

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

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

February 23, Closed Session – Wednesday, February 23, 2022, the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilwoman and Town Manager held a closed session at 4:05pm following the Work Session per §3-305(b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals The Council discussed COLA increase for Town employees. The Council approved the COLA increase starting March 1, 2022, two members in favor, one opposed. The closed session adjourned at 4:23pm.

Grocery Store Initiative Update –Mrs. Steele will provide updates to the Town Manager via email since it is difficult for her to attend work sessions.

4th of July: Fantasy World – Town Manager Hicks asked if there was anything particular the Council would like to see rides wise. Councilwoman Grumbine stated she liked all the amusements provided at the 101st anniversary. Mayor Paulin asked that the rides cover throughout age groups. Vice Mayor Sitoula asked if they could add at least one new item for the 4th of July Celebration just to keep to fresh for those in attendance. Town Manager Hicks will work to finalize the amusements for the event. Councilwoman Grumbine suggested going through the Chamber to get mailing labels for all of the local businesses to send out the 4th of July sponsorship forms. Mayor Paulin will reach out to Bonnie with the Chamber to look into this idea further. Vice Mayor Sitoula also agreed with moving forward with Councilwoman Grumbine's idea.

MD Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – Town Manager Hicks explained LIHWAP has funding available to pay past due water bills there are just certain steps the Town must take to get this set up. There is the requirement of an MOA as well as some additional paperwork. The Council was in full support of moving forward with this. Once it is set up the information will be shared through all available avenues.

Discussion of Hybrid Meeting format – There were technical difficulties during the attempt to hold a hybrid meeting for the March Town meeting. The Council will hold in person Town meetings and virtual work sessions moving forward. When staff is unable to attend, they will be permitted to either join virtually or have an excused absence.

April Town Meeting Agenda – No changes or additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin shared that sometime in May, USBTA will be hosting their ribbon cutting and the Council and Town Manager will be receiving an invite. Mayor Paulin received a meeting request from Think Big Networks that would like to meet with the Town, he will forward the request to Town Manager Hicks and the Council.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula asked if dogs will be permitted on the Boardwalk. There have been people noticing people not picking up after their pets when they are using it. Vice Mayor Sitoula said he might not be able to attend the April Town meeting due to a medical situation in his family. Vice Mayor Sitoula thanked staff and Council for everything they did for the March Town meeting.

Councilwoman – Councilwoman Grumbine asked about trashcans on the Boardwalk. Town Manager Hicks explained that the Boardwalk is not open and that is why there are no cans in place, but they will be put in as well as call boxes once it is open for use. Town Manager Hicks said the call boxes are still a couple of weeks out from being installed. AVSI is working on a security proposal for a camera system. The meter should be set by the end of this week. Lights are already working and have been tested via a generator. They are set to come on and off at the same time as the neighborhood lights. Town Manager Hicks feels it should be complete by the end of next month. There is a possibility the Town will hold the Boardwalk ribbon cutting at the same time as the USBTA ribbon cutting to allow Governor's office attendance. Town Manager Hicks said a cleanup will be done the week before the ribbon cutting at the Boardwalk. Councilwoman Grumbine ran into someone who is part of the 4H club and they stated they are unable to attend the Spring Celebration. Mayor Paulin said he could reach out to local farms to see if they would be able to attend.

Town Manager – Trash RFP is live as of today. The recycling company sent a memo to let us know they would need to implement a fuel surcharge. As it relates to recording the meeting, we had a new vendor for the March Town meeting. The cost was around three times the amount of our previous vendor so it will need a budget increase. The Steeles did a letter of support they would like the Council to consider. Town Manager Hicks will place it on their desk for review.

Town Clerk – Pomonkey High School Alumni has requested the fees for their use of the Pavilion on August 20th be waived. The Council previously waived their fees for a scholarship fundraiser. The Council explained the previous waiver was because the event was to benefit local youths. The Council said the Town Manager can determine an appropriate percentage for a discount, they will also see if they can find the nonprofit rate the Town used in the past. Town Manager Hicks received a request from the family of a member of staff. They would like consideration of a reduction of cost for the pavilion for his 50th birthday. The Council was in favor of a staff discount.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk