

Town Council Workshop Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2022

Present: Mayor, Rich Taylor; Councilmen, Lee Adams, Todd Greco, Frank Hill, Ed O'Hara, Frank Vari; Town Attorney, Tom Yeager; Town Manager, Rob Bernstine

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

Discussion Items:

Christmas Lights:

Councilman Vari would like to purchase (6) snowflake lights as a group to benefit from the “buy two get one free” offer for a total of (9) lights. The Town would purchase (2), individuals would purchase (2), and the North Neighbor Association would purchase (2).

Councilman Vari would like to explore selling the Galleon light display and older snowflake lights on govdeals.com.

Prime 225

William (Bud) Valichka and Bobby Walls attended to represent the restaurant. Bud provided an update on the 219 Bohemia Ave renovation. The project is moving ahead with drawings being completed next week. The restaurant will review the work with the Town to determine permit requirements. They would like to complete the outside work by end of May.

Councilman Greco questioned that since the deck has been in place for some time should it be treated as permeant structure and be required to have the proper permits. The owners stated that they did not intend for the deck to be permanent.

Councilman Vari discussed the impact of Covid and the previous agreement that outlined quarterly reviews. Council agreed not to take any action until the next review in March.

Fireworks

Council discussed having the fireworks on Friday July 1st with a rain date of July 2nd. The cost of the display has increased from \$15,000 to \$16,500. The Bayard House offered to become the fourth sponsor for the event lower the cost for the other partners. The shooting is intended to be held in the same location as last year pending approval of the property owner. Concerns were raised about the trash pickup after the event and ensuring the overflow parking is acceptable with the Town and the Corp of Engineers.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Town Manager provided an update on the project. The project was started in 2016, with the initial project grant of \$53,700. Engineering expenses for design and bid package submitted for reimbursement are \$22,253. Bathon Builders bid to complete the project is \$181,821. MDOT SHA approved the bid and raised the grant for the project to the bid amount. The Town will need to fund the engineering costs for the project because it is over the total amount of the grant.

MML Conference

Mayor Taylor reviewed the value of the summer MML conference and requested any councilman considering attending to let the Town Manager know. Town Attorney, Tom Yeager mentioned that he will be attending and requested the Town split his cost among his other municipal clients as been done in previous years.

Comments

Mayor Taylor reviewed additional items in information packet. He thanked Tonya Lockwood for heading up the Town's Façade Grant Program and reviewed funding letter for FY 2022.

Mr. Taylor also mentioned the summary provided by Councilman Vari for the New Year's Day Race.

Councilman Greco stated that due to recent activities in Town he would like to see an increase in the budget for public safety.

Councilman Vari thanked the Town Maintenance crew for their hard work with the Christmas lights and their help with the recycling program which has already collected a ton of scrape metal for January.

Council Vari also noted that Anne Marie Hamilton, Executive Director for Cecil County Arts Council received an award for excellence from Peter Franchot, Comptroller.

Submitted:

Accepted:

Robert Bernstine, Town Manager

Richard L. Taylor III, Mayor

Date