

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MAY 19, 2014

Mayor Cerino called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. In attendance were Council members Liz Gross, Linda Kuiper, Samuel T. Shoge and Mauritz Stetson, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and guests.

Mayor Cerino asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Mayor and Council and Recreation Commission meeting of April 28, 2014, Mayor and Council meeting of May 5, 2014 and Mayor and Council meeting with Peter Franchot of May 13, 2014. **Mr. Stetson moved to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council and Recreation Commission of April 28, 2014, Mayor and Council meeting of May 5, 2014 and Mayor and Council meeting with Peter Franchot of May 13, 2014 as submitted, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Cerino stated that cash on hand and in the banks was \$1,419,731.12. There was a restricted use fund of \$200,000.00 for total funds on hand of \$1,619,731.12.

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

Chief Baker presented the Police report for April 2014.

Mr. Stetson stated that he would like to see more foot patrol at the shopping centers. Chief Baker stated that he does have officers walk the shopping centers on a regular basis and would occur more frequently when the department was back to full strength.

Mr. Stetson stated that he would like the officers to enforce the law and cite people who were talking on the phone while driving.

Mayor Cerino asked for an update on recruits. Chief Baker stated that there were 2 injured officers who would be out for some time, but ultimately would return to duty. He said that there were conditional offers to 2 candidates, one from Prince George's Community College Police Academy and one from the Anne Arundel County Community College Police Academy. He said graduations were scheduled for May and August 2014.

Mr. Shoge asked for an update on the shooting on Calvert Street. Chief Baker stated that the investigation was ongoing so he could not give too much detail, but he did have suspects. He said that the event took place on Friday, May 9th. Maryland State Police brought the crime lab and worked the scene in conjunction with Chestertown and Kent County. He said that they are working with several agencies, developed a task list, and were interviewing people regarding the incident. Chief Baker stated that there was some helpful information found on the street surveillance camera.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she would like the fines to double when there were parties, and said that the owner of the property should also be fined.

A delegation of Calvert Street residents appeared before the Council to discuss the recent drive-by shooting on the 400 block of Calvert Street. Ms. Joanne Clothier, resident of Calvert Street, stated that there was no wellness check done by police after the shooting. She said that a bullet came into her house (next door to where the shooting took place) and the police did not come to her house to see if she was okay or if there were any problems. Chief Baker stated that an officer should have come to her house and he would look into why that did not happen.

Mr. Ronald Reed stated that the officers were sitting at the C-Town Deli and said that the officers should have responded when the first shots were fired. Chief Baker stated that officers responded as soon as they were called and said that they did not hear the shots when fired.

Chief Baker passed out his business card and asked that anyone with information regarding the drive-by shooting call him.

Mr. Ivan Houston was present to speak on behalf of the Calvert Street delegation. He said that he would like to see speed bumps on Calvert Street and signs that read "Children at Play". He said that when police officers are "uptown", they just harass people or drive by, but never stop just to talk or see what is going on. He said that the people who are parking in the turn-around (Campher Court) were not residents of the area but they come in and park there at all times of the day and night.

Mr. Ingersoll asked if any residents were against speed bumps on the 400 block of Calvert Street, since most of the residents were in the audience. All in attendance wanted to have speed bumps installed. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he could have speed bumps installed above and below the alley on the 400 block of Calvert Street.

Mr. Shoge stated that he met with the residents on Monday and the overwhelming response was that they wanted to make the neighborhood safe for their children. He said that cars are driving too fast down the street.

Mr. Ingersoll asked if anyone was having problems with the Bradford Pear trees that were planted in their yards. The consensus was that everyone liked the trees.

Mr. Hope Clark stated that there was a request to the Recreation Commission for a basketball court on Calvert Street. Residents in the audience stated that they did not think a basketball court was a good idea; rather they performed play equipment for small children. Mr. Shoge stated that he would like to have this conversation more in detail before any decision was made on recreation equipment.

Ms. Clothier stated that where the children are playing is not a playground; it was a turntable for vehicles. She said that there were "No Parking" signs on the alley but

sometimes cars could not get out of the alley because there was parking on both sides. She said it was nothing but a hangout area where people loiter and drink. Chief Baker stated that there was an upcoming community meeting in conjunction with the Calvert Height Apartments and said that he would like for the Calvert Street residents to attend to discuss some of these very issues.

Ms. Shoge stated that he thought the meeting was a good idea and added that he thought parking was an issue in the area, especially in the alley. He said that there was not enough parking in general.

Mr. Shoge asked about the possibility of making the area resident parking only. He thought it might stop the people who did not live in the area from parking in the community and loitering. He said that the resident only parking should be strictly enforced if enacted.

Mr. Shoge stated that the street sweeper does not go down the 400 block of Calvert or the alley and it was needed. The sweeper stopped at the corner of Campus and Calvert and turned around. He said that street sweeping must be done, as the citizens pay for it.

Ms. Clothier stated that there were shoes up on the wires again on the 400 block of Calvert Street and in the horseshoe and asked that they be removed. More lights needed to be installed in the alley.

Mr. Shoge stated that posts at the entrance of the alleyways may keep people from coming in and parking there. Ms. Clothier stated that the residents had to be able to get in the alley.

Mr. Shoge asked that the Council be alerted as to when the community meeting will take place.

Mayor Cerino stated that the Town would take care of the speed bumps, street sweeping and "children at play" signs right away.

Ms. Geraldine Munson asked if there were any grants available to help beautify the area. She said that help was needed with grass and flowers. Mayor Cerino stated that most grants are for public projects on Town-owned lands, not for individual homeowners.

Mr. Ingersoll said that the community should state where they might want beautification. He said that the Town often was able to get bulbs for programs if the residents wanted to plant them.

There was a resident of Calvert Street who asked if there was any way that the community could have a job fair, as there were many people looking for work in Chestertown. He said that there was also a basketball team called N-1 that he thought would be great for the kids to see. Mr. Ingersoll stated that was an idea for the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she rode with the police on occasion and spent a lot of time in the Calvert Heights area. She suggested that Mr. Shoge ride a shift with the officers as well. She said that people should call the police when there was an issue because they will respond.

Mr. Shoge stated that the Calvert Street area has a negative reputation because of the out of town people who are causing trouble. He said that the issues had to be addressed without harassing the residents of the neighborhood.

Chief Baker stated that he was thankful that the Calvert Street residents were present at the meeting, although he was sorry that a terrible event occurred to get them here. He said that the communication should continue and was looking forward to the community meeting and making positive steps for the future.

Mr. Shoge stated that there was power in numbers, as demonstrated this evening. He said that the concerns of the residents will be addressed by the Council.

A resident of College Avenue (between High and Cannon) stated that she would like to see a speed bump on her street as well as the cars go fast down the street. Mr. Ingersoll stated that there would have to be a poll of the neighbors to see that there was a majority of residents in favor of that.

Mayor Cerino called forward Dr. Rick Wirtz, who read into the record a Proclamation declaring May 2014 Mental Health Month.

Ms. Hope Clark and Mr. Milford Murray were present on behalf of the Diversity Dialogue Group to discuss a community garden on Calvert Street. Ms. Clark stated that she spoke with 24 residents in the area, all of whom were in favor of the garden. She said that there was some distrust that the garden would be respected by the youth in the area and said that she hoped that the garden would not be vandalized but did not think it was a reason not to move forward. Mr. Murray stated that he thought enough residents were interested in the garden that nothing bad would happen there. Ms. Clark stated that a pilot garden would be a good idea, planted on the edge of the chain link fence. She said that it was marked out and they would begin with one row.

Ms. Clark stated that this was a completely volunteer operation but she had plants to bring and seeds to share. She said that eventually it would be nice to have tables, chairs and small barbeque to cook and share food.

Mr. Shoge stated that the residents wanted to beautify their neighborhood and this was a good opportunity to start. He suggested planting bulbs that the residents could then plant in their own yards.

Ms. Clark stated that she would like to begin working on the garden next week. Mr. Ingersoll asked how the land would be tilled. Ms. Clark stated that Mr. Alvin Blake was

planning to help her till the land. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town could provide that service to get the garden started to contact the office.

Mr. Shoge stated that a garden club for Calvert Street could be created. Ms. Clark agreed, stating that it would also be nice to have a 4-H Club.

Mr. Murray stated that he lived in the 200 block of Calvert Street and said that he would like speed bumps installed on that block. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Council would need to hear from the rest of the neighbors on the block.

Mr. Drew McMullen was present on behalf of Sultana to the Mayor and Council's support of a Resolution for a Community Legacy Grant, stating that the Town would be a conduit for the grant. Mayor Cerino recused himself from the discussion. Mr. McMullen stated that the Sultana was hoping to break ground on their new facility late this year, or early 2015. He said that the building would be a LEED Platinum design and they were two-thirds of the way through their fundraising, hoping to reach their ground-breaking goal in August.

Mr. McMullen stated that the Sultana Projects would write the grant and the Town would only have to sign it. He said that the original grant request was going to be for \$100,000 but they would likely increase that amount as the project was moving along quickly. Mr. Ingersoll recommended that the Sultana request the amount they needed and said that the Town has had great success with GAR Community Legacy Grants as a conduit agency.

Mr. Shoge moved to authorize Mayor Cerino and/or Mr. Ingersoll (as Town Manager and CFO) to sign a Resolution for a Community Legacy Grant application, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried with all four (4) Council members in favor. Mayor Cerino recused.

Ms. Kuiper asked about administrative fees. Mr. Ingersoll stated that generally the Town does not ask for administrative fees with grant funding applications, especially pass-through grants.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a permit request from the Historical Society of Kent County for a Legacy Day on Saturday, August 16, 2014. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he would ask Ms. Karen Emerson to come before the Council at the next meeting.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the formal permit request for the War of 1812 Caulk's Field 2014 was received and would be held Friday, August 29th through Saturday, August 30th. **Ms. Gross moved to approve the permit as submitted for the War of 1812 Caulk's Field 2014 as submitted, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that tonight was the introduction of Ordinance 03-2014 Budget for 2014-2015. He said that this was a balanced budget with the tax rate remaining the same. There would be a public hearing on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that tonight was the introduction of Ordinance 04-2014 Water and Sewers Ordinance Revision. He said that there would be an 8% increase in the cost of water and sewer this year.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he prepared an RFP for a photovoltaic array at the wastewater treatment plant. He said that bidders who submitted last year would automatically receive the new RFP. He said that the deadline for bids was July 18th. He said that he would like to have a contract in place by September 12, 2014. The Town was in an agreement to buy power at \$.68 for 2 more years, which was a very good rate. He asked that the Council get any comments regarding the RFP to him as soon as possible, as the RFP was scheduled to go to bid May 29th.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the National Music Festival requested a \$2,000.00 donation to fund fees for a mentor musician. He said that last year the Town donated \$1,500.00. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the festival began on June 1, 2014. Ms. Gross recused herself from the discussion. **Ms. Kuiper moved to approve the \$2,000.00 request to the National Music Festival out of this fiscal budget and to appropriate \$2,000.00 in the FY 2015 budget, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Gross stated that it would be nice if the scholarship for the musician could be named for the Town. Ms. Gross stated that she would discuss it the National Music Festival.

Mayor Cerino stated that the Charrette for the Marina would be held on Wednesday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the big shed at the Marina. He said that he and Mr. de Mooy have been working on a PowerPoint of the existing conditions of the marina.

Mayor Cerino stated that there would be a public hearing on the budget on Monday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mayor Cerino stated that Mr. Arrowood of the Recreation Commission requested that the Council clarify the mission of the Chestertown Recreation Commission. Ms. Gross said that she would be willing to work on that project.

Mayor Cerino stated that the men's Washington College Lacrosse Team made it to the Final Four, losing 13 to 8. He said that this was an amazing season for the team with 18 wins and 2 losses, going into the Final Four with a 13 game winning streak. He said that he would like to formally recognize the team at the next meeting.

Mr. Stetson stated that Bailey Park looked great. He said he received a letter from a resident of Rolling Road who wanted to go on record that some of the empty space at the park be used for a lacrosse or soccer field.

Mr. Shoge stated that the potholes in Radcliffe Trailer Park were atrocious. He asked if the owner could be contacted and made to do the repairs.

Mr. Shoge stated that many residents in Coventry Farms were bringing their brush to the curb but he did not know if they were aware that they had to call the Town Office to have the brush picked up. He asked if a notice could be given to the residents. Mr. Ingersoll stated that such a message could be put on Constant Contact.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he walked Flatland Road with a Delmarva Power representative and was waiting on a proposal to put a street light on every pole. He said that if the mongoose lighting worked well, Delmarva would replace the cobra lights with mongoose lighting. For now, the old cobra lights would be updated with new bulbs. He said that there only seemed to be a problem with one pole.

Ms. Kuiper stated that Tea Party was this weekend and there was a House and Garden Tour on May 31st.

Ms. Gross stated that the National Music Festival would be held from June 1st through the 14th.

Ms. Gross asked when the path would be built connecting the Bailey Park with Heron Point. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the concrete crew was working in other areas and would build the trail connection as soon as they could.

Mr. Stetson stated that there were no bluebirds in the bluebird boxes but there were sparrows.

Mr. Stetson stated that he spoke to Mr. Kevin Kerr about the traffic situation on Hadaway Drive and Elm and he would come to the meeting on June 2nd.

There being no further business, **Mr. Stetson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:


Jennifer Mulligan
Town Clerk

Approved by:

Chris Cerino
Mayor

For a number of reasons it is suggested that Chestertown file an interconnection application with Delmarva Power for the meter at the wastewater treatment plant off John Hanson road as soon as possible. The town cannot proceed on any project until it knows what are the options for that meter. Apparently, Standard Solar is ready to do the filing for the town at no cost (which can be around \$200.) to the town.

Potential projects & benefits:

- a community solar garden for the town and the residents
- participation in a state agency-sponsored pilot project to demonstrate community resiliency (operating essential services off a renewable energy micro-grid in case of a severe weather event that causes the regular electric grid to go off-line for an extended period)
- possible partnership with WC to use some of the power
- application to the Georgetown University Energy Prize (\$5 million award!!!)
- loans for solar power systems now available from EPA and U.S. Energy Department
- budget reliability as concerns costs for municipal electricity
- potential \$40K cost reduction for municipal electricity in Year 1

None of this can be considered until the Town files the application and understands the options.