

## **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Town Hall**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2016**

**3:30pm**

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula, and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, John Huggins, Co-Founder and COO of Last Mile Broadband LLC and Maryland Independent Reporter, Tiffany Watson.

Last Mile Broadband LLC – Mr. John Huggins, Co-Founder and COO of Last Mile Broadband LLC of Maryland gave a presentation on the company and their goals within the Town. Last Mile Broadband was founded in March 2012; their goal is to provide service in underserved areas such as Indian Head, Hughesville and Southern Prince Georges County. The company's solution for these areas is to build last-mile wireless and fiber broadband networks, provide affordable services, provide local call center/maintenance support, focus on community involvement and services and public private partnerships. Me. Huggins feels their company would have an economic impact on the Town through job creations, increased support for home based businesses, access to education, business and job opportunities, reduction in travel outside of communities and the company's participation in community events. Mr. Huggins provided a list of items Last Mile Broadband would like the Town's assistance with. The list included data or information available to indicate the demand for affordable high-speed internet, permitting processes for access to water towers, information on if the Town will own/control any of the MD Broadband fiber, specific Indian Head internet requirements, identification of space to lease/purchase, identification of public and private funding sources, introduction to residential and commercial developers, and establishment of a public private partnership, MOU or LOI with the Town of Indian Head. The Town would be the pilot program for Last Mile Broadband. They have been working with Southern Prince Georges County for around a year and half and they are beginning to see traction with the project now. Town Manager Hicks plans to contact MD Broadband, Drew VanDopp and the County for their input then he will present the information to the Council to assist with their decision. The Council has done letters of support for projects in the past and after further research they will consider providing a letter of support for Last Mile Broadband. The Town Manager and Council are also interested in the possibility of providing Wi-Fi throughout the Town.

Review of December Town Meeting Agenda – No additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin mentioned that there is a new store in Town called Vintage Redeux. Michelle's Cakes is finishing their expansion and they are considering offering classes. Mayor Paulin has a meeting with the Lackey Key Club and they are interested in doing cleanups in Town. Mayor Paulin has been working with graphic designers on Indian Head trifolds with local information. The Mayor plans to donate the trifolds.

Vice Mayor – None

Councilman – None

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks heard from Brittany Jackson in reference to the Boardwalk project grant funding. There is a letter in draft form under review that will include the next step for the project. The annual audit is almost done. The employee Christmas party is scheduled for Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> around 1pm. Council agreed that date and time worked with their schedules, and Vice Mayor Sitoula verified that the employees will receive bonuses at the party. Town Manager Hicks and Mayor Paulin recently met with Elvin Grinder from Lisa's Pub. Mr. Grinder wants to open a restaurant in the existing structure. Town Manager Hicks will be meeting with Mr. Grinder and the Fire Marshall to discuss the issues Mr. Grinder has been having and to help work out everything moving forward. Town Manager Hicks requested to be excused from the December 5<sup>th</sup> Town meeting due to family obligations. The Council agreed to excuse Mr. Hicks from the meeting.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady asked who would be attending the Southern Maryland Municipal League's legislative dinner on December 14<sup>th</sup>, so she could handle the RSVPs for the event.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to move into closed session. Councilman Smith seconds the motion. Mayor Paulin adjourned the open session at 4:06pm and Council moved into closed session.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk