

Town Council Workshop Minutes

Monday, June 24, 2024

Present: Mayor Rich Taylor, Sarah Ford-Ferrara, Hunter Dann, Frank Vari, Lee Adams, Ed O'Hara, Tonya Lockwood (staff), Rob Bernstine (staff)

Absent: Tom Yeager (attorney), attending the MML Conference.

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.

Discussion Items:

Artesian Water Increase

Artesian Water has received notice from the Chester Water Authority of an increase in their water cost, thus that increase is being passed along to us. We will now be \$4.968 per thousand gallons, up from the current cost of \$4.128 per thousand gallons. The requested increase was approved by the Delaware Public Service Commission, and the new rate went into effect on June 12, 2024.

There has not been a rate increase for us from Artesian since 2016, even though Artesian has had 4 increases from the Chester Water Authority. Council would like notification when future increases are announced by the Chester Water Authority.

Replace Town Hall Front Door

The Town Hall front door is in desperate need of replacement! Two estimates were given to Council for review. One for a fiberglass replacement at \$8,795.00 and the other for a wood replacement at \$14,420.00.

Lee Adams would like to see a few more estimates before deciding as these seem quite high. Sarah feels that Historic will likely want to see the wood. We will get more estimates and will bring this back to a voting session.

Former Elementary School Playground Equipment

CCPS has cautioned off the playground equipment at the former CCES site. We assume this is due to the lack of maintenance and liability issues. Frank Vari has reached out to Superintendent Jeff Lawson and Robert Barclay, from CCPS, and reminded them that the Town would like to keep the equipment to be moved and used at Helen Titter Park. They suggested writing a letter to Cecil County requesting the equipment and that they would support our request during the transfer of the property.

Rob suggested the letter state that if the property is going to be in use of a playground that it could stay where it is.

Rob and Frank will continue to communicate with CCPS, the County, Parks & Rec. and then will draft a letter once more information is given.

Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee has been very busy. The Town Staff began looking into cameras at their request and an estimate for Phase 1 of the project has been submitted to Council for review. This would

cover the Town Hall Building and the surrounding areas, the transient docks, and the WWTP. Total costs for Phase 1 would be \$11,886.20. We will put this on the Voting Meeting.

Another discussion was held regarding permit vs. public parking on 2nd Street and the 200 and 300 blocks of Bohemia Ave. The committee proposed adding 2 permit spots on 2nd St. (directly south of 111 George) and 15 along Bohemia Ave.

2nd St - Rich suggested making all three of the spots south of 111 George, Permit Parking and many on Council agreed. We could remove the permit spot from in front of 105 George and make it open.

200 Block Bohemia – They would like to make 10 open spots in front of 210 Bohemia. Council suggested doing 6 instead of 10 in that same area.

300 Block Bohemia – They would like to make the 4 or 5 open spots, permit spots in front of 320 Bohemia.

In all we will be adding a total of 13 additional Permit Parking Only Spaces. We will work on a Resolution for this to be placed on the July Meeting Agenda.

Public Comment:

No Public in attendance.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Frank - will give a report on the Canal 5k at the July Meeting.

Ed – We will do a Resolution for Jimmy Buffett in August.

Rob – The MD SHA will begin the work on N. St. Augustine Road on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Lockwood

Richard L. Taylor, III, Mayor