

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**Teleconference via GoToMeeting**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**  
**3:30pm**

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, Alex Goumilevski, Vicki Bowling, Sue Greer, Alex Boyar, and Pam Frank. Marilyn Steele joined the meeting at 3:47pm.

202/204/206 Blair Road: Rezoning Request – Mayor Paulin received a request to rezone parcel 134, the apartments located on Blair Road, currently zoned R2 single family residential to RM. Mayor Paulin does not feel that the current zoning is consistent with what the zoning should be. The owners of the property are interested in expanding and building apartment buildings. The question Mayor Paulin was posing to the rest of Council was if they would like to move forward with the requested change in zoning. Town Manager Hicks agreed the parcel is not zoned correctly. It would be the Council's decision if they would like to put the issue before the Planning Commission and they would also need to find out the appropriate process from the Zoning Administrator. Vice Mayor Sitoula agreed that the zoning would need to be changed to be consistent and the issue should go before the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Grumbine agreed. Town Clerk Brady will reach out the Zoning Administrator to get the appropriate process to move forward with the requested zoning change.

Trash Service RFP – Town Manager Hicks explained the RFP would be for residential trash service only, commercial trash service would still be handled by the Town's public works crew. There are currently staffing, and equipment concerns for the Town to continue handling full trash service inhouse. Town Manager Hicks asked the Council to look at the draft RFP and he will move forward with putting it out and reviewing all submissions to make sure they are achievable within the budget. Council will complete review of the RFP and provide any comment, and they agreed to move forward with RFP. Mayor Paulin asked if the RFP included a contingency that any staff that would be let go would be employed by the trash company taking over the service. Town Manager Hicks confirmed that is included in the RFP.

Future Dump Truck Purchase – Town Manager Hicks informed Council that the current dump truck is a 1989 and it is on its last leg. The Super Intendent of Public Works has been doing repairs on the truck to push it through this year. Currently the timeline received for the new truck is summer of 2023. Town Manager Hicks would like to purchase this with ARPA funds. The truck would not have to be paid for until it is ready for pickup which would be during next year's ARPA fund disbursement, but he would need the Council's approval to move forward with the paperwork. Town Manager Hicks is piggybacking off the of the State contract to get the best price available. Council agreed to move forward with the dump truck purchase.

Citizens' Advisory Council Crime Watch Kickoff – Town Manager Hicks Received invite from Mr. Proctor with Community Policing and he needs a headcount of who would like to attend. Mayor Paulin is a tentative yes. Vice Mayor Sitoula is also a tentative yes. Councilwoman Grumbine is available to attend.

Easter & 4<sup>th</sup> of July Events – Town Manager Hicks asked Council what they would like to do with the Easter and 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, and to what scale. Vice Mayor Sitoula asked if there are volunteers for an Easter event. Town Manager Hicks feels that we may not have the level of volunteers needed to hold an egg hunt, but we have a few volunteers that may allow us to hold a smaller event. Council requested Town Manager Hicks reach out to Bridge Church to see what they suggest. The Council discussed the scavenger hunt that was done last year, and possibility of holding that event again. The Council moved into discussion of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Mayor Paulin stated at a bare minimum for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, he would like to see entertainment, food trucks and fireworks, but ideally, he would like to see the rides as well. The Council would also like to move forward with a request for sponsors for the event. Town Manager Hicks will reach out to Fantasy World to find out the last possible date to book rides for the 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Paulin and Councilwoman Grumbine will circulate the sponsorship request in hopes of receiving responses by next week. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested reaching out to larger entities such as the Town of La Plata and the County for sponsorship.

In Person Meetings – The Council decided to start in person meetings and Mayor Paulin will have the GoToMeeting app open to allow virtual attendance as well. The hybrid option will be tested at the March Town meeting.

March Town Meeting Agenda – Update the meeting location to the Pavilion/GoToMeeting.

Grocery Store Initiative – Mrs. Steele reported that things are going very well and stated the Indian Head Advisory Council meets every other week. Mrs. Steele reported that they are currently at a substantial funding windfall; \$215,000 from Project Restore, \$200,000 from Strategic Development and they are on line to get another \$300,000 from the Bond Bill Initiative; which Mrs. Steele stated was supported by the entire Charles County Delegation. Mrs. Steele reported they are about to close on the building by working out a final arrangement with the seller and they are waiting for the March 7<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting for verification of funding for the properties behind and next to the building. Mrs. Steele stated they have signed with CMI who is the contractor that developed the Velocity Center. Meetings will begin next week to work on final renditions for what the project will look like. Mrs. Steele said they are received a significant amount of social traffic on their website. Vice Mayor Sitoula asked for a list of who is on the advisory council and a breakdown of the debt that was provided to the Council awhile back. Mrs. Steele will provide a list of council members and the debt following the work session.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Congratulated the Lackey High School wrestling team on their 1A South Dual Meet Championship.

Vice Mayor – None.

Councilwoman – In regard to the submissions still being received for the grocery store, Councilwoman Grumbine asked if it would be possible to have a cutoff date and suggested the

day prior to the meeting to allow the Town Clerk time to get all of the information in a format for the Council prior to the meeting. Mayor Paulin suggested putting information on the website encouraging people to submit their public comment the day before the meeting by close of business. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested that Town Clerk put together stats with anything that comes in by 3pm on Friday, and still accept things that come in after that time to be included separately. Council agreed with the Vice Mayor's suggestion. All submission will be included as part of the record whether they are included in the stats or after 3pm on Friday. Council will compile the written submissions, but they will not read individually during the meeting. It will be broken down into numbers for example X amount in support and X amount opposed. There will also be a portion of the meeting that will allow public comment. Council is reading each individual comment as they are received.

Town Manager – None.

Town Clerk – None.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the open session at 4:04. Vice Mayor Sitoula made a motion to move into closed session per §3-305(b) (1). Mayor Paulin seconds the motion. Motion carried. The Council moved into closed session at 4:05pm.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk