

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Monday, January 27, 2014

1:02pm

Mayor Scheessele, Vice Mayor Rice, and Councilman Albright met in work session on Monday, January 27, 2013 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, Regional Policy Advisors President Gary Hodge, Maryland Independent Reporter Rebecca Barnabi, and Town resident Mark Lagana.

Economic Development Strategy – Gary Hodge began by letting Mayor and Council know he did not attend the meeting to make a pitch but to have a conversation in regards to economic development strategy and stated that he has always thought Indian Head has a very effective local government but has had some challenges in regards to economic development. Mr. Hodge discussed an infrastructure plan for Southern Maryland that was put together 20 years ago to get the State engaged in Indian Head and how some of the energy of bringing vibrancy back to Indian Head has drifted. There needs to be a strategy for Indian Head that lifts it up and out of ordinary business. The Town has a good list of assets but partnerships need to be formed, and a financial commitment to economic development would need to be made. Mr. Hodge discussed several beneficial projects taking place near Indian Head that the Town could benefit from. Councilman Albright expressed a concern that the Western side is forgotten by the County Government. Vice Mayor Rice said part of the issue is that the Town needs to be able to tell the County what we need and at this point that has not happened. Mr. Hodge and Mayor and Council discussed the importance of the base to the town and benefits to an economic development board. Mr. Hodge offered to come back out for an executive meeting with Mayor and Council to discuss these issues if they are interested and if he can be helpful he is ready and willing to do so. Mayor Scheessele thanked Mr. Hodge for his time and said he has always found him to be open and fair minded.

Environmental Associates Services– Town Manager Hicks put David Elder from EAST Inc. because there are issues with Well 3 that need to be addressed. The Town’s engineer Richard Parks is putting together specs for repairs and he will bring those Wednesday. At this time David Elder had a picture of the damage to share with Mayor and Council as well as a quote for a new well. Mr. Elder gave a brief description of the damage that occurred and the temporary repairs he was able to make with Eric Woodland from Public Works. Mr. Elder does not feel anymore effort should be put into putting it back into the ground. Town Manager Hicks said the Town will either put another well in or make repairs. The quote provided is for a new well and Richard Parks will be providing figures for repairs on Wednesday. Once all of the information is received this item will be put on the work session agenda again. Vice Mayor Rice requested an update on operations at the plant. Mr. Elder reported minor electrical issues but the plant is still producing good numbers.

Fireworks – Town Manager Hicks reminded Mayor and Council that the Town received two proposals. The two companies that submitted proposals were Fireworks Extravaganza, and Pyrotechnico Fireworks Company who does the fireworks displays at the Blue Crabs stadium. Pyrotechnico is unable to shoot for the Town on the 4th of July; they are only available July 3rd or 5th. Town Manager Hicks had Karen Williams of Community Affairs notify Fireworks Extravaganza that the Town will be booking the fireworks display with them again this year.

March SMMA Meeting Menu – Mayor and Council reviewed the Community Activities Committee proposed menu for the March SMMA meeting and agreed to move forward with the menu.

Review of February Town Meeting Agenda – No additions or corrections.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Scheessele asked for an update on where we stand on late changes and penalties. Town Manager Hicks explained that his meeting with the Town's attorney Fred Sussman was postponed due to the weather and he will be speaking with him about this topic on Friday January 31st. Mayor Scheessele received an email from John Hungerford regarding the Algonquin building. Town Manager Hicks plans to speak with Mr. Hungerford in regards to the need for a concrete time line for the work that's to be done behind the building and to have the letter redone. Mayor Scheessele suggested having Mr. Hungerford write up a memorandum.

Vice Mayor – None

Councilman – Councilman Albright asked to be excused from the meeting at 2:19pm for a work meeting he was required to attend.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks informed Mayor and Council that the appraisal of the Black Box Theater has been completed. Attorney John Hungerford will be preparing a MOU for the Fernandez properties. The Town received four bids for the Trailhead Plaza and restroom project. Town Manager Hicks asked the Town Clerk to put the bids in the Dropbox for review by Mayor and Council. Town Manager Hicks informed Mayor and Council that the January Planning Commission meeting has been moved to the Senior Center on the 29th. The Black Box Theater has requested use of the Village Green Pavilion to hold a fundraiser, and would like the usage fees to be waived. Mayor and Council agreed to waive the fees. Town Manager Hicks has a meeting with the Town's attorney Fred Sussman on the 31st to discuss utility billing and properties in Town.

Town Clerk – AVSI has asked if the Town would like to include job descriptions on the website. This is not something the Town has ever had. Mayor and Council requested that brief job descriptions be created. Due to the change in location for the Planning Commission meeting Town Clerk Brady will need someone to open the Senior Center for her. Vice Mayor Rice offered to meet the Town Clerk at the Senior Center at 6:30 on the 29th for the meeting. The Maryland General Assembly is holding its annual reception. The details are on Town Clerk Brady's desk for review by Mayor and Council if they wish to attend. Town Clerk Brady provided Mayor and Council and attendees with a reminder that an open meeting is a meeting the public has the right to attend and observe but if Mayor and Council wish to add a portion to the work session to allow for comments and questions by attendees they can do so. Mayor Scheessele said they would take that under consideration but at this time keep the work session as a meeting open for attendance an observation but not comment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk