

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Smith met in work session on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the Town Hall. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Economic Development Commission – Councilman Smith asked for a follow up to the discussion the Council held on this topic previously. Town Manager Hicks expressed the need to repair the relationship with Charles County Economic Development Department and move forward with professionals and discussed the Town’s previous Economic Development Commission. Councilman Smith felt having a Town EDC would put people in place who are specifically focused on Indian Head and spoke about other municipalities doing something similar. Town Clerk Brady provided the Council with the Ordinance that abolished the EDC, and the previous requirements for composition of the commission and their responsibilities. Town Manager Hicks spoke about the difficulty of getting people to come out for existing committees since they are all volunteered based. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested putting small budgets in place for the committees. Town Manager Hicks stated they would have to find the money in order to provide committees with a budget, and then decide exactly what that funding would be for. Vice Mayor Sitoula offered to be the Council member of the EDC. The Council will review the prior composition and responsibility and provide any changes they would like to make so the Town’s attorney can do legislation to reestablish the EDC.

BDOP with STEAM Event – Councilman Smith has reached out to Karen for a date for the Big Day of Play with STEAM, in September or October. The continued goal of the event is to get kids out and thinking about STEAM. Councilman Smith encouraged the Council to get involved in the event. Vice Mayor Sitoula will bring a submarine project. Following the meeting Karen provided Councilman Smith with a date in August.

Zoning Ordinance Progress – The Council’s requested changes have been incorporated, and the draft has been sent to the Critical Area Commission for their review and comment. The next step will be to send the draft to the State and County for review and comment and then the Town’s attorney, Fred Sussman before the document will come back to the Council for adoption.

June Town Meeting Agenda – Mayor Paulin asked to add the “If I Were Mayor” essays under the presentation section of the agenda and stated there will be 5 students present to read their essays. There were no other changes or additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin inquired about a blighted/vacant property list. Town Manager will provide the list to Mayor Paulin that was done previously. Mayor Paulin discussed the 100-year celebration and starting a planning committee. Council agreed a committee should be put together. Vice Mayor Sitoula recommend the Mayor as Chairman with a committee including

Karen and having sessions with the Council. The Council agreed to allow sponsors for the event and discussed possible dates. The Council agreed that the event should be similar to the 4th of July event and discussed the possibility of holding the event on the 4th of July and just building on what is already in place for the event. The possible dates will be discussed with the event committee.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula thanked the residents and citizens for reelecting the existing Council. Vice Mayor Sitoula will be gone June 4th to 14th, asked for Councilman Smith to cover check signing. Vice Mayor Sitoula will be traveling to Nepal to teach the course on local government on behalf of the University of Maryland and MML. The Council briefly discussed their reassignment amongst the committees, but ultimately decided to make no changes at this time. Vice Mayor Sitoula spoke about the concept for a library in the Town, the need for a partnership with the Navy Base for the project, and the possibility of having a small study done to illustrate the need within town for the library. The Council agreed they will put together something in writing to provide to the County Commissioners with their proposed plans and what type of assistance they are asking for. Vice Mayor Sitoula offered to draft something in reference to the library project for the Council’s review. The Council and Town Manager Hicks discussed funding for the library, which the Vice Mayor explained would be handled through the County. Vice Mayor Sitoula feels the Council should meet with Governor Hogan and suggested sending a letter to request a visit. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested holding an appreciation dinner for local businesses during small business week next year. Council agreed.

Councilman – Councilman Smith brought up the lead levels at Indian Head Elementary School. When the water leaves the Town’s Waste Water Treatment Plant, there are no issues with the water supply, the issue is believed to be with the school’s pipe system. Town Manager Hicks informed the Council the annual water report will come out this week and he will speak with David about the issues the school is experiencing.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks will be out of the office for the rest of the week but will be accessible via email.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady reminded the Council to please send their submissions for the summer issue of the Smoke Signals and asked what slogan they wanted to use for the parade of flags at the MML conference. Town Manager Hicks helped come up with the slogan “Indian Head a place to live, learn, work, play. Council agreed with the suggested slogan.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the work session at 4:07pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk