLarnon 8/6/2021 due to work responsibilities; Asking the Mayor for a letter thanking him for his work with the town. Fred Webster is now Chair, selecting a new vice chair and there is an open position. Accepting applications until the next meeting. Will review them and present to Council for a vote. That person is filling out Rob's term.

Councilman Greco: Gave statistics of police coverage. Would like Children at play signs put up in town. Parking Committee: Looking for improvements to parking in Town. Completed the first monitoring of Music events in Town with Ken. Will be sending out letter, reminding all of them of the acceptable noise levels. Town Attorney stated that the State Police are on duty this evening; he saw them at the entrance of Town on his way in. Councilman Greco would like to get a list of number of citations Ken is doing along with the hours. Councilman Adams stated that music has been loud this past week. Todd got three complaints this weekend. Seems like a Battle of the Bands, comparing the noise to walking on the boardwalk at Wildwood.

Councilman Hill: Started out with the account balances from Howard Bank. Historic District Commission: updated two open positions. Kelly Copeland moving out of town Ashly Miller – resigned because of an increased workload

Councilman O'Hara: Unfortunate news for the Farmers Market; unable to get commitment from vendors, talks of opening on different date in 2022 – possible Sunday. So many other markets on Saturday. Next month there will be three weekends of Ghost Walk. The stories have been shortened and made scarier at the request of attendees from last year. Beyond that, business in Town has been vibrant. Councilman Hill asked about how the Merchants did on Car Show day. 441 cars for Car Show, before Covid 650. Not bad for a restarting year and threat of rain, it was raining in Pennsylvania and in western Maryland. Ed thanking the Lions Club. Over 300 attended in the Canal Museum.

Councilman Vari – PW – State Highway came in and patched potholes on Basil Avenue, a couple on Geore Street, too. Finished 4<sup>th</sup> and George and the parking lot near the Corp. by the boat ramp. Sept 7 at the Cecil County Building we will receive our 11<sup>th</sup> straight year award for our Recycling efforts. As a town, we recycle almost 52% of our trash. Congratulations to MPK, the #1 company in the County. Parks & Rec had their first meeting, discussed issues including playgrounds and what else we could do; No meeting in September because of vacations, next meeting will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Inviting everyone for members. Hoping to get playground equipment from the old school, to put it in Helen Titter Park. Special Events – walkthrough the new school on the 30<sup>th</sup> including the ribbon which was very nice. 2<sup>nd</sup> September is a mixer at Chesapeake Inn, a combination of Cecil County & NC County. Arts Council is having music on Sundays, 3-5p in Pell Gardens during. 9/11 tribute at VFW, weather was very cooperative. Starting Maryland Day to Serve. Month long food drive donation, drop offs at town hall or the complex, monetary donations acceptable, too. Racing Program: moving ahead on New Years Day, Free Welcome Back Race. Surprises for the participants. On south side, will need volunteers. Winterfest is coming up; Ed and Frank will be meeting with John Loveless regarding moving lights around, may get another crab. Mosco, where we get our displays will continue the buy two get one free for snowflakes. Northside needs about six and they have all new ones. Regarding Covid, be careful, be safe and do what you think is best. Breakthrough cases in Chesapeake City.

Town Manager Rob Bernstine: Update on the easements for Mt Nebo Road; Two more coming in.

**Comprehensive Plan Committee Appointments**

**MOTION:** Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Greco to have the following appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Committee: Mayor Rich Taylor, Lee Adams, Frank Hill, Detrick Morrell, Dan Malloy, Rob Bernstine and Tonya Lockwood. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

**Council & Mayor**

Councilman Vari – Maryland Day to Serve month. Please bring in a nonperishable food item or drop at complex at St. Basils Church. They also accept monetary donations.

Mayor – it was surprisingly good to hear the fire siren on Saturday and the church bell on Sunday morning.

**MOTION:** Councilman Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hill to close the meeting at 8:01pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted:



Valerie Walls  
Clerk/Treasurer



Richard L Taylor, III  
Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls: Thanking Frank and CCEA for the 9/11 Service at the Post. It was very nice and we received a lot of good comments.

Mayor – Isolated power outages on George Street today, 11 properties were out and now back on . Reviewed the Boaters List.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Prime 225 Deck**

**MOTION:** Councilman Vari made a motion, seconded by Ed O’Hara: Based on a meeting at Prime 225 with Robert B Walls, William J Valichka III, Mayor Richard L Taylor III, Ed O’Hara and Frank Vari:

1. No set date of extension, but every three months there will be an evaluation on conditions set by State and County in regard to Covid 19. This will determine any future extensions. If determined that Covid is under control at any-time, notification by the town of Chesapeake city, the eating venue will be removed in fourteen (14) days.
2. Last order of food and drink will be at 9pm and eating venue will be completely vacated and closed to the public at 10:30pm.
3. Cleanup of street and sidewalk in front and to adjacent property of Prime 225 and to the corner of Third & Bohemia. Trash cans on corner will be responsibility of Prime 225, checking and cleaning of parking spaces in front of church, plus installing two additional trash cans, one on each side of eating venue.
4. Safety barrier will be moved to corner of Third & Bohemia for added protection and safety of pedestrians and patrons of Prime 225
5. Eating venue will be moved back one foot, out of the street and into the parking space ten (10) days upon approval of this motion.

I conclude that we, the Town Council of Chesapeake City extend the temporary use of the eating venue for Prime 225. Also, that if there is any violations to these conditions and assurances, the Town has the authority to issue the removal of said eating venue immediately.

All in favor, motion carried.

**Event Application: Poplar Hall Victorian Macabre**

**MOTION:** Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilman O’Hara to approve the Poplar Hall Victorian Macabre/Ghost walk. All in favor, motion carried.

**October Meeting Columbus Day**

Considering one meeting for October, the workshop date. Will make it a combined meeting and workshop if bond papers are needed to be voted on.