

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
3:30pm

Mayor Paulin and Vice Mayor Sitoula met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, and Community Affairs Director Karen Williams. The meeting was open to the public via the GoToMeeting site.

Town Name – The Mayor had received a request from the Piscataway Conoy Tribe to meet and discuss the Town's name. Mayor Paulin reached out about their request multiple times via email but has not received a response so far. If the Council would like him to continue to try to reach out he will and he feels it is unfortunate he was unable to get a response in order to hold the discussion they requested and is open to holding a discussion at any time. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested continuing to reach out. Mayor Paulin will send an additional email in hopes of receiving a response to get a better understanding on their thoughts on the Town name.

Newsletter Name – Following brief discussion, the Council agreed to change the name of the Town's newsletter to Town of Indian Head Newsletter and remove Smoke Signals from the name.

Community Events & Pavilion/Senior Center Rentals for 2020 – Karen Williams recapped the cancellation of events, no pavilion rentals and no senior center or Mattingly Park reservations. Ms. Williams was looking for guidance on how far the Council would like to extend the cancellations since there are some large scale rentals on the books, and she needs guidance on if the Pavilion will be reopened for rentals or if the Council would like to keep it closed down due to potential liability issues. Mayor Paulin asked for the Town Manager's input based on his weekly meetings with the health department. Town Manager Hicks stated that during the meetings no one is going into detail on how they are maintaining the Governor's guidelines and suggested the Council should consider how to police the maintaining of guidelines at events. How to make sure events are not exceeding the number permitted and how will you enforce it. Ms. Williams spoke about Bryans Road Fire Department's plans to maintain the guidelines but stated that the Town does not have enough staff to try to do the same thing. Mayor Paulin stated that until the State moves into Phase 3, it would be difficult to monitor the permitted capacity number, and enforcement would be extremely difficult. If there were over 50 people in the building any fines would be issued to the Town. Ms. Williams mentioned the potential liability issue as well if someone would contract COVID at an event in the Pavilion. The car show will still happen in September but will be a strictly outdoor event spread out on the green with social distancing measures in place. Ms. Williams offered to work the event for free to make sure requirements are met and asked if an employee could be on duty to maintain cleanliness in the bathroom during the event. The car show is the only community event at this time planned for the Village Green. Ms. Williams has also received a request from a local church for outdoor use of the Village Green for a church service and they are willing to pay to use the restrooms and have someone there to sanitize them. The Council was ok with outdoor events that can be safely carried out. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested cancellations through the next 60 days with a follow

up discussion at each work session to determine if the cancellation time frame should be extended. Mayor Paulin agreed. Ms. Williams will cancel all indoor events through the end of October.

Zoning Ordinance – Council spoke about this briefly at the previous work session and the need to move forward with getting the Zoning Ordinance approved and adopted. Town Manager Hicks will get back to the Council with some dates so he can make sure that the appropriate advertising timeline is met. The Council feels holding a virtual public hearing will allow plenty of access for everyone.

Planning Commission Application: Thomas Gordon – The Council approved Mr. Gordon’s request for reappointment to the Planning Commission, his current term expires in October.

September Town Meeting Agenda – The Council requested to add the Resolution for Mr. Gordon’s reappointment to Planning Commission. The Council will announce the Zoning Ordinance hearing and will discuss the Pavilion usage under new business.

Roundtable:

Mayor – None.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula has started volunteering with the MML Legislative Committee and will be sure to fill everyone in as he has more information.

Councilman – Not present.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks would like to hold the groundbreaking for the Boardwalk on the same day as the ribbon cutting for the Velocity Center (September 17th) since there will be people already in the area that will be invited to the event. Town Manager Hicks is working on getting some final details laid out. Council agreed with the proposed date. As soon as Town Manager Hicks finalizes the details, he will fill in the Council. Mayor Paulin will send out invites to everyone on the list for the ribbon cutting at the Velocity Center. The ribbon cutting will be held around 12pm or 12:30pm to allow time between both events. Town Manager Hicks discussed the tree removal that took place in River Watch.

Town Clerk – None

Mayor Paulin adjourned the work session at 3:55pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk