

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024

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

Absent:

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:

July 8, 2024, Meeting

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2024, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

July 22, 2024, Workshop/Special Session

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to accept the minutes from the July 22, 2024, Workshop/Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Proclamations:

Jimmy Buffett Day

Rich read the proclamation declaring August 30, 2024, at Jimmy Buffett Day in Chesapeake City, Maryland.

Parks and Recreation Month

Rich read the proclamation declaring July as Parks and Recreation Month in Chesapeake City, Maryland. The Proclamation was presented to Kris Malloy and many other active Parks and Rec Members in attendance.

Public Hearing:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to open the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Ordinance 2024-002 – To repeal §151 Article II – Parking in the Historic District (Ordinance 2022-005)

Rich Taylor read the ordinance summary, and a public hearing was held for Ordinance 2024-002 – To repeal §151 Article II – Parking in the Historic District (Ordinance 2022-005), to obtain input from the public. Notice for the Public Hearing was given at Town Hall, on the Website, and on Facebook on July 23, 2024. No public comment was received prior to the meeting.

Mayor/Council Comments:

No comments at this time.

Public Comments:

There was one question regarding the number of new resident spaces asked, and it was stated that the number of new resident spaces would be explained in Resolution 2024-006. No other public comment was offered during the public hearing.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to close the Public Hearing. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP is nearing completion, there are a few punch list items that are being worked on including a few closeout items and some warranty items. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed). MDE has reduced our previous fine for violations for the old plant from about 79k to about 50k. We were building the new plant at the time these violations occurred.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, August 6, 2024, they reviewed and approved 2 applications. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 2 applications this month both for a change of use.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- The Public Safety Committee will meet on Sept. 16. They continue to have discussions on the State Police, parking, the potential stop sign on Hemphill and Biddle, and speed limit signs on Biddle St. The 1st phase of the camera project has been completed and cameras are up on Town Hall covering the Town Hall property and also parts of 2nd Street and Bohemia Ave. We also had cameras installed on the new WWTP buildings.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, they reviewed and approved 1 application at 205 Bohemia Ave. Additionally, they voted to send both Drew Bycoskie and Karyn Huddleston to the Council for appointment to the Commission. They also discussed a new siding material for 204 Bohemia (not in favor) and a front door replacement at Town Hall (in favor).

Docks- The Dock repair is in progress with anticipated completion around the end of August. There was a concern regarding the live-feed camera at the dock. All faces are blocked out and we can block out the area of the boat. The floating dock at the boat ramp needs repairs, we are working with them to get this completed.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- We are more than halfway through the summer, but businesses have done well. The Car Show is approaching on Saturday, August 24, 2024. We are looking forward to another successful event.

Frank Vari

Public Works- We replaced a collapsed pipe at 119 Bank St. We also added a drainage pipe to remove standing water in the alley near 442 George Street. The sidewalk at 2nd and Charles was approved by the Corp and SHA. We are still waiting to hear back from Delmarva on the lighting portion of the project. The next Cecil County Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Sunday, October 6. Weather permitting, the SHA will start paving or patching George Street around Labor Day. Our Recycling Program was the Top Recycling Town for the 14th year in a row.

Parks and Rec- The next meeting will be held in September. There are two additional resident boat cruises, one in August and one in September.

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

Rich, Lee and Frank went to the July MML Quarterly Dinner, where they listened to a Planner from Havre De Grace who discussed the 13 million dollars they received in ARPA Funding and how they spent or plan to spend it. One of their hot ticket items is to widen the sidewalk of their main business district.

Rich was saddened to hear of the passing of Bud Poore, owner of the Flag Shop, who provided many of the flags in our Town.

Thanks to the Parks and Rec committee and a warning to watch out for bees and hornets!!

Action Items:

Ordinance 2024-002 – To repeal §151 Article II – Parking in the Historic District (Ordinance 2022-005)

A public hearing was held earlier during the meeting and no public comment was given. There was also no public comment received prior to the meeting.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve Ordinance 2024-002 – To repeal §151 Article II – Parking in the Historic District (Ordinance 2022-005). All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 2024-006 – Resident Parking in the Historic District

This resolution establishes residential parking regulations within the Historic District including the number and location of spaces, permit requirements, the fees for permits, and the fines for violations. This Resolution would be effective on September 2, 2024, which is also the effective date of Ordinance 2024-002.

Motion: Ed O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve Resolution 2024-006 – Resident Parking in the Historic District, effective September 2, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2024-003 – To provide for the cancellation of uncontested elections

This Charter Amendment Resolution was introduced on June 10, 2024, and a public hearing was held on July 8, 2024. A summary shall be posted in the local paper 4 times and on town hall, the web, and Facebook for 40 days.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve Charter Amendment Resolution 2024-003 – To provide for the cancellation of uncontested elections. All in favor, motion carried.

Appointments to Historic District Commission – Drew Bycoskie and Karyn Huddleston

Drew Bycoskie will fulfill the term vacated by Jeannie Staker, ending January 8, 2028.

Karyn Huddleston will fulfill the term vacated by Matt Sweetman, ending April 11, 2026.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the appointment of Drew Bycoskie and Karyn Huddleston to the Historic District Commission. All in favor, motion carried.

Event Application – Lion's Club Car Show

Annual Event held on the South Side of Town.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve Event Application – Lion's Club Car Show. All in favor, motion carried.

Event Application – Taste of Chesapeake City

Annual Event held on the North Side of Town.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve Event Application – Taste of Chesapeake City. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Town Dock Live Feed Camera

DJ expressed concern about the view from the livestream camera, especially regarding the privacy of his patrons using the restroom among other privacy issues. Currently all faces are being blurred out and we could blur the entire area the boat is in.

Public Comment:

A comment letter was received from Diane Crawford regarding parking issues in the Historic District.

Paula L. – had some questions regarding parking and parking enforcement.

Carey M. – feels that if we had better signage directing visitors to the free parking areas would be a great idea. The back alleys are being used as a shortcut. Could we add signs stating “Resident’s Only” to try to ward off visitors who don’t need to be using them.

Lisa S. – had friends visit and they stated they never saw any sign for parking or free parking.

Barbara Z – What happened to the motorcycle parking spaces on the south-west corner of Third and George.

Karyn H. – She wanted to know if everyone is happy with the current trash company. She feels that they are not consistent and one of the employees did something very untowardly on her property. They don’t take all the trash out of her can. Could we put a trash can over by the boat ramp, as there is a ton of trash being left in that area.

Council Comments:

Ed – We need to look at updating the parking signage throughout the Town. We will look into adding a trash can at the boat ramp.

Rich – We have been pleased thus far with the trash company, not without a few anomalies here and there. Thank you to everyone for coming out.

Frank - Thank you to everyone for coming out. Please keep recycling.

Lee – Really likes the new cameras.

Adjourn:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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