

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Albright (3:38pm) met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Centennial Update – The Council will receive the draft opening ceremony program for approval soon. The event is coming together well, and it should be a great event on Saturday. Mayor Paulin thanked Town staff for diligent work on the event. Mayor Paulin will be attending a car show to try to get additional parade entries.

Waiver of Commercial Building Permit Fees – Vice Mayor Sitoula feels this decision should be at maximum the Council's term and then leave any extensions up to future Council members. Mayor Paulin made a motion to have this drafted with an end date of June 1st, 2023. Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. Motion carried.

In Person Meetings – The Council agreed to continue virtual meetings at this time, but they will reevaluate this item each month.

Draft Legislation for proposed Election changes – The Council is in favor of moving forward with this legislation. The legislation would allow the Town to pay the local Board of Elections for trained professionals to carry out the election. The Council asked to add this to the next Town meeting agenda.

Draft Resolution for Renewable Energy – Mayor Paulin and Town Manager Hicks explained the proposed resolution. The Council agreed to move forward with the proposed legislation as a proclamation.

State of Maryland Pension Program – Mayor Paulin discussed the need for more employee benefits, and he proposed the staff to be added to the State of Maryland pension program. The application must be completed by 2022 to be included in the program in 2023. At this point a letter of intent would be needed and a budget allocation in the next budget cycle. The program covers full time employees. Council agreed to move forward with the process.

October Town Meeting Agenda – Add the legislation for election changes and renewable energy and add Councilman Albright Update under new business.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Discussed excitement of the 101 event and his hope to see everyone there.

Vice Mayor – Thanked the staff for their work on the 101. Discussed how to hold property owners more accountable. Town Manager Hicks explained that this has been discussed

previously and this is something all municipalities face. There has been no solid solution to it. Without the court system on board with these issues it is extremely difficult to address. Town Manager Hicks will reach out to MML again to see if they have further suggestions. The Town currently tries to address these issues with code enforcement violations. Mayor Paulin feels that going through the Maryland legislative process with this issue may be the best way to address it and discussed the type of legislation that would be needed to help all municipalities address these issues. Mayor Paulin would like to make this a legislative priority in both MML and Charles County, and then push the State delegation to be a co-sponsor.

Councilman – Spoke about the continued parking issues in River Watch. Town Manager Hicks stated no parking signs have been received and the Town is working with a tow truck company to help address the issues.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks has received professional services agreements from ARRO on water allocation and NPDES permit renewal. The AT&T water tower lease is due to expire, they would like to renew, but they would like the Town to continue at the current amount received and take a 1% decrease on the escalator. The lease is for 10 years, but the Town can request a different timeframe during this negotiation period. Council agreed with the proposed change at the current 10-year timeframe. Town Manager Hicks has used ARP funds for the service agreements for work at the WWTP. At this point Town Manager Hicks has allocated around \$260,000 on infrastructure needs. ARRO would like to hold a meeting on the Henderson RFP.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady asked Council if they would like to continue to advertise in the MML Digital Directory. Council agreed.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the work session at 4:06pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk