

# Town of Chesapeake City

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

*Monday, February 12, 2024*

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

Absent: Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Mayor Rich Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### Approval of Minutes:

*January 8, 2024, Meeting*

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

*January 22, 2024, Workshop*

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to accept the minutes from the January 22, 2024, Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

### Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP is nearly complete, there are still a few punch list items that are being worked on. A grit removal system was connected and there was also a connection added for Aqua Aerobics to monitor the sequencing batch reactor operations, which is a function of our WWTP. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission did not meet on Wednesday, January 7, 2024, due to a lack of action items. The Board of Appeals did meet and approved a variance for 243 Biddle Street. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, did not approve any applications this month. Lee would like to add the SB 484/HB 538, also known as the "Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024" to the Workshop Agenda for discussion.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- The Public Safety Committee met on January 30. They discussed many topics including the alleged incident from January 28, 2024. They will meet again on March 5 and will discuss pay to park, parking, speeding, and other general safety items.

Trooper Dalton Starr gave an update on the reported incident from January 28, 2024, at approximately 2:00 am. Following the investigation by the Maryland State Police it was determined that there was no evidence of any attack happening on that evening and that there is no imminent threat to the community.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, they reviewed and approved 1 application for 17 Bohemia Ave. – Siding, Shutters, and Porch Decking Replacements and Paint Colors.

Docks- The dredging permits will go before the Public Works Committee on February 14 with a recommendation to approve and we received a grant agreement for \$75,000.00 from DNR. We are also moving forward with the redecking of Becks Landing, which will be starting next week.

Ed O’Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- We have made it through the slowest month of the year, January, and things will be picking up soon for the spring. The first annual Chamber Gala was a huge success! There was approximately a \$7,000.00 donation made to the Library Friends Foundation from the event. The Sip and Stroll is this Saturday from 1 – 5 pm and then next month we look forward to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival on March 16 starting at 11 am.

Frank Vari

Public Works- Yard Waste resumes on Tuesday, March 5. Recycling numbers are being calculated and final numbers will be coming out soon. There will be another Hazardous Waste Day at the Cecil County Landfill sometime in April, we are not sure of the date just yet.

Parks and Rec- They will meet March 15 to discuss the Easter Egg Hunt and the planting of spring flowers. They will also discuss the creation of a “horseshoe” league and the upkeep of the pits in Ferry Slip Park. They would like to start making and hanging birdhouses around town. The New Year’s Day 5k was extremely successful with 202 participants. There were several sponsors for this year’s event totaling over \$8,000.00. This money goes toward funding our recycling program. The Canal Run will be held June 22, 2024. We usually give out t-shirts, but are thinking about doing another item, such as a tote bag or a lunch bag with the town seal on it.

Rob Bernstine, Town Manager

The Town Manager’s Report was distributed to Council.

Brian Hunsberger, Treasurer

The Monthly Financial Reports were distributed and the account balances as of today were read.

Mayor Rich Taylor

Thanks to Rob Bernstine for getting Pig Alley repaired with stone. We will need to continue grading and more stone. The Town will have our new truck and skid steer in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Thanks to Tonya for arranging and attending the Mayor for a Day Essay Contest visit to Chesapeake City Elementary School.

Action Items:

*Inflow and Infiltration Project Continuation*

KCI started the study several months ago and estimates the identified repairs to be approximately \$103,000.00, \$59,000.00 for manhole repairs and \$44,000.00 for sewer line repairs. Moving forward, they are recommending we utilize iTrackers to identify additional inflow issues over a two-month period. This would be \$36,709.60 for the use of about 19 iTracker Sensors along a set trail of manholes. A summary from KCI was distributed to the Council and the full summary is available through Rob Bernstine. If approved, Rob will get the project out to bid.

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve the identified repairs and the recommended iTrackers Study in the amount of \$140,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

*Event Application – St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Vendor Event*

Annual festivities with the added vendor event again this year, as last year was a success.

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the Event Application for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Vendor Event. All in favor, motion carried.

*Event Application – Little League Parade*

Annual parade held on Opening Day.

**Motion:** Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O’Hara to approve the Event Application for the Little League Parade. All in favor, motion carried.

*Event Application – Pain in the 5k Race*

This is an event that occurred last year as well. Frank will discuss with Nic the race route.

**Motion:** Ed O’Hara made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the Event Application for the Pain in the 5k Race. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

*Proposed Stop Sign at the Biddle and Hemphill Street Intersection*

This was a topic brought up at the last Public Safety Committee Meeting. They requested a stop sign be placed at the intersection of Biddle and Hemphill Streets to slow the traffic flow. There is a large volume of traffic in that area, especially during rush hour. Frank suggested we get all our ducks in a row prior to the request to the State Highway, including photos, documentation from surrounding residents in favor or opposed, and any other information we can submit.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Council Comments:

Hunter – We have increased the police for the Sip and Stroll.

Frank – The Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 23, as Easter is early this year.

Adjourn:

**Motion:** Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

*\*An audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor