

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

1:00pm

Mayor Paulin and Councilman Smith met in work session on Tuesday, May 26 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, Town Clerk Andrea Brady and Maryland Independent Reporter Rebecca Barnabi. Vice Mayor Sitoula joined the meeting at 1:15pm.

Sheriff Satellite Office– Town Manager Hicks reported that the Sheriff’s Office is currently located in Bryans Road and they have 4 years remaining on their contract. Town Manager Hicks was thinking of asking the Ely family to provide space for a Sheriff’s Satellite Office in their shopping center. The space would be provided at no expense and the Town would perform the daily maintenance. Mayor Paulin and Councilman Smith were in favor of the idea.

Indian Head Recreation Commission – Councilman Smith looked at the Community Affairs duties to avoid any overlap if a Recreation Commission was created. Councilman Smith sees that the Town is a recreation destination on the weekends and feels a Recreation Commission would allow the Town to have more structured recreation opportunities. The Commission would also handle up keep of the parks, by suggesting updates to the facilities. The Commission would serve as the recreational visionaries. Councilman Smith provided a mission statement for the Commission as well as a list of possible duties. Mayor Paulin approved the concept of the Recreation Commission.

“We Wave in Indian Head” Campaign – Councilman Smith came up with the “We Wave in Indian Head” campaign because one of the things that make up a good community is interaction with others. People need something they can relate to that will give them a sense of community. Councilman Smith suggested using the website, leveraging social media, updating the marquee, and possibly putting out a few signs to promote the campaign.

Business Incentives – Councilman Smith recused himself from any decisions on business incentives since he has potential business interest within Town. Mayor Paulin brought up potential business incentives for new businesses in Town. The Town would cover utilities costs and property taxes and waive permit/inspection fees for 1 year if the business provides fresh produce, a deli, occupies a vacant/blighted property, serves as an essential need or want to the Town’s people as determined by the Town Council. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested that the Town should consider sliding scale for these incentives. Mayor Paulin agreed that would be a good idea. New businesses would have 100% of Town utilities and property taxes covered for the first year, the second year would be a 50% reduction, and the third year would be a 25% reduction. Mayor Paulin will prepare the information for Town Clerk Brady to forward to the Town’s lawyer Fred Sussman. Vice Mayor Sitoula feels the local businesses need an outlet to have a say within the Town. Town Manager Hicks informed Mayor and Council that the Indian Head Business Association is an outlet that allows businesses to discuss any concerns or ideas to be brought before Mayor and Council.

Review of June Town Meeting agenda – No Changes

Project Clean Creek – Councilman Smith came up with the June 6th date for Project Clean Creek before he knew of the other clean up event that would be taking place in Potomac Mews. Councilman Smith's hope is that Project Clean Creek which will be park and waterway clean up can piggy back off of the cleanup event in Potomac mews for sharing food and supplies. Karen Williams will get the Town back on the watershed cleanup list for 2016. Mayor Paulin plans to contact Lackey high school to get kids involved in the cleanup events. Karen provided more information on the Potomac Mews cleanup on June 6th. It is a part of the Community Policing neighborhood initiative. The event will be a cleanup, lunch and meet and greet. Town Manager Hicks said the event is always successful. The neighborhood's HOA has plans to trim trees, re-stripe the parking areas, and up the wattage on the light bulbs in the street lights. Karen is trying to get the IHVFD to come with the truck and pass out fire prevention information. The Community Activities Committee will good hotdogs that day and deliver them to Mattingly park for the parks and waterways cleanup and to Potomac Mews for the neighborhood cleanup. Karen suggested Mayor and Council reach out to the Charles County Beautification Committee for possible Town representation.

Roundtable:

Mayor – None

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula reported that he was late to the Work Session because he was showing a potential investor around town. Vice Mayor Sitoula shared that the investor is potentially interested in making a retirement community. The investor is also interested in looking into an EB Investors Visa, and potentially has interested in creating a world trade center in the County and the Town could be the location of the management office or possibly a grocery store within Town. Councilman Smith expressed the importance of keeping the base informed of potential investors within the Town. As Vice Mayor Sitoula gets further information he will keep the Mayor and Council informed.

Councilman – None

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks would like the Town to send a letter to the AKA Sorority to thank them for their work at Simmons Park.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady reviewed the Banner City Program, Southern Maryland Municipal Association, and the upcoming MML Conference with Mayor and Council.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to move into closed session. Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. Mayor adjourned the open session at 1:59pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk