

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 9, 2022

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

Absent:

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

Proclamations:

Boater Safety Week

Mayor, Rich Taylor read and presented the Boater Safety Week Proclamation to Daniel McCaffery, Chesapeake City Flotilla Commander.

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week

Mayor, Rich Taylor read the Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week Proclamation and it will be given to Sgt. Proctor, State Police Liaison for Chesapeake City, upon his next visit to Town Hall.

CCEA Certificate of Appreciation

Marie D. and Eileen V. presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor, Rich Taylor, on behalf of the Town. They would like to get the word out about all the services they offer/provide to the community.

Frank Vari would like to congratulate Frank and Alice Hill on 62 years of marriage!

Approval of Minutes:

April 11, 2022, Meeting

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to accept the minutes from the April 11, 2022, Meeting, as amended. 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. Lee has some concern with the removal of trees for an electric line to be run for Delmarva. New trees would take a significant amount of time to provide the barrier that is there now with the existing trees. The new plant will be more visually pleasing, so it may not be as hard to look at, making the tree removal a moot point. There was a sewer main back-up near Pell Gardens, due to a failed pump. The sensor switch that alerts us to an issue was not functioning at the time, and no alert was sent out. It was resolved quickly and was a minimal spill. The Town replaced a water connection at the end of Biddle Street. We are working to resolve a water leak in the 400 block of George. Rob read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (attached).

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, they reviewed and approved 1 application. 103 Bohemia Ave – Siding, Window, and Door Replacement. They also voted to submit the Maryland Department of Planning Annual Report. The Zoning Administrator approved 4 permits, as reflected in Rob Bernstine's Report.

Todd Greco

Public Safety- The “No Fishing After Dusk” sign at the dock was stolen, a new sign has been ordered and will be installed. Todd read the police report (attached) from Sgt. Proctor.

Frank Hill

Finance- Frank read the current balances on the accounts (attached) and the monthly financial reports (attached) from Wagner were distributed to Council in your packets. The Budget Committee has been working hard on balancing the budget and will meet Thursday to finalize what will be presented at the Workshop.

Historic District- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, they reviewed and approved 2 applications. 205 Bohemia Ave. – Repaint Exterior, Replace Rear Porch Decking with Composite Tongue and Groove. 103 Bohemia Ave. – Paint Exterior, Replace Windows with Marvin Wood Windows, and Replace Siding with HardiPlank. One condition requested, was that he keep the stained-glass windows. They also reviewed a letter of interest from Lisa Still, as there was a vacancy on the Commission. They approved the recommendation to Council of Lisa Still for appointment to the Historic Commission.

Ed O’Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- The Pet Parade was successful; this was the first time it was held in April rather than November. The Elementary School Redevelopment Committee met and discovered that the County has 3 to 4 interested parties. Creating a Request for Proposal will be put on hold until they are able to meet with Cecil County Councilman, Bob Meffley, about who the interested parties are and what they are looking to do. The Town received a proposal to set up a hot dog cart over at the boat ramp near the picnic tables. Any subleases in that area would need to be approved by the Corp. The Town also received a proposal to set up a vegetable cart in the Beck’s Landing area. We will table these discussions until the Workshop.

Frank Vari

Public Works- Frank met with the State Highway and discussed a few problem areas that we have in Town and they agreed that each problem needs to be addressed, but we may need to wait until July to have them fixed. We are averaging over 1 ton per month for metal recycling, which is great. Bridge lane closures were canceled for this week. The projected complete closures of the bridge may not be needed any longer.

Parks and Rec- Jesse and Frank did the annual playground inspections, minimal issues were found. Parks and Rec. will meet tomorrow night at 6:30 pm. Bike rentals are up and running at the head of the Ben Cardin Trail. April 21 was the Cecil/Harford MML Quarterly meeting, Frank attended and found it informative! April 22 was the dedication to the Bohemia River State Park, the park is wonderful. The Chesapeake City Canal Run is moving along well, we have 37 participants already and we are hoping Ben Cardin will attend the festivities.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager

See attached report.

Brian Hunsberger, Treasurer

The monthly financial reports are attached. Brian has begun training with Wagner and Associates and has gotten limited access to QuickBooks.

Mayor Rich Taylor

There is interest from developers looking at properties, other than the school, in or near town. They have met with one developer thus far about the Chesapeake Village Property. Bohemia River State Park is a spectacular property, and new amenities will be added over the next few years. They consider Chesapeake City and Cecilton as the “Gateway Towns” to the park. Thank you to the CCEA for the National Day of Prayer Event.

Action Items:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Contract

The Town is happy with the County Service, especially the depth they have for repairs. In the past we paid a flat, fixed fee and we negotiated to only be charged for actual hours worked (the full contract is attached). Rob will make and share a spreadsheet showing our actual expenses from this year compared to the estimated expenses listed in the contract.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O’Hara to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plan Operations Contract between Cecil County and the Town of Chesapeake City. All in favor, motion carried.

Appointment to Historic District Commission – Lisa Still

Motion: Frank Hill made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve the appointment of Lisa Still to the Historic District Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Parks and Trails Updates

Safe Routes to School – Project canceled due to school changing locations. It still could be funded at 80/20 through the Transportation Alternatives Program. To do the full project, 3rd and 4th Street at \$181,821, 80% would be \$145,457 and our 20% responsibility would be \$36,364. To do just the 4th Street portion of the project at \$122,195 80% would be \$97,756 and our 20% responsibility would be \$24,439.

Bohemia Trail – Project canceled in November 2020 due to inactivity. We could reapply for funds for this project, but the application would need to be submitted by May 16, 2022.

Motion: Ed O’Hara made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to terminate the Safe Routes to School Project and not pursue additional funding. All in favor, motion carried.

Union Street Park – The project grant is for \$115,995 we have spent \$26,924 in engineering to date. DNR will fund project without the planned stairs. They would require a new sketch of the planned project and we would need to finish it by the end of the year. We would need to continue to maintain the area when the project is complete.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O’Hara to terminate the Union Street Park Project. All in favor, motion carried.

Streetscape (First Street Sidewalk) – The Town has already received payment for the project. The contract is pending signatures.

Resolution 2022-002

A Resolution of the Town of Chesapeake City, Maryland for the purposes of updating fines for violation of the Parking Regulations as established by Ordinance 6-3 Traffic, Vehicles, and Transportation.

Motion: Todd Greco made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve Resolution 2022-002, as amended and pending a legal review by Tom. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Introducing Ordinance 2022-001 amending Article 8, the Critical Area Section, of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance to reflect recent changes in State Law

Mayor, Rich Taylor introduced Ordinance 2022-001 amending Article 8, the Critical Area Section, of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance to reflect recent changes in State Law. Public Hearing set for Monday, May 23, 2022.

Introducing Ordinance 2022-002 updating the official Critical Area Map of the Town of Chesapeake City

Mayor, Rich Taylor introduced Ordinance 2022-002 updating the official Critical Area Map of the Town of Chesapeake City. Public Hearing set for Monday, May 23, 2022.

Introducing Ordinance 2022-003 updating the Floodplain Ordinance of the Town of Chesapeake City to reflect changes in State Law

Mayor, Rich Taylor introduced Ordinance 2022-003 updating the Floodplain Ordinance of the Town of Chesapeake City to reflect changes in State Law. Public Hearing set for Monday, May 23, 2022.

Introducing Ordinance 2022-004 approving the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Mayor, Rich Taylor introduced Ordinance 2022-004 approving the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Public Hearing set for Monday, May 23, 2022.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Council Comments:

Lee Adams, Sarah Ford-Ferrara, and Amber Durand have submitted a Certificates of Candidacy for Council.

Rich Taylor has submitted a Certificate of Candidacy for Mayor.

Adjourn:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Hill to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor