

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JULY 1, 2013

Mayor Margo G. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members James R. Gatto, Linda Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 17, 2013. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council meeting of June 17, 2013 as presented, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey asked for a motion to pay bills. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve payment of the bills as presented, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Council was in receipt of a request for the Town to be a conduit issuer on the bond issue for Washington College. He said that there would be an advertised public Town hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15th.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town also had a bond request from Heron Point. He said that he would like the Town's bond council to explain this request as to whether it was the same type of request from the College. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Heron Point request sought to refinance their debt and improve their campus. He thought the Council might want to know more about their campus improvement plans and could have a representative come to the meeting on July 15th.

Mr. Gatto stated that the Council should discuss a fee for this type of activity in the future so that anyone coming before the Council could figure that fee into their financing. He said that the fee could be used as a funding source for parks, recreation, or capital improvements.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he wanted to discuss the process for reviewing the proposed Sign Ordinance amendments. Mayor Bailey asked Mr. de Mooy to explain the changes recommended to the Ordinance.

Mr. de Mooy stated that the Sign Ordinance was being changed in response to two (2) issues that the Garfield Center raised with the Historic District Commission and the Planning Commission. The marquee signage was changed to permit sign(s) on a marquee if there is historical evidence that the signage had historically existed. The other issue was if LED signs would be permitted. He said that internally lit signs are not permitted, and that included LED signs, projection equipment, television, or any other illuminated technology.

Mr. Stetson asked if the marquee was considered one (1) sign or three (3) signs. Mr. Ingersoll stated that it was three (3) signs on one (1) marquee. Mr. de Mooy stated that historic photos of the Garfield Theatre showed three (3) signs on the original marquee.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that a different form of lighting was allowed under the marquee than the original incandescent as it was considered more energy efficient. That was something that the Historic District could approve and did.

Mr. Stetson stated that he had great faith in the Planning Commission and thought their recommendations should be followed.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Council should discuss the process of the Ordinance amendment as there were people who would want to appear and a public hearing had to be scheduled since it involved zoning. Mr. Ingersoll asked if he should prepare an Ordinance for introduction at the next meeting. At that meeting a public hearing should be scheduled, if introduction was achieved.

Mr. Gatto stated that he wanted the Planning Commission to review LED signs in all areas of the Town to see if they should be included at all. He said that the Commission had only reviewed LED signs for the C-2 district at this point. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Planning Commission might also decide on whether signs could be changeable or change letters.

Ms. Drons asked that the Council consider signage revisions for other businesses in the downtown, such as allowing for more than one (1) sign.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he had a Resolution from the Chester River Health Foundation to support and approve their Community Investment Tax Credit Application. Mr. Ingersoll stated that this was the fourth year these tax credits had been requested and allowed \$50,000.00 in community tax credits. **Mr. Gatto moved to approve the Resolution to Approve and Support the Chester River Health Foundation's Community Investment Tax Credit application, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the National MS Walk was scheduled for August 31st beginning at 8 a.m. The Council agreed to the request.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a permit request for Crazy Days from July 25th through July 27th. Free parking was requested for Thursday and Friday July 25th and 26th. The Council agreed to the request.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Gospel Church of God was planning a clean-up on Wednesday, July 3rd on Calvert Street. The Town would provide bags and gloves.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the 4th of July fireworks were scheduled and would be shot from the College property near the Armory. Ms. Kuiper asked what would happen if it rained.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town would wait at the site for the rain to stop and the fireworks would be shot at that time.

Mayor Bailey asked for a motion to appoint Ms. Alexa Silver Cawley to the Historic District Commission. Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to appoint **Ms. Alexa Silver Cawley to the Historic District Commission, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey asked for a motion to appoint Mr. David Bowering to the Planning Commission. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to appoint Mr. David Bowering to the Planning Commission, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Samuel Shoge to the Planning Commission. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve Mr. Samuel Shoge to the Planning Commission, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that the Council attended the MML Conference last week. The Council gave an overview of what they did while at the MML Conference. Mayor Bailey was inducted into the Hall of Fame, recognizing her 20-years of service.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to ask Mr. Kristen McMenamin, Emergency Management, to come to a meeting sometime in August or September to discuss what to do in an emergency.

Ms. Kuiper talked about the importance of an effective website, including being able to pay bills online. Mr. Gatto agreed, stating the people should be able to quickly find what they were looking for online.

Mayor Bailey stated that she received an email from Michael Wooten indicating that the website was due for an upgrade, which was a part of his contract. She said that this was the perfect time to discuss the issues with the website and changes that could be made.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she had the name of a company for a website and would like to get some bids.

Mr. Ingersoll suggested adding the different Town permits as PDFs so that they can be found online.

Mr. Ingersoll introduced Mr. John McIntosh, a resident of Kent County and student at Wesleyan University, who was interning for the Town during the summer.

Mayor Bailey stated that there were some new grants coming out that for the Town that may help with sustainable issues, such as the solar field.

Mayor Bailey stated that Tacoma Park started a compost pilot program. She said that the Green Team would soon be presenting a report on going to once a week garbage pick-up and brush pick-up.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the State Highway Administration will not allow a Farmer's Market sign under the Welcome to Chestertown signs. Ms. Kuiper stated that the cost for each standardized SHA sign was \$250.00.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she asked about bike racks for the Farmer's Market. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he could install a bike rack by the Hospital Auxiliary building or put the circular bike racks on the parking meters.

Ms. Kuiper stated that something had to be done to slow down traffic at the Episcopal Church and the Fountain Park on Cross Street. Mrs. Mumford-Pautz suggested the pedestrian crossing signs used at Spring Street be put at the crosswalk. Mr. Ingersoll stated that someone from the Farmer's Market would have to put them out and take them up. Chief Baker stated that he thought the signs would be a good idea.

Ms. Kuiper stated that the handicap parking area at the Hospital Auxiliary was not installed to date.

Ms. Kuiper asked if the Wi-Fi in the park was upgraded. Mr. Ingersoll stated that it was funded and he thought it had been completed.

Ms. Kuiper asked about the mosquitos. Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a State program that sprayed for mosquitos throughout Town. He said that he would call them and see when they were spraying.

Mr. Stetson moved that Town tax-paying residents be permitted to launch from the Chestertown Marina free of charge for as long as the Town owns the marina. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.

Mr. Stetson stated that residents wishing to participate in launching their boats should go to Town Hall with a tax bill and their boat information.

Mr. Stetson stated that the Street Crew was doing a nice job taking care of the dog park.

Mr. Gatto stated that he would like to invite the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to see the Marina. He said that he drafted a letter asking him to come with his staff for the possibility of enhancing our opportunities for grants and to assist in the permitting and financing process. Mrs. Mumford-Pautz asked if this would interfere with the Waterfront Committee. Mayor Bailey stated that she could ask Mr. John Seidel to assist in a boat ride showing the area.

Mr. Gatto stated that he did not want the Waterfront Committee to make commitments for the Town. Mr. Gatto read a prepared statement into the record as follows, "Recently

the Council, at my behest, passed a resolution creating a formalized program dealing with the various task forces and committees assisting this Council at its work efforts. One of the principle tenets was a clearly defined, open meeting and reporting system, not only to the Council, but to the citizens of Chestertown. The Waterfront Committee was created before this resolution was adopted and may not fall under the scrutiny of this resolution. The Waterfront Study Committee is acting as a surrogate planning consultant and as such, has not been required to hold open meetings under the same procedure a private consultant would not have public meeting. That said, there needs to be some definitive actions taken surrounding such actions. In other words, the resolution may have to be modified so that it included closed meetings for allowing it to happen. Wording added to the original resolution providing for the legitimacy of such actions, while strictly limiting the future use of private debating committees. Language should be similar to the Sunshine Law but would suggest more stringent and a vote requiring such private consultants to possibly have a super majority. A vote taken by the Council authorizes the existence of the Waterfront Committee under (inaudible) directives that report to the Mayor and Council the current status of the planning effort. All that said, I have some significant concerns about the language used in both the Kent County News and their letter addressed to the College and the Mayor and Council. It may have been a poor selection of words or something I take far more serious. The Committee was quoted as looking for financing, that means funding, the word sources, as in financing or funding sources inadvertently left out”.

Mr. Gatto stated that there may be times the Town wants to recognize that a committee will have a different status. He said he would like an addendum to the Resolution. Mr. Gatto added that it was one thing to look for sources of financing and another to seek financing.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to make the Green Team an official committee.

Mr. Gatto stated that when requests for grants came in, he would like to see a 3 to 5-day window before a vote was taken on it.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that all grant applications to DNR for dredging and dock repair were being resubmitted and asked that the Mayor be authorized to sign those documents.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to authorize the Mayor to sign grant documents to DNR for dredging and dock repair, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor