

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, August 24, 2022. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

RXBSA Parking Lot Lease – Town Manager Hicks stated the lease is required to receive the ¼ of a million dollars in funding for the parking lot and rain garden located behind the proposed grocery store. Town manager Hicks suggested having ARRO design the parking lot, have the Town award the contract and pay the contractor directly. The lease is the first step, and it has to take place by ordinance in order to receive the earmark. The hope is to be more in control of the funding, Mayor Paulin agreed with the Town being in control of the funding received from the ear mark. Vice Mayor Sitoula also agreed. During meeting an upcoming meeting with CMI, Mayor Paulina and Town Manager Hicks will get an update on where everything stands with planning. Mayor Paulin asked if the parking lot will have any effect on MS4. Town Manager Hicks feels it will actually help with MS4. Council agreed to move forward with the required lease.

Grocery Store Initiative Update – Mrs. Steele of RXBSA provided an update on the grocery store project via email. They are still waiting for the final architectural plans to be sent to permit, but they aim to get the plans in for review by the end of August. They are continuing to work on site planning, and they are working with the Town as it regards to the necessary ground lease. They have been reviewing distributors for center store staples and they believe they have a good potential supplier. They are also having talks with vendors who can supply locally sourced fresh prepared foods, and they are working on connections with local farmers and growers. They continue to fund raise with the overall project costs increasing from \$3.5 million to \$5.2 million.

Mural – Mayor Paulin met with a gentleman who works with the Charles County Arts Alliance who is interested in doing a mural for the Town of Indian Head leveraging some State grant funds. The artist asked if he could come before the Council at some point to discuss his ideas for the mural. He wants to reflect the history of the Town throughout the years. Mayor Paulin wanted this item on the agenda so the Council could start thinking about where it should be located. Council was unanimously in favor of the mural. The Council will brainstorm possible locations via email.

Holiday Festival – Town Manager Hicks shared the ideas for a Holiday Festival. This event will include the tree lighting with the addition of an ice-skating rink, as well as several other activities and it would be held on a Saturday. The cost for the rink is a little over \$5,000 but would be a nice way to spice up the holiday programs. The Council reviewed and approved the proposed lineup and approved the date of the event, as well as the purchase of additional Christmas decorations. The event will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 5pm to 8pm.

Charles County Updated Holiday Schedule – Council reviewed the updated holiday schedule for Charles County government. Council agreed to move forward with the revised schedule.

September Town Meeting Agenda – If Fred Sussman is able to prepare the necessary Ordinance for the parking lot lease it will be added to the agenda.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin received an email from a resident on Ellerbe Drive who is concerned about how late her trash is being picked up. Town Manager Hicks explained that it does take the contractor longer to pick up and they will often switch the way the route is run. The contractor is occasionally missing cans, but the Town is working with the contractor to cover any homes that may need to be picked up after they have left for the day. The Town does receive the occasional complaint, but most calls are to confirm that trash is in fact going to be picked up if it is after 2pm.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula asked for a status update on the Henderson property. Town Manager Hicks shared that Kelly with Charles County Economic Development Department was planning to reach out to developers she knows about the extended RFP for the Henderson Property. The RFP was extended because no proposals had been received. Kelly went through their developer database and made them aware of the partnership opportunity with the Town. The responses she received back were 7 companies that expressed interest.

Councilwoman – Councilwoman Grumbine discussed the parking issues at the Boardwalk. The lot is full every time she has been there and there is no one using the Boardwalk. Town Manager stated Stoney's will begin towing on Monday, which should help with the issue.

Town Manager – Speed humps are becoming a big question. Town Manager Hicks has received a request on Thompson Lane and Woodland Drive to install speed humps due to a speeding issue. He will reach out to Mr. Proctor with the Charles County Sheriff's Department for a message board to monitor the situation before proceeding with anything. Blair Road has had vandalism the past couple nights including 7 signs and 2 fences. A police officer was there today speaking with the kids, and they were offering information on who did what. The old PNC building was also tagged, but Public Works has taken care of it. Call boxes on the Boardwalk were Wi-Fi as opposed to wireless. The new boxes will be received soon and operational by next week. Fios is being installed throughout Town. Work is being completed on the local tot lots.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady discussed the upcoming library card event to be held on September 9th. Town Clerk Brady asked Council to review and respond to recent emails in reference to 24-hour use of the Village Green and the MML fall conference, and she showed Council how to blur or change their background for public meetings held virtually.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk