

## **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Town Hall**

**Monday, November 24, 2014**

**1:01pm**

Mayor Scheessele, Vice Mayor Rice, and Councilman Albright met in work session on Monday, November 24 at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks, and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Zoning Amendment: 4145 Indian Head Highway – Mayor and Council discussed the rezoning of the Fernandez Property at 4145 Indian Head Highway. Town Engineer, Richard Parks suggested two options, having the applicant submit a rezoning application for the property, or the Town could adopt a new zoning map as put forth by the Planning Commission. Mayor and Council agreed having Mr. Fernandez apply for rezoning would be the best option. Mayor Scheessele asked that Mr. Fernandez be given as much help as possible with the application process, and Mayor and Council agreed to waive any associated fees.

Speed Humps on Strauss Avenue – Town Manager Hicks has received requests from residents for speed humps on Strauss Avenue. One resident in particular who submitted a letter back in 2004 or 2007 is continuing to have trouble exiting his driveway due to people speeding down the hill. Mayor and Council agreed that Town Manager Hicks should have the resident submit a petition for the request, and they would also like to consider shutting the road off at the top of the hill. Town Manager Hicks will contact the resident to let him know about the required petition and he will speak with Officer Elliot about the speeding issues on Strauss.

Municipal Government Works Month Proclamation – Mayor Scheessele introduced the proclamation declaring November to be Municipal Government Works Month. Vice Mayor Rice made a motion to adopt the proclamation. Councilman Albright seconds the motion. Motion carries by voice vote. 3-ayes 0-nayes.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Week Proclamation – Kids Cancer Connection, Inc. emailed the Town requesting they adopt a proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Week. Mayor Scheessele asked Town Clerk Brady to prepare a draft of the proclamation for the work session. After review of the proclamation Mayor and Council agreed to present it for adoption at the December 1 Town meeting.

Review of December Town Meeting Agenda – No changes.

### **Roundtable:**

Mayor – Mayor Scheessele spoke with Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Wilcher about a property on Strauss Avenue with excess vehicles and piles of dirt. Town Manager Hicks said that Bruce from Planchek made contact with the homeowner previously about the issues and at that time the owner said it was temporary. Since that time a violation and fine letter have been sent, and it will be moving on to a citation. Mayor Scheessele requested an update on the Bertha Circle property. Town Manager Hicks reported that he decided against the Town acquiring the property due to the amount of back taxes owed verses the value of the property itself. At this

time the owners have 30 days to demolish the home. If they do not demolish within the 30 days the Town will demolish the home and lien the property. Town Manager Hicks believes it could be down by Christmas. Mayor Scheessele said the State is requiring a new Highway User Revenues report to be filed each year by January 1. MML has sent out notification about the report along with a list of addresses where it needs to be sent and a blank form. Mayor Scheessele asked that Town Clerk Brady begin working on this report immediately. Mayor Scheessele asked Town Manager Hicks about a date for the rescheduled meeting with Tom Roland. Town Manager Hicks will contact Mr. Roland for available dates. Mayor Scheessele does not anticipate a ribbon cutting for the Trailhead Plaza and Connector Trail until spring. Mayor Scheessele asked for an update on the old Sheriff's office substation. When the Town met with the Ely family in spring they said they had awarded contracts for roof and building repairs. Town Manager Hicks had no update at this time but plans to move forward on the Ely properties in the next wave of code enforcement.

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Rice discussed upcoming Southern Maryland Municipal League meetings and asked Mayor Scheessele to contact the Chesapeake Bay Trust to speak at the January meeting.

Councilman – Councilman Albright asked for an update on the State Retirement plan. Town Manager Hicks explained that Ginger is still waiting to hear back from the actuaries with a quote. Councilman Albright feels the Town has been very fortunate to have Sara Gray every year for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Councilman Albright feels the town should consider paying Ms. Gray to do a concert on the Green for the festivities and sing the national anthem. If not for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Town should consider having Sara Gray do a separate concert. Councilman Albright has noticed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event diminishing each year and he feels that switching up the entertainment might be a good way to bring in a larger crowd. Councilman Albright has tried to reach out to Sara Gray and will get other contact information from Karen Williams and try again. Councilman Albright informed everyone that he will not be running for office in the coming election. However he feels the salary associated with Town Council is too low and he feels that raising the Council salary needs to be considered and it needs to be done before the end of term. The Town's Council is not in line with the salaries in other municipalities, and while the Town doesn't want anyone to run strictly for the money, Councilman Albright feels that by even slightly raising the salary it may attract new people to run for office. Town Manager Hicks will have an updated figures report ready for Mayor and Council by the December work session with the goal of introducing an Ordinance by the March Town meeting.

Town Manager – Town Manager Hicks reminded Mayor and Council that the employee Christmas party is on December 19 at 1pm and asked Town Clerk Brady to send out a reminder. SMECO will be in Town on Tuesday November 25 to hang the Christmas decorations on the poles through Town. The other decorations should be up next week. The Town's trolley only made it until around 4pm for the I.H.B.A. Up the Hill event. At this time Eric Woodland has not had a chance to find the problem so the Town will not be able to loan the trolley to LaPlata for their event. Jay Perry from Seal Pros said bollard installation will happen next week. Town Manager Hicks will be meeting with Richard Wilcher and Fred Sussman on Tuesday to prepare for court on December 3 for the Weaver and Lyles properties. A walkthrough will probably be done at the Lyles property to determine if court is needed. There has been no movement at the

Weaver property. Fred will be refiling the Wamsley properties on the 3<sup>rd</sup> as well and at that point it will be between Wamsley and the judge. Washington Gas should be complete with the gas line installation next week and they will be replacing any curbing or pavers that were disturbed during installation. Town Manager Hicks is preparing for the next phase of properties that the Town will be taking to court.

Town Clerk – Town Clerk Brady reminded everyone about the SMMA Legislative Dinner coming up on Wednesday, December 3 at 6pm in Annapolis.

Mayor Scheessele adjourned the work session at 2:05pm.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk