

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MAY 5, 2014**

Mayor Cerino called the meeting to order at 8:24 p.m. In attendance were Council members 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 Budget Workshop of April 10, 2014, the C-2 Public Forum minutes of April 14, 2014 and the Mayor and Council meeting of April 21, 2014. **Mr. Stetson moved to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council meeting of April 10, 2014, April 14, 2014 and April 21, 2014 as submitted, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

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

Mayor Cerino stated that at the last meeting he gave a summary of the Fountain Park Strategic Committee's Report and tonight there were members of the Committee present who would summarize the report from their perspective.

Ms. Barb Macbeth, Chair, stated that common ground for common space was the focus of discussion. She said that the recommendations sent to the Mayor and Council advocate for restoration and protection of the continued health and serviceability of Fountain Park. She said that a thorough assessment of the soil had to be performed. The formal landscape design was an important historical covenant that should be maintained as it amplified that Chestertown was a unique pedestrian-friendly destination.

Ms. Macbeth stated that a landscape plan was performed by South Fork Studio Landscape and explained it in detail. She said that plugs were taken from 3 quadrants and soil, mineral content, and density tests were analyzed, which indicated the need for a more detailed assessment of the soil condition. After the assessment there could be rehabilitative action and long-term cost savings.

Ms. Macbeth stated that for budgeting and planning purposes in terms of restoring and maintaining the park, they could reasonably predict the following: mulching, trenching and amending of soil; sodding with durable grass that will thrive in shaded areas and survive pedestrian traffic; adjustment, repair and/or replacement of the irrigation system; and, the temporary relocation of the market around the periphery of the park.

Ms. Nora Carey, past president of the Garden Club and park committee participant, stated that the "Ladies Improvement Society" originally purchased the fountain for town square, before it was considered Fountain Park, as it is known today. She said that the Society became the "Garden Club" in 1931 and finally the "Chestertown Garden Club" in 1943. She said that the Garden Club has worked with the Town to design and finance appropriate lighting in the parks and along High Street and helped to pay for the original

irrigation system. She said that the Garden Club was instrumental in the installation of brick walks in the Park. Wooden benches were a gift from the Club in 1957 and were recently painted by schoolchildren. The Garden Club donated \$10,000.00 to the refurbishment of the Fountain in 2003. Metal benches were placed around Town were donated by the Garden Club in 2012.

Ms. Carey stated that the Garden Club wanted to help with gardening and be an aid for the designing of attractive surroundings in Town. She said that the Garden Club is alarmed at the poor health of the trees and the severe compaction of the soil. Irrigation and electric is in need of repair or replacement. Some of the brick sidewalks need widening due to pedestrian traffic and additional seeding will enhance enjoyment of the Park. New plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials to define entrances and walkways, with an emphasis on the traditional design of the park is suggested.

Ms. Carey stated that the Park is the heart of the Town and its use has expanded. She said that it was imperative to give the park the attention it deserves to keep it vibrant now and in the future.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the underground electric should be looked at, along with low voltage lighting in the trees. He said that concerts in the Park called for higher voltage and the receptacles by the lanterns should be active at all times and not just when the lanterns are on. He said that there were locations nearby that would work to hold the Farmer's Market, but he preferred trying a pilot closing of the 300 block of High Street while restoring the grass at quadrant 1 of the Park. He said that this closure would need the prior approval of the merchants and Downtown Chestertown Association.

Mr. Stetson suggested leasing the trail area by Dixon for Saturdays until the Fountain Park was complete. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the entities involved in the market did not want to move that far away from the present site.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the existing sprinkler system would be tested and mapped out, but said he thought it was repairable.

Ms. Wanda Gorman, Farmer and Artisan Market manager, stated that during the Committee meetings everyone agreed that the park needs attention. She said that routine maintenance should be performed, with volunteers giving assistance. A big concern while undergoing repairs was where the market vendors would set up. Ms. Gorman stated that the vendors of the market are willing to assist in any way to make sure that the transition is not detrimental to the market vendors. She suggested that people buy bricks as a fundraising method in order to assist in paying for the restoration of the Park.

Mr. Owen McCoy, Farmer's Market manager, stated that he thought the Town had to be careful as there were other markets out there and he feared that vendors would leave to go to them if the market area was changed. He said that there had to be a maintenance program for the Park. He said that some sod was laid in the Park by the Farmer's a couple weeks ago, but it had to be watered. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the irrigation system

was working but that it could not just be set and forgotten due to changing weather patterns.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that if vendors in the Park were moved, it would be done a quadrant at a time, moving the vendors to High Street and allowing that portion of the Park to recover. He said that Mr. Barnard of South Fork Landscape Studio Architect stated that the first changes should not take place until fall. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he thought closing off the 300 block of High Street would help the merchants because all the attendees could go right across the street to the businesses and continue shopping.

Ms. Kuiper stated that a part of the northern section of the Park has been sodded (Park Row side) and she wanted to see if the sod takes hold, noting that maintenance was necessary in the spring and fall. She also noted that all of the work that the Garden Club does is unappreciated as people walk through the mulch and kids play in it. She said that it was nice to have garden areas, but unless they were fenced in, people would trample it.

Ms. Carey stated that proper maintenance and awareness by everyone using the Park was key. She said that if the Park looked good, people would respect it.

Mayor Cerino stated that the key was to have a professional study done so there was a plan for comprehensive treatment of the entire park by the fall. Mayor Cerino stated that South Fork Landscaping Studio Architect's proposal would be discussed at the May 13<sup>th</sup> budget workshop.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that Chief Baker was present to introduce their new K9, Gator, a Belgium Shepard, noting that Howard Eveland just came back from training.

Chief Baker stated that the Police Station Study Committee met last Thursday and it was their intention to have a final report with recommendations and discussion on whether the station should be combined into a large facility, with the Sheriff's Department and 911 Center or Chestertown having a stand-alone building. He said that 3 stand-alone sites were being discussed, with 1 site as a reference for a joint facility. Costs would also be included.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Ethics Commission would present a training session for the Mayor and Council, and all Town Commissions on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Mayor and Council would hold a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The public was allowed to attend, but would not be allowed to participate.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Mayor and Council would be the host of May's COG meeting at the Lemon Leaf on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the People's Bank would be holding a series of 3 free concerts during summer of 2014. Concerts will be held on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on July

10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Fountain Park, which were off-weeks for Music in the Park. People's Bank asked permission to use the Town stage and the Park. The Mainstay would secure the bands, sound equipment, and a person to work the equipment. **Ms. Kuiper moved to approve the People's Bank have a summer music series on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as requested, was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Cerino stated that at the C-2 Business Forum, an item that had unanimous support from the businesses downtown and was mentioned prominently in the Revitalization Task Force Report was a need for directional signage downtown. He said that Mr. de Mooy made inquiries to a local designer and was putting together a small working group to see where the signs should be installed. Signs would also be designed with a uniform look.

Mayor Cerino stated that a solar array for the municipal facilities was a subject reviewed by the previous Council, but never implemented. Mayor Cerino stated that he would like to look into a solar array again as it was a renewable energy source and if one could be built at the sewage treatment facility, there could be a PPA and the rate of electricity would be known for several years. He said that there were tax incentives for the entities building PPA systems and the price has gone down quite a bit since the Council reviewed the RFPs.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she wanted to know the savings over the last 2 years for power on the Town Hall building and what municipal facilities would be provided solar power. She said that she would also like to speak with Kent County and Rock Hall to see how they handled the issues that have come up with their solar installations.

Mr. Shoge asked if solar was the only option, or if the Town could explore a wind turbine. Mr. Ingersoll stated that Mr. Sipes was a fan of wind and the Tow had agreed to be part of a State of Maryland energy wind test of the site.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he would bring the specifications of the RFP up to date and bring it before the Council.

Mayor Cerino stated that there was a public hearing about the proposed baseball field at the Kent County Middle School. He said that there were residents of the area in attendance who expressed concerns and said that the Board of Education wanted to slow the process. He said that he met with Dr. Karen Couch, Ms. Janice Steffy and Ms. Lisa Orem at the Middle School and asked them what recreational amenities they would want included on the campus. He said that tennis courts, basketball courts, paving the track and workout stations were all discussed. Mayor Cerino stated that the idea of the Town and the County going together on a Parks and Playground Grant Application was now a possibility and it would benefit every middle school child in the County. Mayor Cerino stated that in mid-June he was hoping to meet with the school again, along with Mr. Arrowood to discuss the options.

Mayor Cerino stated that he would like to schedule the C-3 Neighborhood Commercial District business forum. The Council decided to set the meeting for Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

Mayor Cerino stated that there would be a meeting with Peter Franchot, Comptroller on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Cerino stated that the Marina Charrette would take place on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the big shed at the marina. He said that there would be a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the existing conditions at the marina as it relates to water depth, the status of the piers, condition of the bulkhead, and where the facility floods. Groups would then be made for different areas such as the docks, bulkheads, boat ramp, parking, etc. The Town's engineer would be present to observe and recommend.

Mayor Cerino asked for Ward reports.

Mr. Stetson stated that he took part in the Rails-to-Trails clean-up and said that there was not nearly as much trash along the trail as there was last year.

Mr. Stetson stated that he would like the Council's permission to install a portable bathroom at the Margo Bailey Community Park. He said that the Friends of the Dog Park arranged to pay for the first 3 months of service.

Mr. Shoge stated that at the crossing of the Rail-Trail on High Street, the signal light was still in place. He suggested that it was a good spot to promote events in Town. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he thought it was a great idea as they were no longer allowed to hang banners on electric poles. He said he would contact the Maryland Transit Authority about whether the Town was allowed to put banners there.

Mr. Shoge asked if the concrete divider at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Morgnec Road could be spruced up. Mr. Ingersoll stated that it might be helpful to have Mayor Cerino and the new district engineer for the State Highway Administration meet to discuss beautifying the area.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she and Mr. Stetson attended the Arbor Day celebration at Garnett Elementary and received Chestertown's Tree City Award (33<sup>rd</sup> year in a row).

Ms. Kuiper stated she had a plan to resolve the problems the non-profits are having at the Fountain Park. The plan was to designate specific spots after determining whether non-profits were using a tent or table.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she did not remember the Town approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the County regarding the proposed baseball field. Mayor Cerino stated that the Town approved the MOU with the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Gene Davis, president of Washington College Veteran's Association, was present and stated that it was time to recognize those who fought and died in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said that he would like to propose a war memorial along with the other memorials in Memorial Park, listing the names of soldiers from the area. He said that he would work with the Town to raise funds and contact the local VFWs and American Legions for donations, as well as asking local businesses to donate.

Mr. Stetson stated that Congress usually gives start and end dates for war. Mr. Davis stated that he thought President Obama declared the war over in 2011, even though there were still troops in Afghanistan.

Mr. Davis stated that he would not be back until the fall semester began to go over details, but wanted to see if he should forge ahead on the project. He said that there were 2 fallen soldiers from Kent County, Nick Spry and Jarrett Thompson, and said that those men should be honored.

Mayor Cerino stated that he thought this was a good concept and Mr. Ingersoll stated that he would be happy to work with Mr. Davis on a spot in Memorial Park.

Ms. Hope Clark on behalf of the Diversity Dialogue Group was present to discuss a community garden proposed on the town-owned land on Lynchburg Street between Prospect and Calvert Streets. She said that the first step would be to have a community meeting to make sure that the neighborhood wanted the garden, after permission from the Council. She said that they planned to get tools, seeds and water for the garden. Ms. Clark stated that they also wanted a picnic table and a barbeque at the garden.

Ms. Clark stated that she would like for the garden to always be open but there would be a schedule posted of when work would be done at the garden and a list of volunteers who would help.

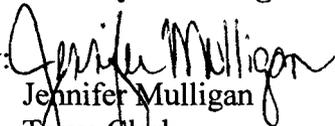
Mr. Ingersoll stated that this site was designed for housing for low to moderate income families, but nothing has happened in a long time. He said there may, in fact, be water lines there that were run for the proposed houses that could be used for the garden.

Mayor Cerino suggested that Ms. Clark plan the community meeting and when there was a schematic prepared for the site, he would like them to come back to the Council.

Mr. Shoge asked who would ultimately be responsible for the management of the garden. Ms. Clark said the Diversity Dialogue Group would be responsible for the garden, along with the community in the surrounding area of Bethel Church. Mr. Shoge stated that the Student Environmental Alliance maintained a sizeable garden on campus at Washington College and said that it would be nice to bring them in as a potential stakeholder.

Mr. Erney Maher of Heron Point stated that he was stunned reading the report in the newspaper about the complaints as to why there should not be baseball at the Middle School. He said that children need to be outside and the land should be utilized.

There being no further business, **Mr. Stetson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Shoge and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:   
Jennifer Mulligan  
Town Clerk

Approved by:  
Chris Cerino  
Mayor

**AGENDA**  
**MAY 5, 2014**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Minutes of Mayor and Council Budget Workshop of April 10, 2014, C-2 Public Forum of April 14, 2014 and Mayor and Council meeting of April 21, 2014
2. Payment of bills
3. Discuss Fountain Park Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations
4. Town Manager's Report
  - a. Ethics Commission presentation on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon
  - b. Budget Schedule
  - c. Police Station Study Committee progress
  - d. The "Peoples" Summer Concert Series
5. Mayor Cerino's Report
  - a. Directional signage
  - b. Solar array for municipal facilities
  - c. Baseball field at KCMS and future plans
  - d. Set meeting for C-3 Neighborhood Commercial Public Forum
  - e. Comptroller Peter Franchot's visit on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
  - f. May 28, 2014 Marina Charrette
6. Ward Reports
7. Requests from the public to be on the agenda:
  - a. Washington College Student Veteran's concerning monument for Kent County's fallen soldiers from War on Terror
  - b. Diversity Dialogue Group – Community Garden on Lynchburg
8. Questions or comments