

Town Council Workshop/Special Session/Public Hearing Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2022

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

Absent:

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Special Session:

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Frank Hill to enter the Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-004 – An Ordinance adopting the budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. All in favor, motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-004 – An Ordinance adopting the budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

The Budget Committee met 5 times to review and create the FY 22-23 Budget. The proposed budget, including the Water/Sewer Fund and the General Fund, was presented to the Public via the projector and was reviewed, line-by-line (items reviewed are attached).

Water and Sewer

Council Comments: No Council Comments

Public Comments: No Public Comments

General Fund

Council Comments: Todd suggested raising the cost of Resident Parking Permits and decreasing the number of permits sold. He also suggested that we think about moving the Fireworks expense to the businesses, as the residents don't get much out of the event. Frank Vari agreed with this suggestion and would like to look at other ways to get the fireworks paid for. Another suggestion by Todd was to increase the tax rate to 0.0054 rather than .0053 and add a visible service for that increase, like trash cans or more police coverage. Todd suggested an increase in the number of times that we perform Street Sweeping to keep the Town looking its best. Ed suggested to get rid of the Council Stipends if additional funds are needed. Todd stated that this line-by-line conversation has been enlightening, he also suggested that the Council get out and be more active with the Residents. Rich suggested that we go back to doing quarterly or bi-yearly budget reviews to continue these line-by-line conversations.

Public Comments: Karen Huddleston suggested a waiver from the proposed increase in the cost of a Residential Parking Permit Fees be considered for the few residents that do not have rear yard parking. Sarah Ford-Ferrara also suggested an increase in Street Sweeping, with the additional sweeping being added just before Memorial Day. She also suggested an increase in Police presence late at night.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to close the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Closed Session:

No Close Session needed.

Action Items:

Ordinance 2022-004 – An Ordinance adopting the budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Motion: Todd Greco made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to approve Ordinance 2022-004 – An Ordinance adopting the budget of the Town of Chesapeake City for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

Appointment to Board of Elections – Tyler Simonds

Tyler Simonds is up for appointment to the Board of Elections.

Motion: Ed O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to approve the Appointment of Tyler Simonds to the Board of Elections. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Mobile Vendors

The Town had 2 proposals submitted for Mobile Vendors.

One is for a Hot Dog Cart to be located by the picnic tables over near the boat ramp on the Corp property. She would like to be open on the weekends from 11 am to 8 pm in warm weather months. The cart would be taken away when not open. They are willing to pay a vendor fee if needed.

The other is for a Vegetable Truck to be located in Becks Landing. She would like to be open on the weekends in warm weather months. The truck would be removed when not open.

Todd wanted to know the difference between the vegetable truck and the hot dog cart, as far as allowing them to sell in Town. If we allow one, it sets a precedent to have to allow all who are interested. What keeps other vendors from just coming in and setting up anytime they wish. Tom explained that one is selling an immediate consumable product and the other is selling a take-away and consume product. Tom stated that we could establish some criteria and then set up a registration procedure including a permit/permit fee, should we elect to move forward with this. The Chamber would rather see a vendor event where all vendors are here at one time, rather than having them show up randomly, taking business away from the brick-and-mortar locations. Mayor and Council feel that more discussion will be needed on this topic.

Special Session:

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to adjourn the Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Karen Huddleston- Trash cans along Bohemia Ave. need to be emptied more often, they are full almost every morning. It is very unattractive for visitors.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara- Trash cans are needed on the north side near Schaefer's Parking Lot, as there seems to be a considerable increase in the amount of litter now that the weather is nicer.

Brian Hunsberger- There is a potential buyer for the Galleon Light Display for approximately \$7,000.00.

Charlie Copeland- Would like the Town and the Chamber to work together in the future about Economic Development and Tourism in Town. There was a budget line in the past for Eco. Dev. and Tourism, which has gone away. He would like to get back a positive working relationship between the Chamber and Town.

Todd suggested the Town employ an Event Planner and a Grant Writer that would fund themselves.

Special Session:

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to enter the Re-Open the Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Todd Greco to give Brian Hunsberger the authority to sell the Galleon Light Display for \$7,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to enter the Close the Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Todd- Can we eliminate the pink trash cans that are spread throughout the Historic District. We could bring the nicer looking cans, with smaller holes, that are under the bridge down to Pell Gardens and place the pink cans out when there is an event.

Ed- Thanks to the Budget Committee for their efforts.

Frank- Thanks to the Budget Committee for their efforts. Wants a meeting scheduled with MPK to discuss their contract. Thanks to Brian for the sale of the Galleon.

Rich- Thanks to the Budget Committee for their efforts. Thanks John and Jake for their hard work keeping residents happy.

Todd- Thanks to the Budget Committee for their efforts.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor