

Town of Chesapeake City

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

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

Approval of Minutes:

February 10, 2025, Meeting

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025, Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

February 24, 2025, Workshop

Motion: Frank Vari made a motion, seconded by Hunter Dann to approve the minutes from February 24, 2025, Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

Certificate of Appreciation:

Rich Taylor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cub Scout Pack 336 for their help during the New Year's Day 5k Race.

Council Reports:

Lee Adams

Water and Sewer- The WWTP has very few punch list items that are being worked on such as HVAC repairs and an eyewash station repair. Lee read the WWTP flows for last month from the County Report (distributed). We are continuing our Inflow and Infiltration studies and are cleaning up (lining) some of the lines when they are able. They are also doing spot repairs when necessary and able. LECCO will come back and do the larger repairs when we are ready. There was another leak found at the south end of George Street. The service line was shut off and it seems to have stopped the leak for the time being.

Planning Commission- The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, they reviewed and approved an architectural review for a self-storage facility outside of town limits and a letter of support for a special exception for a residential project on Chesapeake Village, Lot 2 on N. St. Augustine Road. The special exception with conditions was approved by the Board of Appeals. The Zoning Administrator, Rob Bernstine, approved 1 application this month.

Hunter Dann

Public Safety- The Public Safety Committee will begin meeting again on March 19, unfortunately they seem to have lost about half of their committee members, but they will continue to work through any issues. Sr. Trooper Proctor was in attendance and gave a report on the upcoming hours for St Patrick's

Day and other upcoming weekends. They are looking forward to expanding their hours for the spring and summer. Corporal Mingle, our new State Police Liaison, introduced himself to Council.

Sarah Ford-Ferrara

Historic District Commission- The Historic District Commission met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, they reviewed and approved 1 application and held elections, where Drew Bycoskie was elected chair and Carey Maloumian was elected vice-chair.

Ed O'Hara

Economic Development and Tourism- We are looking forward to warmer weather and booming business as spring approaches. The Sip and Stroll was a huge success, very busy. We are looking forward to the St. Patrick's Day Festivities this weekend. Thank you to all the volunteers for our Town Events!

Finance-

Frank Vari

Public Works- We are currently preparing a bid package for paving and patching to be done this spring. Comcast contractors have nearly finished the north side wire running project and are in the planning stages for the south side. Yard Waste has started back up for the season. There is a hazardous waste day coming up in April on the 27th.

Parks and Rec- Minutes from the Parks and Rec Meeting were distributed. The bathrooms at Helen Titter Park will be opened in April. The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 10 am. The rain date will be held Saturday, April 12. Frank's family members were here to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for the wheel on Saturday, March 1. We are continuing to look for crab pot donations for next year's tree. The Canal Race is off to a great start, we have 28 sponsors and 6 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. The Budget Committee will begin their meetings later this month and continue through May.

Mayor Rich Taylor

Congrats to Frank Vari on his recycling article in the Cecil Daily. Thank you to Rob Bernstine and Mr. Yeager for the Board of Appeals Meeting. It ran smoothly. County Councilman Meffley wants to be kept abreast on any progress with the former Chesapeake City Elementary School Property.

Action Items:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Operation Agreement – Cecil County

A discussion was held at the February Workshop regarding the few minor changes to the agreement. Cecil County Public Works has sent a draft of the 2025 Agreement for the operations of our WWTP. They made a few minor, unsubstantial changes to the document text; however, they did lower their hourly rate by a bit less than one dollar.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to approve [Click here to enter text](#). All in favor, motion carried.

New Computers – Town Hall

A discussion was held at the February Workshop.

The current computers used by staff are using Windows 10, which will no longer be supported by Microsoft starting in October. New computers will be needed by then, as the unsupported ones leave us at risk of security threats like cyber-attacks or malware.

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Sarah Ford-Ferrara to approve the purchase of new computers for Town Hall. All in favor, motion carried.

Signs

A discussion was held at the February Workshop.

This was tabled at the February Council Meeting, as Brian and Hunter were not in attendance. They tried to focus on directional signage for parking and the large municipal sign. These would cost approximately \$2,500.00 for all the proposed signs. Brian feels we have the funds in our Public Works budget.

Motion: Hunter Dann made a motion, seconded by Ed O'Hara to approve the ordering of signs as listed on the handout. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Former Elementary School Property

Two of the 4 scheduled meetings with developers have been postponed. Two of the developers have decided to work together. We are scheduled to meet with those two next week. The two small parcels that were not recorded have been quit-claimed by the school system and will be transferred to the County. The County will convey them to us.

Public Comment:

Council Comments:

The State Police will do walking patrols of the former School Property.

Tom – Loves the St. Patrick's Day tree.

Adjourn:

Motion: Lee Adams made a motion, seconded by Frank Vari to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 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