

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Town Hall
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, Kritika Oli, and Maryland Independent reporter, Charlie Wright.

Council began the meeting by having Kritika Oli present her project for African American History month. Miss Oli picked a local figure, Margie Posey. Miss Oli asked to present Mrs. Posey with a letter or award at an upcoming Town meeting to honor her and offered to speak about her accomplishments during citizen's comments. Miss Oli also asked to restart MYAT. Mayor Paulin is considering having the program as a club within the schools to up participation. Miss Oli and Mayor Paulin will speak with the local schools about the program. Council agreed to present Mrs. Posey with a Town seal at the February Town meeting. The presentation will take place during the presentations portion of the meeting so Miss Oli can present her project and the Council can present the Town seal. Town Manager mentioned that the Council will need to check with Mrs. Posey on her availability to attend.

Proclamation Request - Council reviewed the proclamation request from the Lackey Little Rascals Destination Imagination Team. The team also requested to give a briefing on the issue of congenital heart defects. Council agreed to add the briefing and the proclamation to the agenda.

Flea Market – Councilman Smith and Karen Williams met with two County representatives on the Farmers Market concept. Councilman Smith is drafting the rules and regulations for the market and hopes to open this spring. Thursday and Saturday and Sunday early morning will be the days of the Farmers Market. Councilman Smith would like to put before the citizens if they would still like to have the flea market. Due to low turnout Councilman Smith believes most citizens would not mind if it was disbanded but would still like citizen input. If the Town continues to have the Flea Market it will still be held on Saturdays. Maximum attendance was 12 participants. Mayor Paulin loves the Farmers Market idea and with the low participation at the Flea Market it may be time for a transition. The topic will be put before the citizens at the Town meeting for their input before the Council makes a final decision.

Ethical Concerns – Councilman Smith stated as discussed before and consulted with the Town's attorney, he wanted to make sure everyone had time to review the attorney's input. Since the Town does not have an active Ethics Commission, Councilman Smith feels it would be prudent to put mechanisms in place. Mayor Paulin said his understanding of the attorney's input is that as long as the Vice Mayor does not take part in decisions directly related to River Watch it should not be an issue. Councilman Smith asked for clarification on how issues on River Watch would be handled. Vice Mayor stated that if it was an issue from a regular citizen that would be handled normally. Councilman Smith asked what position the Vice Mayor would handle those issues in. Town Manager Hicks stated that if the Vice Mayor brings something to him that is different than a regular citizen inquiry it would be sent to all members of Council. The Town Manager will assess each circumstance and if it is something outside of a "normal" request it will be put before

the full Council. Example of normal request would be a street light out or a code enforcement issue. Council agreed with that plan of action.

Pavilion Rental: Wi-Fi – Councilman Smith has been told that the contract the Town has for the Pavilion prevents the Town giving out Wi-Fi information to people who rent the facility and suggested that the Town consider getting a guest account that allows the Town to give Wi-Fi access to the renters. Town Manager Hicks will speak with OutsourceIT to get it set up. Council agreed to a guest account.

PRC & ESC Calendar of Events – STEAM event upcoming February 24th. There will be a College and Career event coming up in April and the committees would like to hold some free youth dances. In March they would like to have a Father Daughter dance and a Mother Son dance. The Farmers Market is an ESC event. Some complaints were received about the Community Garden; therefore the Public Works Department removed the fence.

Budget – Town Manager Hicks requested times and dates from Council to hold Budget sessions. Previously they met prior to work sessions but more time will be needed. The Council is available on Wednesdays around 1pm. Town Manager Hicks will line up some representatives to come out for the sessions including health insurance and property tax representatives and he stated there are some infrastructure concerns and some issues in Public Works that will need to be addressed among some other hard decisions. Town Manager Hicks stated that the Town could possibly need up to \$750,000 which would include things needed at the WWTP and Public Works. Town Manager Hicks will have the Town Clerk send out appointments for the upcoming meetings.

Raymond Avenue Speed Humps – A petition has been completed and the speed humps are needed for safety reasons and Town Manager Hicks wanted to inform Council that they will be put on Raymond Avenue as soon as he is able.

Review of February Town Meeting Agenda – The Council asked to add the Margie Posey presentation. Councilman Smith asked to present VanGo with a Town Seal and to allow them to do a presentation on the services they provide, and to present a Town seal to Rebuilding Together. Town Manager Hicks asked to amend the resolution supporting the demotion of the Ely property to state \$550,000. Council agreed to all of the additions. Vice Mayor Sitoula will reach out to Mrs. Posey, if she is unable to attend the VanGo will be in February if she is able to attend VanGo will be moved to March.

Roundtable:

Mayor – During discussion for the Velocity Center, Town contribution was mentioned. Mayor Paulin mentioned that there is \$5,000 available under charitable donations, and asked if possible could the Town give that money to support the Velocity Center. Councilman Smith asked with them receiving a large amount of money for the project and the Town is scraping by on others is \$5,000 going to make a difference and is it needed. Town Manager Hicks stated that on the scale of things \$5,000 is not much, and the Town is not in the position to put money towards these projects, and if you're giving money towards projects coming in your existing commercial properties will wonder why they are not being given the same support. Mayor Paulin thinks it

will go a long way to show this support. Councilman Smith said if it is purpose of appearances it's better than \$30,000 that was previously requested. Vice Mayor Sitoula feels it is more than a token and agrees the Town should give money towards the project. Council agrees to give the \$5,000 to the Velocity Center project.

Vice Mayor – None.

Councilman – Councilman Smith found out about the request with the MAC through Facebook and asked if the Mayor could consider informing the Council when he will be taking part in meetings representing the Town and soliciting funds. Vice Mayor Sitoula agrees it would be nice to have a heads up just to have awareness. Councilman Smith stated that Karen Williams is doing a great job keeping the Council informed on things occurring in the Town. Councilman Smith asked if the Town does anything for the homeless in Town. Town Manager Hicks a couple of local churches take part in Safe Nights. Councilman Smith asked if the Town has homeless in the local woods. Town Manager Hicks stated that he believes there are a couple. Mayor Paulin stated that he knows there has been outreach to these individuals to try to help them. Councilman Smith asked if the Town does anything to assist with mental health. Town Manager Hicks stated that these are services that are not being provided on the Western side. The Council would like to see the Town reach out to someone to try to bring these services into Town. Councilman Smith has been working with Ms. McCants to set up a time to tour other local Senior Center facilities. Councilman Smith suggested during budget time discussing the possibility of having a trailer put out behind the Senior Center to provide more space.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks needs a letter as it relates to the Boardwalk on where exactly the funding will come from. Town Manager Hicks said the State is requiring an official letter before the kickoff can be done. DHCD loans and bonds are being discussed for the Town's infrastructure and Public Works needs. Town Manager Hicks asked the Council preference for Code Enforcement coverage. The Council would prefer Monday, Wednesday. Town Manager Hicks will inform Planck. Town Manager Hicks also mentioned that a telework policy is being put together which would require the purchase of computers. Town Manager Hicks is also going to have the doors replaced at the Town Hall and he will be bringing other interior changes before the Council.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady reminded the Council to please review the email she sent in regards to the upcoming MML conference and to respond at their earliest convenience.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the meeting at 4:17pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk