

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2014**

Mr. Ingersoll called Mr. Mark Mumford, Clerk of Courts, forward to swear in Mr. Chris Cerino as Mayor.

Mr. Mumford first presented former Mayor Margo G. Bailey with a plaque from the Chestertown Fire Department for her years of service to Chestertown.

Mr. Mumford swore in Chris Cerino as Mayor of Chestertown.

Mayor Cerino swore in Elizabeth Gross as First Ward Councilmember.

Mayor Cerino swore in Samuel T. Shoge as Third Ward Councilmember.

Mayor Cerino called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. In attendance were Council members Liz Gross, Linda Kuiper, Samuel T. Shoge and Mauritz Stetson, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mr. Cerino stated that the first order of business was to read the "State of the Town Address". He said that much of the address had to do with business that took place in 2013 and called forward former Mayor Margo G. Bailey to read the State of the Town Address for 2013 (the complete document is attached as a part of the minutes). Mayor Bailey thanked the new Mayor and Council and the public and said that it was her honor to serve the Town of Chestertown for the past twenty-two (22) years.

Mayor Cerino read the goals of the Town of Chestertown for 2014.

Mayor Cerino asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Mayor and Council Meeting of December 16, 2013 or the executive session of the same date. **Mr. Stetson stated that he wanted to clarify that he did not vote against moving the funds as much as he thought there should be no funds spent because he did not know what the Waterfront Task Force was going to do and did not agree with using the grant until the Task Force made their presentation and moved to approve the minutes as amended of the Mayor and Council meeting of December 16, 2013 as presented, as well as the Executive Session minutes was seconded by Ms. Gross and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Cerino stated that Mayor Margo G. Bailey called an executive session to order at 9:10 p.m., December 16, 2013 to discuss a personnel matter and a real estate matter. In attendance at the meeting were Council members James R. Gatto, Linda C. Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, along with W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Chief Adrien Baker, and Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer. There were two motions made at the meeting. A motion to hire a new officer was made, which passed unanimously. A motion was made to approve a contract for Chief Baker, which passed with four (4) in

favor and one (1) opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Minutes were taken and are part of the record.

Mayor Cerino asked for a motion to pay bills. **Mr. Stetson moved to approve payment of the bills as presented, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he spoke with the Mr. Dennis Silicato, owner of Washington Square, who explained that Fresh & Green's was not a grocery business, but a group of investors, who have control of the property where the grocery store was located until 2016. He said that they were planning to fill the store with a grocery business. Mr. Silicato stated that there were three (3) entities that he was dealing with and was working towards having a new grocer in place by March 2014. Mayor Cerino stated that he planned to speak with Mr. Silicato as well.

Mayor Cerino stated that he appreciated different suggestions that he received from residents and said that he would make it known to the owners that he would do what he could within reason to get another store in place.

Ms. Trish Gruber, owner of Chestertown Natural Foods on Cannon Street, was present and stated that they were a grocer in Chestertown and hoped that people would stop by her store and shop and at the same time let them know what products they would like to see in their store.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the previous Council recommended that the new Council be given information concerning a South Fork Studio Landscape proposal for a plan for Fountain Park for soil, tree and turf restoration. He said that he would provide the Council with copies of the proposal and it could be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor Cerino stated that the Christmas Decoration winners were as follows:

1st Ward: 1st Place: George and Carol Nelson, 210 Byford Drive;
2nd Place: Frank and Barbara Creegan, 213 Waldo Drive;

2nd Ward: 1st Place: Gail Register, 103 Cannon Street;
2nd Place: Keith and Eileen Brooks, 223 Mount Vernon Avenue;

3rd Ward: 1st Place: Donna and Charles McNeal, 115 Trafford Drive;
2nd Place: Janet and Donald Wilkerson, 620 High Street;

4th Ward: 1st Place: William and Sheila Lepter, 201 Glen Street;
2nd Place: Francis Tomczewski, 105 Holly Avenue;

Townwide Daytime Award: Chestertown Curb Appeal

Commercial Plaques: 1st Place: Imperial Hotel
2nd Place: Chestertown Natural Foods.

Mayor Cerino stated that there was a vacancy on the Historic District Commission and that Mr. Ted Maris-Wolf had been nominated at the last meeting. Mr. Maris-Wolf was the only applicant who had submitted a resume for the Historic District Commission. **Mr. Stetson moved to appoint Mr. Ted Maris-Wolf to the Historic District Commission, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Kuiper expressed concern over all of the work that was going to be done at the College that would come before the Historic Commission and the fact that he would have to recuse himself from those issues as an employee of the College. Mayor Cerino stated that recusals happen often on both the Historic District Commission and the Planning Commission.

Mayor Cerino stated that there were eight (8) resumes received for two (2) vacancies on the Planning Commission. He commended those that submitted resumes and said that it was a lot of work for a volunteer commission.

Mayor Cerino nominated Morgan Ellis to the Planning Commission, was seconded by Ms. Gross and carried unanimously.

Mayor Cerino nominated Robert Fordi to the Planning Commission, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried with four (4) in favor, Ms. Kuiper opposed.

Mayor Cerino stated that it would be good if the newest members would be advised of their appointment and asked to attend the January 15th meeting of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Cerino asked for ward reports.

Ms. Gross stated that she was honored to have been elected to serve the First Ward and she would be contacting residents of her ward over the next few weeks.

Ms. Kuiper stated that the Farmer's Market was remaining open through the winter and said that they were there even in the ice and snow.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she had a complaint that the "No Parking this side of street" signs were not in place on Cannon Street between Kent Street and College Avenue.

Ms. Kuiper asked if the unfinished portion of the Rails-to-Trails behind Foxley Manor was safe to walk. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Maryland Rail Administration replaced the storm drain pipe that ran underneath that portion of the rail and stripped the bank, but did not turn ownership of that portion of the rail to the Town to date. He said that it was unsafe at this time. Ms. Kuiper asked if a sign could be installed to alert people to the fact that they should not be walking there. Mayor Cerino stated that he would write a letter to the Maryland Transit Authority asking them to finish the work.

Ms. Kuiper thanked the Chestertown Garden Club and the Tree Committee for their work during 2013. She said that the Town looked quite festive during the holiday season.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she would like to soon begin budget meetings as tax assessments have gone out. She said the majority of assessments have gone down, but was concerned that as a result taxes would go up. She asked that Ms. Diver be directed to get the projected revenue from the assessment office for the next two (2) years because of the assessments. Ms. Kuiper stated that she was already fielding calls from residents asking if taxes were going to be raised in Town. Mr. Ingersoll pointed out that the first goal in the State of the Town Report was to “keep taxes at the same rate”.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she received information on the “If I Were Mayor” essay contest for the 4th grade classes. Mr. Ingersoll stated that typically the MML sent information directly to all the elementary schools. Mayor Cerino stated that he would be happy to go to the schools and visit. Ms. Kuiper stated that she would like to see the Town receive copies of the essays.

Mr. Shoge stated that he was honored to be a part of the Town Council and was looking forward to representing the Third Ward. He said he thought that the Council would make a fantastic team and was excited to get the ball rolling, especially the sidewalk along Flatland Road. Mayor Cerino stated that Flatland Road was a big concern and people in the neighborhoods in that area needed safe pedestrian passage.

Mr. Shoge stated that he thought the Town could capitalize in many ways on what the internet has to offer. He said utilizing different social media platforms and blogs, and promoting Chestertown in literary magazines could make a huge impact at a small cost with a big return. He said that he would like to spearhead that effort. Mayor Cerino stated that revamping the website was something that he thought needed to be done in a short timeframe and was looking forward to creative ideas to improve visibility online and thought including the College on Chestertown’s website would be a great addition as well.

Mr. Stetson stated that entrance to the Margo Bailey Community Park was for pedestrians only and he would like signs stating that there “no motorized vehicles permitted” installed.

Mr. Stetson stated that he submitted the name of Tish Brown to fill the vacancy of Herb Friedman on the Police Committee. He said that Mr. Friedman was teaching a College class at the same time the meetings took place.

Mr. Stetson stated that the Friends of the Dog Park raised money and in-kind contributions totaling over \$3,000.00 for the Dog Park.

Mayor Cerino stated that the only way to enter the Margo Bailey Park was to walk or to drive out to Morgnec Road. He said that he thought the Town should look into a nicer

entrance into the park off of Rolling Road, noting that he would not be surprised if the people who originally opposed the park are now the most frequent users of the park.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a remnant of what the hospital owned which amounted to 4-acres off of Greenwood Avenue. He said that he thought that it might be a good idea to start a dialogue with the Hospital about owning some or all of the remnant in the future.

Mr. Arrowood stated that the Recreation Commission has taken ideas from the community and would like to use the Rolling Road Park for soccer and Pop Warner Football. Mayor Cerino stated that the Dog Park was a great addition to Town but he would like for there to be something for the humans as well.

Mr. Stetson stated that he was drafting an ordinance where it would be a requirement to disclose campaign donations for elected officials in Chestertown.

Ms. Nancy McGuire stated that on behalf of the Downtown Chestertown Association, she wanted to thank former Mayor Bailey for her years of dedication to Chestertown. She also welcomed the new Mayor and Councilmembers.

Mr. William Pickrum of the Kent County Commissioners was present and stated that he would propose in the next five (5) years to extend the Rails-to-Trails to Worton Park.

There being no further business, **Mr. Stetson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., was seconded by Ms. Gross and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:


Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:

Chris Cerino
Mayor

**SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE SESSION
DECEMBER 16, 2013**

Mayor Bailey called executive session to order at 9:10 p.m., December 16, 2013 to discuss a personnel matters and a real estate matter. In attendance at the meeting were Council members James R. Gatto, Linda C. Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, along with W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Chief Adrian Baker and Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer. There were two (2) motions made at the meeting. A motion made to hire a new officer which passed unanimously. A motion was made to approve a contract for Chief Baker which passed with four (4) in favor, one (1) opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Minutes were taken and are part of the record.