

## **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Town Hall**

**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**3:31pm**

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady and Maryland Independent reporter, Charlie Wright.

**Crime Prevention Efforts** – The Council agreed to discuss this agenda item at the December work session when Community Policing Officer Bryant is able to attend.

**Dumping Ordinance** – Councilman Smith expressed his concerns about illegal dumping that happens in Town. Town Manager Hicks read the portion of the Town's Code that discusses this issue, but stated that it is a bit vague. Town Manager Hicks also explained that illegal dumping is a police matter, and when the act is witnessed the Sheriff's Office is called, but enforcement can be difficult since you have to try to catch people during the act. The Council asked that Town Manager Hicks contact the Town's attorney to get his input on putting together an Ordinance to more clearly address the situation.

**Recreation Center** – Town Manager Hicks and the Council recently went before the Delegation to request a bond bill for purchase of a property to have a Town Recreation Center. Councilman Smith asked if Town Manager Hicks needed anything further from the Council at this time. Town Manager Hicks does not currently need anything additional and he is working with the Ely family on an agreeable price for the old Sheriff's Department building. Town Manager Hicks spoke with Mr. Ely last week and he is waiting on a return call. Mayor Paulin reminded everyone that the bill request should be discussed by the Delegation in January and voted on in February. The Town will receive formal notification of the decision.

**Critical Infrastructure Planning** – Around 18 months ago, Councilman Smith discussed an infrastructure top ten list with Town Manager Hicks and he asked for an update on how the list was going. Town Manager Hicks stated that while some of the smaller items have been completed there are big items that still need to be addressed. Some of the larger items include I&I at the WWTP, and a new well. Town Manager Hicks stated that MDE would like the Town to put the new well in the Patuxent. Potomac Heights is currently in the process of getting a new well and Town Manager Hicks hopes to be able to get the Town's work done at the same time to help save around \$40,000 in mobilization fees. The new well would be put on Diffenbach and cost around \$250,000. Town Manager Hicks will get an updated timeframe from Potomac Heights and get a proposal for the cost of the well for the Council's review. Town Manager Hicks stated that other infrastructure needs include streets and sidewalks that need work. All of Public Work's equipment is getting older and it is becoming difficult to find parts. Town Manager Hicks stated that it is also potentially the last season for the leaf truck. Town Manager Hicks explained to Council that some tough decisions are going to have to be made come budget time, and the Town may potentially have to take out some loans to get things done. The Council requested quotes for any equipment purchases Town Manager Hicks feels will need to be made for Public Works.

**Town Modernization Projects** – Councilman Smith stated that during the MML conference there was discussion on smart cities, and he knows the Town is currently working on doing things toward this and finding efficiencies and new technologies. Town Manager Hicks showed the Council the GIS

system and discussed the benefits of the system. The GIS system shows water lines, ditches and stormwater management. Town Manager Hicks discussed the other items he would like to have added to the system in the future. One item Town Manager Hicks would like the Town to purchase is a sewer camera. A sewer camera would be a valuable asset to the Public Works Department and it would allow them to be proactive on any possible sewer line problems.

Town of Indian Head Sports Leagues – Councilman Smith stated that Parks & Rec would like to approach having Town of Indian Head leagues and teams. From what Councilman Smith has heard from residents there aren't any teams comprised of residents. Town Manager Hicks suggested speaking with Terry on the Base who handles the Indian Head Chargers football program. Town Manager Hicks stated that the costs associated with the local leagues and teams may be what prevents some residents from taking part. There are also local baseball and soccer teams. Councilman Smith would like to find a way to get residents more involved and possible ways to offset the costs that may be preventing them from joining. Town Manager Hicks stated that registration is done at the Dollar General and he will get Terry's contact information for Councilman Smith so they can discuss the available programs further.

Review of December Town Meeting Agenda – Councilman Smith asked Town Clerk Brady to check back with Melanie Atkins from the Curvy Girls Scoliosis support group to see if she is still interested in presenting at the December meeting. Mayor Paulin will reach out to Ms. McGuigan to find out if she plans to attend the December meeting and if so the Council will present the sign for Mattingly Park at the meeting.

#### Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin suggested that the Council put together individual wish lists for the upcoming budget sessions for discussion. Council agreed. Town Manager Hicks requested that the Council include where they plan to take the money from for any items on their lists.

#### Vice Mayor – None

Councilman – Councilman Smith requested a status update on a franchise agreement with Verizon. Town Manager Hicks reported that Verizon is currently not doing any new agreements. Town Manager Hicks has reached out to them but so far has no new information. The Broadband RFP will be ready for December and Town Manager Hicks reported that Comcast is interested, along with PeakeNet, East Coast Communications and Last Mile Broadband. Councilman Smith would like to add a discussion with the residents on their opinion on a dog park at an upcoming Town meeting. Town Manager Hicks is working on a list of Town owned properties that would be suitable options. The Council and Town Manager Hicks discussed some options and the need to go over what the policies and maintenance would be for a dog park with the understanding that no matter where it is put, it will impact someone but it would be done for the greater good. Councilman Smith expressed his concern over Vice Mayor Sitoula also serving as the HOA president in Perry Station when he is supposed to represent the entire Town and could potentially sway things in favor for Perry Station even unintentionally. Vice Mayor Sitoula thanked Councilman Smith for his opinion but does not feel that it is a conflict of interest since it is a volunteer position and separate of his Vice Mayor position. The Council agreed that the topic needed to go before the Town's lawyer for his opinion.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks asked for Council approval to move bulk pickup to every other week due to being short staffed in public works and a large workload. Council agreed to move bulk pick up to every other week. Town Manager Hicks stated that weekly will resume at a later date.

Town Manager Hicks asked the Council if they would like to recognize Calvin Barnes of Public Works for his almost 40 years of service at the upcoming employee Christmas party, and suggested giving him a plaque. Council agreed to present a plaque to Mr. Barnes at the upcoming party.

Town Clerk – None

Mayor Paulin made a motion to go into closed session per Article §10-508(a)(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.

Councilman Smith seconds the motion. The open session adjourned at 4:10pm.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk