

# Town Council Meeting Minutes

*Monday, December 13, 2021*

Present: Todd Greco, Ed O'Hara, Frank Vari, Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Town Attorney Tom Yeager, Town Manager Rob Bernstine, Staff Tonya Lockwood, Clerk/Treasurer Valerie Walls

Absent: Lee Adams

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Jim Baxter unable to attend, he will give a report in January.

## Approval of Minutes:

*November 8, 2021*

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to accept the minutes from November 8, 2021, as amended. Frank V., Frank H., Todd G. in favor, motion carried. Ed O. abstained.

*November 8, 2021, Closed Session*

**Motion: Frank Vari** made a motion, seconded by Frank Hill to accept the minutes from the November 8, 2021, Closed Session. Frank V., Frank H., Todd G. in favor, motion carried. Ed O. abstained.

*November 22, 2021, Workshop*

**Motion:** Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to accept the minutes from the November 22, 2021, Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

## Public Hearing:

Public Hearing Opened

*Ordinance 2021-006 – Permitting alcohol at Sip and Stroll*

No public comment was submitted for or against Ordinance 2021-006.

Public Hearing Closed

Public Hearing Opened

*Ordinance 2021-007 – Obligation Bond*

No public comment was submitted for or against Ordinance 2021-007.

Public Hearing Closed

## Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- We continue to hold progress meetings for the WWTP. We are up to date on payments. We closed on the Construction Loan from Howard Bank. The Water line on Mt. Nebo Road – we are working on the first connection today. Two new connections at were completed near the flagpole for 416 Lock St and they

put in a meter pit. 455 Basil wants to connect and has signed an agreement. A Tradeoff was made to obtain an easement from their property for one hook up.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission approved a Fence Enclosure for an HVAC System and a Pervious Paver Parking Area for 604 Second Street. Also, a Pole Barn for 0 Mt. Nebo Road (Ches. Inn Parking Lot)

Todd Greco

Public safety- Sargent Proctor gave report of the police numbers for the month. Off season police hours have been cut back to make sure we have plenty for peak hours, which is when they are needed. The signs that have been placed, on Walnut for speeding and at the dock for No Fishing from Dusk to Dawn, seem to be working, as we have had no complaints or issues. We will see if it is the signs or just the change of season when the weather gets warm.

Frank Hill

Finance- Gave the balances in each account as of today.

Historic District- Historic reviewed two applications. 205/207 Charles St – Approved paint colors and replacement decking, did not approve the vinyl handrails. 401 Second St – Approved the building renovation.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- The horse parade and Christmas Market were a successful, positive event, Thank You to Greg for putting it all together. (Frank Hill – parade very nice – disappointed we didn't have a scooper. Horse manure on streets – on Charles and canal road – piled up, we should require for next year a scooper to follow the horses so that it is cleaned immediately and not allow cars to drive over it.) The next event will be the Sip and Stroll.

Frank Vari

Public Works- Street sweeping went well. Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, is the last day for yard waste and it will resume March 7, 2022. Rob to email Michele to verify these dates. Recycling numbers looking good for 2021. The Lions Club Tree Lighting had a great turn out. Winterfest lights lit with no problems. Toys for Tots was taken Tuesday to Elkton. In January we are doing a winter wonderland decorating contest. Racing Program going strong. Have 188 registered so far for the New Year's Day Race. We will have the June Registration Forms out for you at the NYD Race. Pushing for a Business Challenge. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Parks and Rec- Minutes attached. Next meeting will be March 15, 2022. Need more volunteers.

Rob Bernstine

Gave a Zoning Administrator update. BOA scheduled to meet for a variance of the height of an accessory building on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Rich Taylor

Thank you to everyone involved with the Lion's Club Tree Lighting and the Horse Parade/Christmas Market. The events are a wonderful addition to the Town.

Old Business:

*Cecil Hero's Banners*

Frank V. will work with Wally and Cheri regarding the placement. Karla McClennan is also assisting the VFW with this project.

Action Items:

*Bathon Builders Proposal*

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to approve the Bathon Builders Proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

*Ordinance 2020-006 – Permitting Alcohol at Sip and Stroll*

**Motion:** Todd Greco made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve Ordinance 2021-006 – Permitting Alcohol at Sip and Stroll. All in favor, motion carried.

*Ordinance 2021-007 – Obligation Bond*

**Motion:** Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the Ordinance 2021-007 – Obligation Bond. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

*Review of Prime 225*

Town to review on a quarterly basis. Cecil County Health Department positivity rate up at 12%. Maryland is at 100% capacity for restaurants. Bobby walls is online. Bobby stated they still have customers requesting outdoor dining, even in the cold, as they have heaters. They are continuing to follow the agreement made with the Town. Progress on Courtyard – Recently extended Phase 1 permits as they are having supply chain issues and can't get materials. They are using the garages for storage. Hoping to have everything done by summer. They need to get the building secured before they can do the courtyard, as that is the only on property room they have for construction items.

**Motion:** Ed O'Hara made a motion to renew for another 3 months. Motion dies for lack of a Second.

Frank Vari would like to see more movement on the courtyard and the new building. Frank Hill agreed and suggested we give a one-month extension and rediscuss in January and requested a timeline of construction for the courtyard and the new building be submitted to the staff.

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Frank Hill to give a one-month extension and review again at the January Meeting with further information from Prime 225 owners on the construction of the Courtyard and new building. Frank H., Frank V., Todd G. in favor, Ed O'Hara, against, motion carried.

*Opening Meetings in January*

Discussion on residents having trouble hearing the Zoom Meetings. We typically only have 3-5 people on Zoom watching. More if there is a hot topic being discussed. Up to as many as 20 or 30 during the old elementary school discussions. We will resume in-person meetings in January 2022. All visitors must wear masks. We will continue to stream the meetings via Zoom for those unable or not wanting to attend.

*Chesapeake City Water Tours Contract Renewal*

Council needs more time to review, they are not ready to sign. Will discuss further in the Closed Session.

*Winter Lights, Cecil Nights*

The Cecil County Tourism Campaign, Winter Nights, Cecil Lights, won an award for Cecil County from the Upper Shore Regional Council. Chesapeake City participated in the inaugural year with the Winter Wonderland Decorating Contests and the Sip and Stroll. We are participating again this year.

Public Comment:

Karen Rita stated that the number of people on depends on the topic.

Adjourn:

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to end the meeting and begin the Closed Session following a 5 min. break. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Rich Taylor, Mayor

Addendum to Open Meeting 12-13-21

**Attendees**

Mayor Rich Taylor  
Councilman Lee Adams (attended by phone)  
Councilman Todd Greco

Councilman Frank Vari  
Councilman Frank Hill  
Councilman Ed O'Hara

Town Manager Rob Bernstine

Town Attorney Tom Yeager

Actions after closed meeting:

**Motion** by Ed O'Hara to ratify decisions made during the closed meeting.  
Second by Frank Vari  
All in favor

**Motion** by Frank Vari to adjourn meeting  
Second by Todd Greco  
All in favor.

Submitted by R. Bernstine

Approved By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard L. Taylor, III