

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Monday, March 24, 2014

1:01pm

Mayor Scheessele, Vice Mayor Rice, and Councilman Albright met in work session on Monday, March 24, 2014 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady, Job Coach Deborah St. Clair, and Instructional Specialist Tony Silva from the Charles County Public Schools Adult Independence Program.

Department of Special Education: Adult Independence Program – Instructional Specialist, Tony Silva gave background information on the Adult Independence Program. The AIP works with special education students during their transition from school to post school activities. There are about 750 students that fit this category according to the State. The AIP works with a wide range of students with special needs. Students in the AIP range from ages 18 to 21. The program is in place to help develop a system for a successful life. Currently there is a 12% rate of unemployment across the country for people with special needs, and only 28% are deemed employable. The AIP is looking for places to provide training and life experience, as well as employment opportunities. The AIP helps the students identify career interests and find job placement. The County has a summer job program which would pay the wages of any student working through the program. This program could be an option for the Town to give the Town a chance to be introduced to the student and witness what they are capable of. Mr. Silva and Deborah St.Clair shared a few student success stories to give the Mayor and Council a better understanding of the program, and spoke about two potential candidates to be placed at the Town who live in the Town of Indian Head. Councilman Albright asked if the program would be able to help the Town figure out what tasks are suitable for whoever would be placed here for employment. The AIP would do a task analysis based of a job description provided by the Town. Mayor Scheessele said this discussion has opened his mind and given him a better understanding of the AIP. Town Manager Hicks thanked Mr. Silva and Ms. St.Clair and said the Mayor and Council would discuss it and he would get back to them. Town Manager Hicks told Mayor and Council that the program was directed to the Town Hall by the Staff at the Senior Center. Town Manager Hicks and Eric Woodland will speak with Mr. Butler from Indian Head Elementary about one of the potential candidates to get further information, and then he will speak with Bunnie about the program since she would be working with the person most directly. Mayor and Council agreed that they are in favor of pursuing the program.

Review of April Town Meeting Agenda – Mayor and Council reviewed the agenda and the upcoming events. The Green Team meeting will be changed to Wednesday April 9 so it will not conflict with the budget hearing. The EDC will not be meeting again until the June joint meeting.

Roundtable:

Mayor – The EDC suggested an engraved paver fundraiser. At this time no marketing has been done for the fundraiser. At the pre-construction meeting the contractor was told to purchase the pavers and construct the plaza. The Town plans to look into buying extra pavers from the contractor for future engraving. Town Manager Hicks suggested pushing the fundraiser at Town meetings, on the website, the town sign, through flyers in the lobby, and Mayor and Council talking about it at events they attend. Town Manager Hicks will contact Dave Dixon to get the contact for the engraver he spoke with so he can contact him. Mayor Scheessele sent a progress report for the Connector Trail to Katie with the Bikeways program, and she is pleased with the progress. Recreational Trails has requested a

report, Mayor Scheessele will update the report he recently sent Bikeways to send to them. Public Works will begin work on the Connector Trail next week. Mayor Scheessele requested that Town Manager Hicks look into directional signage as well as share the road signs. Mayor Scheessele asked the Council what they feel should be done about the bathroom piece of the Trailhead project. Vice Mayor Rice suggested using parks money after the connector trail and the plaza are complete. Mayor Scheessele would also like to apply for grant funding for the project and rerelease the bathroom portion of the project for bid.

Vice Mayor – None

Councilman – None

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks met with the Moose Lodge and Richard Parks will be coming out on Wednesday March 26 to look at what can be done about the proposed curb on Town Street. A roll curb is being considered. The Moose Lodge will be kept in the loop at every step.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady told Mayor, Council, and Town Manager Hicks about the SMECO Annual Accounts breakfast on Wednesday April, 2 that will take place in Hughesville. Town Manager Hicks, Mayor Scheessele, and Vice Mayor Rice plan to attend. Town Clerk Brady will handle the RSVPs.

Mayor Scheessele adjourned the work session at 2:15pm. Councilman Albright made a motion to go into closed session. Vice Mayor Rice seconds the motion.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk