

## **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

### **Town Hall**

**Monday, December 22, 2014**

**1:00pm**

Mayor Scheessele, Vice Mayor Rice, and Councilman Albright met in work session on Monday, December 22 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

2015 Election – The State will not have the new voting equipment in time for the Town's 2015 election. Mayor and Council discussed the cost to use voting machines versus paper ballots.

Councilman Albright made a motion to move forward with using paper ballots for the 2015 election. Vice Mayor Rice seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Floodplain Ordinance Amendments – Mayor and Council reviewed the text amendments made to the Town's floodplain ordinance by Kevin Wagner of MDE. Town Manager Hicks explained that these are mandated changes that need to be adopted to stay in compliance. The State's deadline to adopt these changes in May 4, 2015. Mayor and Council agreed to add the ordinance text amendments to the January Town meeting.

Review of January Town Meeting Agenda – Add the floodplain ordinance text amendment for introduction at the January meeting and adoption at the February meeting. Mayor and Council requested that Town Clerk Brady bring a couple of copies that show the edits in case anyone in attendance requests to read them.

Mayor, Council, and Town Manager Hicks discussed the Elected Official Compensation Comparison Report received from MML. After review of the report Councilman Albright suggested the Town move forward with doubling the salaries of Mayor and Council. Town Clerk Brady will contact Fred Sussman to prepare a charter amendment to change the salaries for review by Mayor and Council.

#### **Roundtable:**

Mayor – Mayor and Council spoke with the Sheriff about working on a plan to bring the Sheriff's Department back to the Town in 5 years. Mayor and Council discussed possible locations for the District 2 station. Town Manager Hicks will call Gary Hodge to have him reach out to Bob Johnston for more information on the Leland Phillips property. Tom Roland gave Mayor Scheessele and Town Manager Hicks a source to contact about contracting their services for the sign and kiosk panels needed to complete the Trailhead Plaza. Mayor Scheessele will contact University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center to get their text for their kiosk panel. Mayor Scheessele would like to have the ribbon cutting/grand opening for the Trailhead and Connector Trail in March.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Rice would like to form a committee of Town's people to plan the Town's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Mayor and Council have agreed to open the time capsule at the event and Vice Mayor Rice suggested that the Black Box might be able to put on an evening event, and the Town should consider having a parade.

Councilman – Councilman Albright contacted Sara Gray about performing at the Town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and she is interested in performing. Councilman Albright has passed the responsibility to Karen to book Ms. Gray for the event, and he wants to make sure that the Town books her now while she is still available. Councilman Albright feels the Town needs to start thinking about making changes to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Sara Gray will create a lot of pull to bring in a crowd, and phone calls need to be made to make sure there are vendors and activities to improve on the event. Councilman Albright feels the event has been dwindling and needs to be reinvented. Mayor and Council discussed the rental of the pavilion. Councilman Albright stressed the fact that the Town needs to find a way to turn around the finances of the pavilion because it is currently costing the Town money. Town Clerk Brady will reach out to Carole Fonfara from the Hall at Huntington to meet with Mayor and Council to discuss the success of her hall and offer advice on how to improve the success of the pavilion. Mayor and Council requested pavilion financial reports for the January work session. Councilman Albright requested an update on the State retirement program. Town Manager Hicks reported that the Town is still waiting to hear back from the actuaries.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks asked Mayor and Council for approval to extend the deadline for use or lose leave for a quarter. Mayor and Council agreed to extend the deadline for use or lose leave. Town Manager Hicks provided an update on the blighted properties in Town. Fred Sussman is filing contempt charges against Mr. Wamsley, the Town is soliciting quotes to demolish the house on Bertha Circle, Fred has received notice that the house on Strauss Avenue is going to foreclosure sale. Since foreclosure sale will make it more difficult to get the property cleaned Fred will also be filing contempt charges against the Weavers. 4035 Indian Head Highway is to the point of citation for a rental license violation. The Town has received notice that the SHA funding for the Boardwalk project has been reinstated. An updated MOU has been signed by the Mayor and sent back with questions. The Town is waiting to hear back about the question and receive hard copies of the MOU and notice to proceed with advertising for bids.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady requested to change the date of the February work session. Mayor and Council agreed to change the date of the work session to Tuesday February 24.

Mayor Scheessele adjourned the open session at 2:05pm and moved into closed session.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk