

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Present: Mayor Rich Taylor, Frank Vari, Lee Adams (via speakerphone), Hunter Dann, Tonya Lockwood (staff), Brian Hunsberger (staff), Rob Bernstine (staff)

Absent: Tom Yeager (attorney), Ed O'Hara, 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:

October 15, 2024, Meeting

Motion: Hunter Dann made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2024, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

October 28, 2024, Workshop

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2024, Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Rob gave a report for Lee, as he was available via speakerphone, making it difficult.

Water and Sewer- The WWTP is nearing completion, there are very few punch list items left to be completed. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed). Rob is continuing to work on the Lead and Copper Line Inventory. The initial report has been sent to MDE, but we need to send a letter to residents, who are in the "unknown" category.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, they reviewed and approved 1 application for a shade pavilion beside a pool on Basil Ave. They also held a public hearing for the 2024 Draft Comprehensive Plan and received public comment. Ultimately, they voted to recommend adoption by the Town Council. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 1 application this month for siding and window replacements on Bohemia Ave.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- The Public Safety Committee has not met since the last meeting. They will meet again on November 19, 2024. They are still waiting to hear from the State for the Stop Sign at Hemphill and Biddle. The State Police have started to decrease their summer hours and will begin to work on speeding tickets in certain areas. There was unfortunately a fatal accident recently on Lock Street at the trailhead. Clean-ups have occurred for the damaged areas on Town Property including a memorial bench and sidewalk area, sign, and landscaping.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- In Sarah's absence: The Historic District Commission did not meet in October, due to a lack of business.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- In Ed's absence: Upcoming we have the Pet Parade- Nov. 23, the Lions Club Tree Lighting- Dec. 1, the Lighted Boat Parade- Dec. 2, the Parade of Horses, Christmas Market, and Candlelight Tour- Dec. 14, the New Year's Day 5k- Jan. 1, and the new Holiday Variety Show- Dec. 21. Looking further ahead we will have the Sip n Stroll- Feb. 22

Frank Vari

Public Works- Rob executed a streetlight agreement with Delmarva for the sidewalk at 2nd and Charles. We are working closely with Verizon and Comcast for the underground cable installation. Maintenance has cleared the debris from the accident at the trail head. We are just about finished putting up the Winterfest light displays. Our numbers are looking good again at the close of 2024 for recycling.

Parks and Rec- Minutes from the September Parks and Rec Meeting were distributed. The committee is still keeping up with all of the beds and planters in Town. They are hoping to plan a free fall event for next year and one idea is a Trunk or Treat. They will be helping town staff with painting the fire hydrants on the north side. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2024.

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

Attended the Annual NAACP Luncheon on Nov. 2, at Schaefer's. It is a fantastic event, and we are lucky to have it held in our town. He received a call from an out-of-town resident regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update and it seems some folks are worried that we are planning a "Southfields" type growth to town on the north side. This is not the case, as we want to ensure that IF there is growth, it blends with the look and feel of our Town. We need to guarantee that we have control of the growth area on the north side so that we are the authority over any potential growth, and it is not left solely in the hands of the County. That is done by outlining potential desires in the Comprehensive Plan.

Action Items:

Event application – Poplar Hall Holiday Variety Show

A NEW event this year, that will be something like the Ed Sullivan Show of the past. It will be held in Pell Garden's and Greg will speak with the Chamber and with Bob Foard. He would like to have fire pits or some type of heat source and would like Bayheads, the Rum Bar, and other local establishments to sell refreshments.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve Event Application – Poplar Hall Holiday Variety Show. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution 2024-008 Holiday Variety Show Alcohol

See the previous summary for details.

Motion: Hunter Dann made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve Resolution 2024-008 Holiday Variety Show Alcohol. All in favor, motion carried.

Matt Cole (formerly Liberty Launch)

Matt Cole, formerly known as Liberty Launch, would like to keep his antique boat at the Town Dock during the winter months that DJ is not there. He will light the boat to make it attractive for folks to look at and may partner with some restaurants to offer dessert on the boat following meals. The new business name is Pax Maris Maritime Foundation, Inc.

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Lee Adams to table the boat dockage agreement with Mr. Cole or Pax Maris Maritime Foundation, Inc. until the Workshop on Monday, November 25, 2024. Lee Adams and Frank Vari in favor, motion carried. Hunter Dann, against.

Discussion Items:

Comcast Franchise Agreement

The final agreement states that the Town can adopt a Resolution to include the missing terms of “gross revenue” and Comcast has 120 days to incorporate the categories in its calculations.

2024 Comprehensive Plan

A joint Public Hearing was held for the Draft 2024 Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, to obtain input from the public. A Draft of the Comprehensive Plan was sent to the State and other local agencies for review on August 19, 2024. Notice for the Public Hearing was placed in the Cecil Daily Newspaper on October 9, 2024, and notice was given at Town Hall, on the Website, and on Facebook on October 3, 2024. No comments were submitted prior to the start of the meeting. Jamie Kendrick from Woodvalley Strategies spoke and explained the reasoning/requirements for a Comprehensive Plan and answered questions from the audience. A copy of minutes from the Public Hearing was distributed to Council for review.

Public Comment:

Council Comments:

Adjourn:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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