

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
3:34pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Albright met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, July 28, 2021. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, and Community Affairs Director Karen Williams.

August 11, Closed Session – Wednesday, August 11, 2021, the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilman and Town Manager held a closed session at 4:18pm following their Special 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 received an update from Town Manager Hicks on employee. The closed session adjourned at 4:25pm.

Centennial Update – Responses/applications are trickling in. Ms. Williams has been making phone calls and follow up emails to all the organizations that we have reached out to so far and has been going to food events to garner interest and make personal contact to get a commitment from food vendors. Ms. Williams is working with the sheriff's office to secure more officers to assist with the event on split shifts. Four committed at this point. Mayor Paulin has reached out to Mr. Gray with the Piscataway Conoy Tribe multiple times but has not heard back at this point. Both Mayor Paulina Town Manager Hicks have asked Commissioner Coates to assist with these efforts. Councilman Albright asked for less ground fireworks, and to try to keep them high due to viewing obstacles. Ms. Williams will reach out to the fireworks vendor with that request. Mayor Paulin asked about upcoming events that could be attended to help solicit vendors. Ms. Williams will provide a list of the markets and different upcoming events so everyone can work together to help get interested vendors.

Explorers Donation – The Explorers are not able to assist with the 101st Anniversary event and this agenda item was no longer needed.

Juneteenth Celebration – A Juneteenth Celebration has been requested by a town resident. Council feels it would be good to hold an event for this holiday that can be built on each year. Town Manager Hicks stated a budget amendment will be needed to allocate funds for the event. Council in agreement. Council proposed a block party on the Village Green to start and then build on it each year as it grows.

Mayor & Council Compensation Proposal – Mayor spoke about this last month, the majority of Southern Maryland mayors are paid between \$18,000 – \$21,000 a year, while the Mayor for Indian Head is paid \$6,000. Council agreed to double the compensation for Mayor and Council for the 2023 election. Council requested to have the necessary legislation drafted for a future Town meeting.

Pavilion/Town Hall Idea – Mayor Paulin met with Sheriff Berry; he is interested in the current Town Hall as a substation. Sheriff Berry is reviewing their current lease to see what timeframe they are working with in the Bryans Road location. Sheriff Berry agrees a police presence in the Town is important. Council will continue to pursue the idea. Mayor Paulin will sit down with Town Manager Hicks to discuss the space needed in the future facility and come up with proposals for how to proceed. Council would like to continue booking the facility for 2021 and 2022.

ARRO Professional Services Agreement: Henderson Property – Council approved the professional services agreement from ARRO. Town Manager Hicks will notify Nate to move forward.

In Person Meetings – Mayor Paulin stated that with the increase of COVID cases and the reinstated mask mandate he suggested we not have in person meetings through September and then discuss monthly. Council agreed.

Rental Inspections – Planchek is trying to schedule an inspection in Potomac Mews, the homeowner stated she had a conversation with Commissioner Coates who said she discussed it with Mayor Paulin and was told the homeowner would not have to have a town inspection since she has had a section 8 inspection. Mayor Paulin stated that he informed Commissioner Coates that a town inspection is always required, she asked if a copy of the inspection could be forwarded to satisfy the requirement, he explained that a policy to allow that is not implemented but the owner could reach out with a request for consideration. Town Manager Hicks explained that the section 8 inspection and the Town inspection are very different inspections. The Council agreed to maintain the same inspection process that is currently in place. The Town will continue to do its own rental inspections, they will not accept an inspection from a different agency in place of that.

Draft Legislation for proposed Election changes – The Council will do additional review and discuss further at the September work session.

Renewable Energy – Mayor Paulin received a draft resolution from the Sierra Club in reference to renewable energy. The resolution primarily states that the Town is committed to getting energy from renewable sources. The Town gets its energy through SMECO, and they already have renewable energy methods in place. Town Manager Hicks spoke about the practices that have already been put into place for this following a SMECO energy survey. Councilman Albright asked if residents with solar panels could count towards this. Town Manager Hicks will look into if residents using solar panels would go towards the Town's renewable energy. The Council will discuss this further at the September meeting.

September Town Meeting Agenda – No changes or additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – None.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula is excited with the progress at the Boardwalk. Thanked everyone involved.

Councilman – Councilman Albright asked about a 911 distress email. Mayor Paulin explained that while everyone received the same email, unfortunately there is nothing the Council can do with unemployment benefits.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks Suggested rejoining the National League of Cities. He has set in on a few webinars, especially as it relates to ARP funds. Town Manager Hicks is currently in a battle with AT&T with their lease agreement at it relates to the Moose Lodge Way location. AT&T wants the Town to take a reduction on the fee. Town Manager Hicks stated a rain date is still needed for the 101st Anniversary Celebration. Council agreed to move forward with renewal of the National League of Cities membership. Council said the rain date should be October 2nd.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady asked Council to review the information for the MML fall conference and let her know who would like to attend.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the work session at 4:16pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk