

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, President of the Military Alliance Council, Brian Klaas and Maryland Independent Reporter, Tiffany Watson.

December 14, 2016 Closed Session – During the closed session held on December 14, 2016, the Mayor and Council made the decision to go with Old Line Bank and made a decision on the recycling contract. The closed session adjourned at 3:42pm.

Demolition Project – Brian Klaas, President of the MAC gave an update on the demolition project near the Base gates. The project was started a little over a year ago and recently Mr. Klaas received an approval letter for the grant to help complete the project. The amount of the grant is \$50,000 and Mr. Klaas the MAC should receive the funds in three to four weeks to move forward with completion of the project. Mr. Klaas congratulated the Town for bringing Nammo to the Base. Mr. Klaas feels this is a big win for the community and the Town and shows that the base and town are poised for growth. The Town assisted with bringing Nammo to the base by knocking down blighted buildings and bringing fiber into town. Councilman Smith asked if there were any concerns about the Ely and Phillips properties as you come into Town. The Council agreed they need to move forward with legislation to require removal of boards from the vacant buildings. Mr. Klaas spoke to the Council in reference to the Charles County Water Conservation District zoning change. It is the view point of the Chamber that any growth restrictions outside of Town are not compatible with the growth plan within the Town. The Chamber also supports the designation of Mallow's Bay but they do not agree that the area needs to be expanded because they do not believe further restrictions will promote growth. At this time the Town Council has not sent anything to the County addressing the Charles County Water Conservation District.

Budget – Town Manager Hicks asked the Council for dates and times to begin budget sessions. The Council asked Town Clerk Brady to look into the schedule used last year and to schedule this year's sessions the same way.

Energy Grant – Town Manager Hicks explained that the Council need to decide on two out of three policies to move forward with for the energy grant. The Council unanimously decided to move forward with the transportation policy and the energy efficiency policy. Town Manager Hicks stated that the Council will be shown the completed grant before it is sent in for consideration.

Zoning Ordinance – Mayor Paulin read his list of suggested changes to the zoning ordinance which included permitting food trucks with the proper permits, changing the Ely and Phillips properties to TCMX and changing the zoning map amendment public hearing requirements as suggested by the Town's attorney. The Council agreed to have Town Manager Hicks check with MML and Charles County on food truck codes to assist the Town in putting one together. Vice Mayor Sitoula expressed concerns with changing the zoning of the Ely and Phillips properties to TCMX until the Planning Commission gives a more detailed definition of the TCMX zone to include required percentages of residential and commercial. The Council agreed to have the Planning Commission define TCMX with percentages before a decision is made on changing the zoning of the two properties.

Citizens Survey – At the most recent Southern Maryland Municipal Association meeting, Vice Mayor Sitoula heard Mayor Hale of La Plata speak about a citizen survey they do every 2 years. Vice Mayor Sitoula said it is a free service and they provide with you a set list of questions and link to put on the website. The Council agreed it would be worth looking into further for their consideration. Town Manager Hicks will speak with Town Manager Mears from La Plata to get more information.

Planning Commission Application – The Council unanimously agreed to appoint Thomas Gordon to the Planning Commission.

Review of February Town Meeting Agenda – The Council requested to add a resolution to appoint Mr. Gordon to the Planning Commission.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin requested a closed session at the end of the meeting per Article, §10-508(a)(3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Vice Mayor – None

Councilman – Councilman Smith requested input on a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to do environmental education and park cleanups. Councilman Smith said there isn't much involved in the grant process and the grant would be for between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Councilman Smith will forward more information to the other members of Council and Town Manager Hicks electronically. Council unanimously agreed to move forward with the grant. Councilman Smith will work with staff to submit the grant by March.

Town Manager – None

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady reminded everyone about the upcoming MML Summer Conference to find out who would be attending and if the Town would be doing a booth on Municipal Main Street. All members of Council and Town Manager Hicks will be attending the conference. Council will make a decision on the booth once Town Clerk Brady looks into the cost.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to move into closed session. Councilman Smith seconds the motion. Mayor Paulin adjourned the open session at 4:01pm and Council moved into closed session.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk