

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**Teleconference via GoToMeeting**  
**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**  
**3:30pm**

Mayor Paulin and Councilman Albright met in a work session via teleconference on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady. The meeting was open to the public via the GoToMeeting site.

Community Events & Pavilion/Senior Center Rentals for 2020 – Karen Williams was unable to join the meeting to discuss the community events and rentals, but she will be sending the Council an email about her outdoor tree lighting ceremony proposal. Town Manager spoke with Ms. Williams about the proposal yesterday and said the plan sounded promising. At this time other events are still not moving forward. Mayor Paulin spoke about the third wave of COVID with an increase in cases, and he could not see holding a large gathering of people with rentals, unless it is a town run function where requirements can be controlled. For the Mayor private rentals are not worth the risk. The Council briefly discussed the issues that were experienced at an event held at the beginning of October. A common issue at rental halls is that people feel since they are paying for a rental, they do not have to follow state mandated requirements. Councilman Albright agreed with Mayor Paulin.

Family Enrichment Center – Town Manager Hicks spoke about a recent email received that stated the Town would need to spend the Bond Bill funds or request an extension. Town Manager Hicks needs decisions to be made on how the Council would like to move forward because he has several items on hold including having Washing Gas run natural gas to the facility, as well as discussions with Drew Van Dopp in reference to having fiber run to the facility. Town Manager has completed the paperwork with the Maryland Historical Trust. The Town needs to request an extension on the second Bond Bill. Mayor Paulin asked to have ARRO to give the Council some conceptual ideas for the facility. Town Manager Hicks has a couple of conceptual ideas for building up or building out that he will send to the Council. Mayor Paulin requested this be an agenda item for the next work session to finalize some ideas for the facility. Mayor Paulin will work on requesting the extension. Town Manager will complete the use of the first Bond Bill that was for acquisition of the property.

Staff Christmas Party – Councilman Albright was not sure what would be done for the staff this year. In years past there was an annual Christmas luncheon held for the staff. Councilman Albright hoped to still have the party but would understand if it were not held due to COVID. Town Manager Hicks stated that during a quick poll, the staff would prefer not to hold the annual party due to COVID. Council agreed not to hold the party this year, and plan to hold a post COVID luncheon in the future.

Holiday Schedule – Councilman Albright spoke with Town Manager Hicks in reference to the Charles County Government holiday schedule. Town Manager Hicks stated that Charles County added some days to their holiday schedule which La Plata has also piggybacked on. They are giving employees Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, and the Monday after Christmas. Councilman Albright suggested also giving New Years Eve. Town Manager Hicks will work on

making the schedule work in relation to trash. Council unanimously agreed to the additional days with Town Manager Hicks working on figuring out the trash pickup schedule.

Renovation/Replacement of Town Entrance Monument – Tabled until November since Vice Mayor Sitoula was not in attendance. Mayor Paulin suggested that this could be incorporated when the Town seal is updated, hopefully for the Town’s celebration in September 2021.

Recycle Totes – Town Manager Hicks explained that the Town needs to purchase more recycle totes. At this time, we have a waiting list, we will also need them for the new developments being built. This purchase is not set aside in the budget, but there are funds set aside for a new trash truck that could be used towards the purchase of bins since a new truck may not be necessary. A budget amendment will be necessary to do so. Town Manager Hicks and Council discussed the possibility of contracting out trash in the next fiscal year. Council agreed with the purchase of the bin.

November Town Meeting Agenda – No changes or additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – After a discussion with Councilman Albright, Mayor Paulin suggested changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People day in the future by proclamation. Mayor Paulin is in favor of the change, Councilman Albright seconds the idea. In 2021 a proclamation will be done to change the day to Indigenous People day.

Vice Mayor – Not present.

Councilman – None.

Town Manager – None.

Town Clerk – None.

Mayor Paulin adjourned the work session at 3:50pm.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk