

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 11, 2022

Present: Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Hill, Frank Vari, Lee Adams, Ed O'Hara, Todd Greco Tonya Lockwood (staff), Rob Bernstine (staff), Tom Yeager (attorney)

Absent:

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

March 14, 2022, Meeting

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Frank Hill to accept the minutes from the March 14, 2022, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

March 14, 2022, Closed Meeting

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to accept the minutes from the March 14, 2022, Closed Meeting, as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

March 25, 2022, Workshop/Special Session

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to accept the minutes from the March 25, 2022, Workshop/Special Session. Lee A., Frank V., Frank H., Todd G. in favor, motion carried. Ed O'Hara, abstained.

March 25, 2022, Closed Meeting

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to accept the minutes from the March 25, 2022, Closed Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP Progress Meeting was held March 15, 2022. The final completion date remains January 7, 2023. The costs for our Water/Sewer Utilities are going up in the next fiscal year. We will need additional revenue. Rob read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (attached). There were no violations last month.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, and held a Public Hearing on an amendment to the Critical Area Section of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance and the Draft Critical Area Map. There was no public comment and the Commission voted to send the amendment to Council for Approval. They also reviewed and approved 3 applications. 10 Bohemia Ave – Replace windows on Creamery. Replace Siding, Shutters, Windows, Doors, and Roof on Cottage. Install Wrought Iron Fence. 19 Bohemia Ave. – Two Custom Sheds built under Existing Deck. 105 George Street – Replace Roof and Siding. The Zoning Administrator approved 5 permits. The Comprehensive Plan Committee met on Wednesday, March 16th for their monthly meeting.

Todd Greco

Public Safety- Todd read the police report (attached) from Sgt. Proctor.

Frank Hill

Finance- Frank read the current balances on the accounts (attached). The monthly financial reports from Wagner (attached) were distributed in the Council Packets. Frank reiterated that costs are also going up on the General Fund Side of the Town Finances. We will need to figure out ways to gain revenue in this area, as well.

Historic District- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, and reviewed and approved 7 applications. 212 Charles Street – Window Replacement. 105 George Street – Roof and Siding Replacement. 314 Bohemia Ave – Paint Colors and a Roof Replacement. 206 George Street – Paint Colors, Gutter Installation, and a Door Replacement was approved. 508 Second Street – Demolition and Reconstruction of an Existing Structure. 19 Bohemia Ave – Two Custom Sheds. 10 Bohemia Ave. – Window Replacement of Creamery. Siding, Shutters, Windows, Door, and Roof Replacement at Cottage. Along with the installation of a Wrought Iron Fence.

Ed O’Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- St. Patrick’s Day was a huge success, as the weather was wonderful. Many businesses recorded record days. No police interventions were needed, so kudos to everyone. Things are picking up with summer coming.

Frank Vari

Public Works- April 24 is Hazardous Waste Day at the Cecil County Landfill. The Town recycled over one million pounds this year, which will hopefully be enough to make us the Top Recycling Town again this year. Frank will work with the Maryland State Highway to get our rough areas patch and/or paved. The list of road closures for the bridge work are posted on our website. The schedule is weather dependent. The deck at Prime 225 was removed, thank you to the owners for following through with the agreement. Frank represented the Council at the Cub Scout Moving Up Ceremony. They discussed Community Service ideas and came up with some wonderful ideas. Frank challenged them to an essay writing contest and will bring any essays submitted back to Council for judging. An award was given to the group that Frank worked with during Covid, that made masks, donated clothes, and donated food. Attached is a list of the people who donated their time to this cause. The Racing Program is doing well, we need sponsors and volunteers to work on June 25.

Parks and Rec- The Helen Titter Park restrooms will be open this week. Please welcome Warna Warren to the Parks and Rec Committee. Mulching has been completed by the Town Staff and mowing has begun.

Rob Bernstine

See attached report.

Brian Hunsberger

Brian explained the monthly financial reports (attached).

Mayor Rich Taylor

Rich will get the bench at the War Memorial either removed, fixed, or replaced. It is quite an eyesore and possibly dangerous. Todd will coordinate with the Church. Rich distributed the new Chesapeake City Water Tours Ferry Schedule (attached).

Action Items:

Event Application – Pet Parade

Parade starts at 11 am with vendors set up around the Pell Garden's Loop from 11 am – 3 pm. It will be a fundraising event this year for Cecil County Animal Shelter. It will cost \$5 to participate in the parade. They are looking for volunteers to walk adoptable dogs in the parade, reach out to Charlie Copeland or Joanne Lund if interested.

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to approve the Event Application for the Pet Parade. All in favor, motion carried.

Event Application – Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks

Same event as in years past.

Motion: Ed O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to approve the Event Application for the Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks. All in favor, motion carried.

Hometown Heroes Banners

Vote tabled to a later date, as the VFW is reviewing the suggestions made by Council. We may need a Special Session at the Workshop is the VFW gets back to us following their review.

No Motion

Discussion Items:

Budget Schedule

The Budget Committee has begun meeting, the proposed schedule is attached.

Stormwater Update

The homeowner of 317 Moss Street reached out to Rob (attached) regarding the ongoing stormwater issues at his property and his request for swift action to be taken to remedy the issue. The homeowner is scheduled to install a Stormwater System on his property, and he is concerned about spending the money on that project if the water will continue to stand and or drain slowly at our existing Stormwater Pipe. LECCO has quoted \$2,200.00 to clean out the existing Stormwater Pipe.

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to appropriate \$2,200.00 to hire LECCO to rectify the stormwater issue, to the best of his ability, on Moss Street and to proceed with the completion of the stormwater pipe across the driveway at the sewer plant, to relieve the water issue at 108 Boat Yard Road. All in favor, motion carried.

Ending Zoom Live Stream

Motion: Ed O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to discontinue the live streaming of all Town Meetings effective April 12, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

Safe Routes to School

The State can no longer fund the project as is, with the school being moved to its new location. Christy Bernal, program manager, has a few other options to get the project state funded, however, they have an 80/20 component. We currently have approximately \$22,000 invested in the project, and if we continue with the 80/20, we will likely need to invest at least another \$20,000 to complete the just the Third Street portion of the project. Depending on what happens with the property, we could be wasting money if we continue. Rob will get more information.

RFP for the Old Elementary School Property

Rich has reviewed examples of RFPs for other Towns with similar projects. A committee consisting of Rich Taylor, Frank Vari, Ed O'Hara, Sandra Edwards, and Rob Bernstine will create the RFP for our project and also a target letter that will go to companies that we may be interested in working with.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Council Comments:

Frank V- Happy Easter

Frank H- Requested a new directory and that each Councilmember review their lines in the budget and submit any comments.

Adjourn:

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor