

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2013

Acting Mayor James R. Gatto called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Council members Linda C. Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Acting Mayor Gatto asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2013. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve the minutes as corrected, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Gatto asked for a motion to pay bills. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to pay the bills as submitted, was seconded by Mr. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Gatto stated that the Annual Police Report would be discussed at the next meeting when Mayor Bailey returns. He asked the Town Manager for his report.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he spoke to John Beskid at the Kent County Health Department regarding the proposed Town Ordinance relating to designer drugs (bath salts). Mr. Beskid said that he would send relevant information to the Town. Mr. Stetson stated that he read there was currently a bill in at the State level.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he spoke to the owner at Evergrain concerning his request for outdoor dining and said that the Council had no issues, other than an adequate walking space for pedestrians. He said that they would return at a later meeting to discuss it.

Mr. Ingersoll reviewed Infinity's Curbside Recycling Report for 2012. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town recycles other things like brush, organic materials, concrete and bulk metals but they were not part of the curbside program listed on the report. Ms. Kuiper asked for a clarification of the different areas in Town from Infinity.

Mr. Stetson asked when the budget hearings were going to start. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he had a preliminary schedule in hand but meetings could begin anytime. He said that the first scheduled workshop was May 13th, with an introduction of the budget on May 20th. Budget hearings would be held on June 3rd and the Ordinance would go into effect June 23rd. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the earliest the Council should begin the budget with reasonable figures would be at the end of March (after the third quarter figures were all in). He said that the Council could submit their initiatives to him at any time.

Mr. Gatto stated that he would like to have a preliminary Utilities Commission budget workshop meeting on March 18th after the Utilities Commission. The Council agreed and would limit the numbers of items on the Mayor and Council meeting that would be held afterward on the 18th.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there has been an excellent response to the photovoltaic bid that went up on E-Maryland Marketplace. The bids would be opened on April 19th.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that the parking area across from the police department has been closed with the curb, gutter and sidewalk installation by the Rail-Trail and asked where parking was available. Chief Baker stated that the officers have been parking at the property next door and the loss of the parking was not a real problem.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz thanked the volunteers for the Women Helping Women fundraiser, and also the Chester River Chorale.

Mr. Stetson stated that Mr. Ingersoll received the President's Medal at Washington College's Convocation on Friday, February 22nd. He congratulated him on the honor.

Mr. Stetson stated that a former fourth ward councilman, Jake Downey, passed away last week.

Mr. Stetson stated that when the State came through with funding for roadwork, the Town should begin fixing the roads in Ward Four.

Ms. Kuiper stated that Kent County High School held a spaghetti dinner and their play "Hairspray" on Saturday night and said it was a good show.

Ms. Kuiper stated that the job fair in Rock Hall was very well attended. There were representatives from Chesapeake College for the GED program and also college courses that they would be hosting.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she met Ms. Yvette Armbruster from My Best Friend's Couture Cakes and Cupcakes, who had a business located on Cannon Street that did not show a street number. Mr. Ingersoll said that all properties in Town had street numbers.

Ms. Kuiper stated that she attended First Friday and said that the lighting at High and Cross Street was not good. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he would see if there was a street light out at that location.

Ms. Kuiper stated that there was an annual report of the DCA sent out via email indicating that there were six (6) new businesses opened downtown. Ms. McGuire stated that there were two (2) additional businesses opening soon. Ms. Kuiper asked that residents shop locally, both downtown and in the Kent Plaza and Washington Square.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the street department would be removing the benches from the Fountain Park to sand, prime and be painted by five (5) local schools in the "Bench Marks Project". Mr. Ingersoll stated that the benches would return sometime in April.

Acting Mayor Gatto stated that Mr. Dick Goodall made a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast summarizing work planned on the school system and how to get Kent County Schools ranked in the top five (5) schools in Maryland. He said that the presentation was well done and indicated a need to address problems if the area was

going to be sustainable and able to grow. He said that he hoped the Town would support the groups that were formed as a result of the study.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz asked if there was a report on the status of the Armory. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town was now the owner of the Armory. He said that the Army would like to have a ceremony with the Town signifying the change in ownership. He recommended having a ceremony with the Army and the College on the fast approaching date when the College became the owner.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he had a concerned tax paying parent call last week telling him that his child was turned away from Pre-K because there was not enough room. Mr. Ingersoll stated that this should not happen and having Pre-K for all children of that age should be the standard in Kent County.

There being no further business, **Mr. Stetson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor