

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 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 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes:

August 12, 2024, Meeting

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2024, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

August 26, 2024, Workshop/Special Session

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2024, Workshop/Special Session. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP is nearing completion, we have a survey scheduled for 9/13/2024 for as-built documentation. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed). We have sent a letter to MDE regarding a face-to-face meeting about the fines and violations from our old plant. We are also asking for letters from the Deputy Secretary of MDE, the Governor, and Senator Hershey.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission did not meet in September, but they were given a draft of the Comp Plan Update for review. It was also sent to the State for review on August 19, 2024. The Planning Commission will meet in October to review the draft and will schedule a Public Hearing for November 6, 2024. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 2 applications this month. There may be a concept plan brought before the Planning Commission in October for Town Homes on the property south of the Chesapeake Inn Valet Parking Lot.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- The Public Safety Committee will meet on 9/16/2024. He has been in close contact with the State Police and things have been fairly quiet, a few activities at the Inn, but nothing major. There were a few complaints about a dark truck following people and about a man sleeping in the truck at the park. We would need to file an official complaint or post no 24-hour parking at the park. There were 2 additional speed limit signs added to Biddle Street, and another existing sign has been cleared of leaves and branches making it more visible.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, they reviewed and approved 3 applications. They also discussed holding a question-and-answer session for Historic District Property Owners in January or February, with the goal of providing property owners a better understanding of how subjective the process of Historic Approval is.

Docks- The new floating dock by the boat ramp has been installed and is working well. The docks damaged during the basin dredging have been repaired.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- The Lions Club Car Show was another great success! Thanks to all involved. The reported number of cars was 613, another record. Summer drawing to a close, but it has been a great season. Looking forward to a busy fall and hoping to keep good weather into Oct and Nov. The Taste of Chesapeake City Event on the north side is coming up on October 5, please attend if you are able. The Cecil County 350th Fireworks have hit a slight snag, as the fireworks company is uncomfortable with shooting within the proximity of the crops being grown. More details are to come as it is made available. Jimmy Buffett Day was a huge success this year and there will hopefully be a "parrot head" boat parade next year.

Frank Vari

Public Works- We completed a washout repair on the lower portion of the red stone lot behind the South Side Pump Station. We met with SHA who is preparing to finish the paving of the 2nd and Bohemia intersection. They are also preparing to pave George Street from 1st Street to the bridge ramp in the next few weeks. Staff are working with Delmarva for the light installation at the 2nd and Charles Street Sidewalk Project. Hazardous Waste Day at the Cecil County Landfill is October 6. Frank received the award on behalf of the Town for being the Top Recycling Town for the 14th year in a row. We have started the stenciling of the Permit Parking Spaces and will finish ASAP.

Parks and Rec- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024. The last resident cruise will be September 17, 2024. The Helen Titter Park Bathrooms will be closed at the end of October. We have submitted a grant application to the DNR Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for new playground equipment at Helen Titter Park. We have opened registration for the New Years Day 5k and we have 2 participants so far.

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

The “Chesapeake Village Property” LGI is the 10th largest builder in the USA and they have a “small town” mentality. They share a TND vocabulary with us so hopefully this will be an easy-going deal. He will attend the 9/11 Service at the VFW on Wednesday evening.

Action Items:

Reschedule Meeting Dates – October 14 and November 11

The October Meeting date is on Columbus Day and the November Meeting date is on Veterans Day. Both are holidays in which Town Hall is Closed! We will reschedule the October Meeting to Tuesday, October 15 and the November Meeting to Tuesday, November 12, and it will be a combined Meeting/Workshop.

Motion: Ed O'Hara made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve moving the October and November Meeting dates to October 15 and November 12, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

Inflow and Infiltration

Rob has been working with KCI and they suggested Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe Services to do part of the work that includes the Manhole Rehabilitation and Cured in Place Pipe Lining at \$183,785.00. LECCO will likely do any other part of the work (excavating) that need to be completed at \$50,000.00.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the I and I repairs at an approximate cost of \$234,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Comcast Franchise Agreement

Tom agrees with many of the redline areas, but he does have concern with the definition of revenue, as he feels many things are left off that are included in other agreements he has worked on. The Council shall accept the document pending the restoration of the Towns prescribed Gross Revenue Definition in Section 1.10.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the Comcast Franchise Agreement pending the restoration of the Towns prescribed Gross Revenue Definition in Section 1.10. All in favor, motion carried.

Event Application – River Towns Ride

They will have a table set up at the trail head and will hand out items from the local businesses and water. There will also be a porta potty set up in the area.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the Event Application for River Towns Ride. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Hall Repairs

There are several repairs needed at Town Hall including gutters, rotting wood, and painting. Brian reached out to several contractors for estimates and only Paddy's got back to him with the estimate of \$3,682.00.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the estimate for repairs at Town Hall from Paddy's at \$3,682.00. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Public Comment:

Sandra Edwards – the 300 block of George Street is not passable for 2 vehicles with cars and boats parking along the Church. The Harvest Dinner will be at the Wellwood on October 2, 2024. The Maryland 5-Star will be held on October 17 – 20, 2024, we need to get the attendance up to keep the event in Cecil County!!

Council Comments:

Frank – There will be a Townwide Yard Sale on Saturday, October 5.

Adjourn:

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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