

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

3:40pm

Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Town Hall. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks and Town Clerk Andrea Brady. Mayor Paulin joined the meeting remotely due to geographic distance.

Vice Mayor Sitoula made a motion to allow Mayor Paulin to join the meeting via phone. Councilman Smith seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Henderson Property Purchase – The Ordinance for acquisition of the Henderson property was introduced at the January Town meeting and is scheduled for adoption at the February meeting. The next step is for the Council to meet with Community Bank representatives to take out a loan for the purchase of the property. Town Manager Hicks will get dates from Community Bank and schedule a meeting for the Council.

MML 2020 Summer Conference Update – Vice Mayor Sitoula spoke about the upcoming Maryland Municipal League (MML) Summer Conference. Discussion topics at the conference will include, code enforcement, climate change, cyber security, census, voting by mail, grant funds and aging population. Vice Mayor Sitoula also spoke about the available accommodations for the conference. The Council will make their selections and forward them to Town Clerk Brady.

Legislative Agenda Topics (County & State) – Councilman Smith suggested that the Council compile a list of topics and initiatives to put before the Southern Maryland Delegation for their future session. Council agreed. Vice Mayor Sitoula spoke about a recent open session he attended where the Delegation discussed legislative highlights including a transit study, and a bond bill for the Velocity Center. The Council will work on compiling their list in the Summer to submit to the Delegation prior to the 2021 session. The Town will also need to go to the Delegation with the pavilion bond bill and the bond bill to pay for the Henderson property loan.

Economic Development Agenda (CCED) – Councilman Smith spoke stated that although the Town is working with the MAC (Military Alliance Council) & Charles County Development Corp, the Council should still seek to work with the County to leverage their economic development resources as well. Councilman Smith felt it was prudent to set up a meeting with the Charles County Economic Development Department. The Council agreed. Town Manager Hicks has an upcoming meeting scheduled with the Director of the Charles County Economic Development Department, Darrell Brown, and he will speak with Mr. Brown in reference to scheduling a meeting with the Council. The Council also plans to request having a representative from Indian Head included on their economic development team. The Council discussed current ongoing studies and their desire to get everyone on the same page.

Parking for Commercial Vehicles – Councilman Smith reminded everyone that at a recent Town meeting residents had expressed concerns about commercial vehicles parking in communities. While the Town has an ordinance in place to prevent this, the Council may want to consider making a designated parking area for commercial vehicles. Councilman Smith suggested adding this as a new business item for the next Town meeting to get resident input on the idea. Council agreed. The Council discussed potential areas that could be utilized for commercial parking and the need to look

into any possible liability issues. Town Manager Hicks mentioned that if the Council proposes using the Mattingly Park, parking area the Town will need to set up parking times that will not interfere with the park and boat use. The Council agreed to start the discussion as a new business item at the upcoming Town meeting and follow that up with further discussion at the February work session.

Invocation at Town Meeting – Councilman Smith stated that many municipalities have local religious leaders come to say a prayer prior to the start of the meeting and his research has not shown any concerns over separation of church and state. Councilman Smith suggested the Council consider adding this to the beginning of the Town meetings. Currently the Council does the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence at the beginning of each Town meeting. Vice Mayor Sitoula stated that he would not suggest adding an invocation. Mayor Paulin agreed and stated that the moment of silence allows everyone their own thoughts or prayers based on their beliefs. Invocation will not be added at the Town meetings.

February Town Meeting Agenda – Add commercial parking under new business. No other changes.

Roundtable:

Mayor – None.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula asked the Council to attend a meeting at the Waldorf West library this coming Monday. The meeting will start around 5pm and they will be interviewing applicants for new directors. There are five candidates, two from out of state and three local applicants. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested adding the Centennial Celebration as a continuing agenda item each month for the work session, to keep the Council informed on the plans moving forward. Council agreed. The Council recently received an email from Community Affairs Director, Karen Williams who had received concerns from a few residents on the Native American logo. The residents felt the logo was not an appropriate representation and looked more like a girl with a ponytail. Mayor Paulin responded to the email to let Ms. Williams know that the designer of the logo, Danny DeVito, created the design and coordinated with Jesse Swann of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe to create an accurate depiction of the Native American. Mayor Paulin stated that Mr. Swann's opinion on the accurate depiction of a Native American means more to his culture and he was happy with the logo. Due to this fact, Mayor Paulin would suggest that the logo stays as is, but he stated it would ultimately be up to the Town Council as a whole. The Council agreed to move forward with the logo as approved by Mr. Swann of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe. Vice Mayor Sitoula asked how the Council should go about making sure meetings and important events are put on their calendars. Town Manager Hicks explained that the Council should forward any meetings or events they would like added to their calendars to Town Clerk Brady and she will make sure the calendar appointments are added. Vice Mayor Sitoula briefly spoke about a recent MAC meeting he and Town Manager Hicks attended. Washington Gas has invited Vice Mayor Sitoula to attend Washington Capital games as a representative of the Town. No business will be conducted at the game, but Vice Mayor Sitoula wanted to verify that the Council did not see a potential or perceived conflict of interest before he decides on if he will attend. Town Manager Hicks informed Vice Mayor Sitoula that he would need to list it on his financial disclosure form. Vice Mayor Sitoula was recently very moved by Karen Williams in December, one very cold morning as he was driving by the Pavilion and she was tying the ribbons to the tree, completing the task by herself and he wanted to official thank and appreciate that on the record.

Councilman – Councilman Smith spoke about an email the Council received in reference to electronic security in the Town. Town Manager Hicks reminded the Council that they could endorse the concept of electronic security, but they cannot endorse any particular security companies. The Council agreed they will endorse and support the concept, but not recommend any specific company. Councilman Smith spoke about options other than sympathy cards for families in Town that have had a recent loss. Councilman said he would like to start recognizing people that are new to the Town and do proclamations for those who pass. Vice Mayor Sitoula agreed that remembering people is always good, but proclamations are legal documents of Town issue so the Council would need to research more to find out if that is appropriate or not and he will reach out to MML to find out what other municipalities have done to give recognition.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks informed the Council that Raleigh's Outdoor Decorations is currently having a sale and he could purchase an additional 4 feet for the Town's Christmas tree for \$2,500 and the company will bill the Town in the new budget year. Town Manager Hicks also told the Council that the Town has some aging and outdated Christmas decorations that need to be retired. The Council would need to decide if they want to allocate money in the new budget for the purchase of these items. The Council agreed to allocate the funds in the new budget cycle and Town Manager Hicks can move forward with ordering the decorations. Town Manager Hicks spoke about the need to involve the Naval Base in the Centennial Celebration and stated that they seem willing to participate and it should also help get people to attend. The Council agreed. The Mayor stated that he has spoken with Base representatives and they have said they are more than willing to participate.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady spoke to the Council about a recent email from Community Affairs Director, Karen Williams in reference to the Taste of Indian Head. The Community Activities Committee would like to take over the Taste of Indian Head event and work on building on what has been done in previous years. Ms. Williams was requesting the Council's approval for the Community Activities Committee to move forward with plans for the event. The Council approved the request.

Vice Mayor Sitoula adjourned the work session at 4:17pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk