

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

2:00pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula, and Councilman Smith met in work session on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, and Maryland Independent reporter Rebecca Barnabi.

July 22, 2015 Closed Session –During the closed session held at the end of the Work Session on July 22, 2015, Mayor and Council identified potential threats, assets and opportunities. Discussed the current political landscape, potential allies and support, proposed initiatives and Council's input. No actions were taken at this time. The closed session adjourned at 5:30pm.

AVSI Contract Renewal – Town Manager Hicks explained that the Town has contracted AVSI for website maintenance for the last couple of years. The price for the contract renewal has increased due to the number of hours increasing from 15 hours a month to 20 hours a month. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested bringing some of the website maintenance in house, for example uploading documents. Councilman Smith feels the contract price is high for the services provided. Town Manager Hicks explained that AVSI was contracted due to a lack of office staff to maintain the website. Mayor Paul suggested speaking with Lackey High School for a possible intern. Mayor and Council asked Town Manager Hicks to find out additional information, such as website ownership and access to the server so they could have more background in order to make a more informed decision and suggested continuing with the month to month contract until a decision could be reached.

Ordinance: Waiver of Permit Fees Economic Development Incentive – Mayor Paulin explained that the ordinance would waive permit fees for new businesses or relocating current businesses in Town. Town Manager Hicks said the fees could range from \$50 to \$500. Mayor Paulin made reference to the budget presentation to show that revenues from permit fees make up a small amount of Town revenue. Town Manager Hicks said taxes would help offset the difference. Mayor and Council reviewed the draft ordinance and agreed to put it on the September Town meeting agenda for introduction.

Review of September Town Meeting Agenda – Town Clerk Brady will add the economic development incentive ordinance to the agenda. Town Manager Hicks may have a couple of budget amendments to add to the agenda as well.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Mayor Paulin reported that SMECO is scheduled to come out and inspect the Wamsley properties by the base gate. Once that inspection is completed demolition of the properties will move forward.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula brought up the email Council received from former Councilman Randy Albright in regards to the Town's seal. Town Manager Hicks gave background information on the situation. Officer Elliot spoke with Council prior to a work

session several months ago in regards to the misrepresentation of the Indian on the Town's seal. Officer Elliot is going to speak with the local Piscataway tribe for more information and will bring any information gathered back to Council. Town Manager Hicks hopes Officer Elliot will have something to present by the next work session but no committee will be needed to make decisions regarding the seal. Vice Mayor Sitoula asked for clarification on what the Planning Commission will need the Council to review. Town Manager Hicks explained that the Council will need to review the suggested Zoning Ordinance changes once Richard Parks has completed updating the draft.

Councilman – Councilman Smith discussed the Green Team's efforts to have community gardens. The Green Team suggested Simmons Park and possible the Village Green for locations. Town Manager Hicks agreed that Simmons Park would be a perfect location and suggested Meekins Park as a secondary location instead of the Village Green. The Green Team has also thought about co-locating with the school. Town Manager Hicks hopes to work with the school on a tree planting project for Earth Day. Councilman Smith is still working on putting together a recycle bin list for the Green Team's recycling campaign, and he is working on recruiting more members. Councilman Smith discussed the recent trashcan fire at Mattingly Park. Town Manager Hicks said that the can will be refurbished and put back out for use.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks reported that a petition has been received for the speed humps on Strauss Avenue and it has the required number of signatures. The paving company is due out soon and Town Manager Hicks will obtain a quote for speed humps for review by Mayor and Council.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady discussed the upcoming Fall MML Conference with Mayor and Council.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to move into closed session. Councilman Smith seconds the motion. Mayor Paulin adjourned the open session at 2:29pm and Council moved into closed session.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk