

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MAY 6, 2013

Mayor Margo G. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council members Linda Kuiper, Mabel Mumford-Pautz and Mauritz Stetson, 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 April 15, 2013. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council meeting of April 15, 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. Stetson and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey called forward Master Jordan Rose to read his winning essay for the "Letters About Literature" contest through the State of Maryland. Mr. Rose stated that he wrote his letter to Dr. Ben Carson, as he inspired him through his book Gifted Hands. Mr. Rose read his essay to the Mayor and Council.

Ms. Gail Owings, Acting Director, was present on behalf of Eastern Shore Heritage Inc., the managing entity of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. She said that the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Areas was one of the twelve (12) heritage areas in the State of Maryland covering Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline Counties. Ms. Owings stated that the program helps to promote the economy through heritage tourism and development. Over \$1,650,000 has come to the region due to the Heritage Area. The mission was to foster economic development and protect the resources rich to the areas. Ms. Owings stated that Chestertown has benefited from over \$350,000 in grants to the Garfield Center, GAR building and the Historical Society. The website was info@storiesofthechesapeake.org.

Mr. Mark Mumford was present and asked the Council to judge the Tea Party Parade on Saturday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. He said that he would like everyone to meet at the judging stand by Stam Hall.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to honor Mrs. Mumford-Pautz's thirty-two (32) years of service to Chestertown by creating an annual service award called the "Mabel Mumford Annual Community Service Award". She said a plaque would be installed in the lobby. Mr. Stetson stated that Mabel Mumford should be the first recipient of the Mabel Mumford Award. Mrs. Mumford-Pautz thanked Mayor Bailey for the honor.

Mr. Ernie Maher of Heron Point was present and stated that on Wednesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Alan Stone of Johns Hopkins University would be giving a seminar on sunscreens, smoke signals and other surprising chemicals in the environment and invited the public to attend.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that House Bill 978 – Winery/Farmer’s Market was passed by the Maryland Legislature and it allows wineries to participate in certified Farmer’s Markets with a single permit for off-site sales. He said that he recommended that in amending the market regulations that the same process of weighting local versus non-local and space available be applied as it is now.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Council received copies of the budget schedule. He said that there would be a budget workshop on Friday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m. and the budget would be introduced as an Ordinance on Monday, May 20th. There would be a public hearing on June 3rd.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that there was a bid opening for the Solar Array planned for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Ingersoll stated that there were two (2) options called out in the bid; a build out of a solar plant and a PPA (Planned Purchase Agreement). He said that some of the bids did not include the second option. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the lowest bid for building the plant was from Baker Renewable in Raleigh, North Carolina at \$2,409,540.00. There were a total of eleven (11) bids received. The high bid was \$3,464,102.00 from Standard Solar. He said that the bids were being analyzed and compared.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he had a Resolution for the DHCD Community Block Grant which he hoped would be passed at the meeting of May 20th. He said that a public hearing was necessary before the grant application was submitted. The public hearing was scheduled for Monday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. The application was due by May 31st.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that a copy of Article X of the Zoning Ordinance – Sign Regulations was presented to the Council with changes recommended by the Planning Commission. He said that this would be addressed at a future meeting. He said that a public hearing would be required for any changes as they were changes to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the hand-over ceremony for the Armory was scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Bailey stated that the COG meeting was scheduled for May 15th at noon at the Imperial Hotel.

Mayor Bailey stated that she would like to nominate the following people to the Recreation Commission: Sally Harding, Tim O’Brien, Caren Saunders, Nivek Johnson, Brandt Troup and Jen Hicks. Mayor Bailey stated that appointments would be made at the May 20th meeting.

Mayor Bailey stated that she stated that the Recreation Commission was discussing the possibility of hosting family movie nights on Friday or Saturday evenings. She said that the Commission wanted to focus on family-friendly events. The movies and a banner

cost \$1,150.00. **Ms. Kuiper moved for \$1,150.00 to the program to come out of the recreation portion of the budget, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that the Middle Chester Field Day would be held at Washington College on Thursday, May 23rd from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Issues of storm water runoff, non-source pollution, wetland and marsh restoration, and best management practices would be addressed.

Mayor Bailey stated that the unveiling of the benches in the Fountain Park was a huge success and great model of community service. Ms. McGuire stated that plaques were framed and given to each art teacher. She said that the Town Crew was a big help and came to the unveiling. Ms. Kuiper stated that she had such a nice time and she was happy that they were a part of her ward.

Mr. Stetson stated that he and other Council members attended the Arbor Day Ceremony and Chestertown had its 35th year as Tree City USA.

Mr. Stetson stated that the Kent County Community Marching Band had its annual cocktail party on Saturday, May 4th and it was a nice event. Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that the food for the event was donated and music was provided by the band members. She said that it was a nice event and the money from it bought the uniforms and everything else that the band needed.

Mr. Stetson stated that the Dog Park was open, although not finished. He said that it was a nice park, but was in need of dog waste dispensers and water immediately. He said that although this is a public park, he did not think the tax payers should carry the entire burden of the costs. There was a non-profit formed called "Friends of the Chestertown Dog Park" to support the park and would contribute toward items that were needed such as benches and trees. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved for the Town to purchase two (2) dog dispensers, two (2) benches, two (2) trash cans and water to the park, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that she thought a couple businesses have too many tables and chairs outside in the downtown. She asked if the businesses could line the tables closest to the buildings and leave enough room for the public to pass through. She also stated that there was a new business in Town with too many signs and a sandwich board.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz stated that she attended a board meeting in Annapolis and said that there would be additional information required to become a Banner City as of next year.

Ms. Kuiper stated that her contract with Washington Gas and Energy terminated at the end of May and the price per kilowatt hour went up \$.01 to \$.0899. Mr. Ingersoll stated that indicated that the \$.069 that the Town had was a good rate.

Ms. Kuiper asked if a cleaner could be used at the foot of High Street to clean up after the birds. Ms. Kuiper stated that she learned Annapolis cleans their troubled area twice a week.

Ms. Kuiper stated that the Wi-Fi was working Saturday morning in the park. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he had a proposal for \$1,100.00 to improve the Wi-Fi with additional broadband width. He said that the Sailor Network should know that this was a viable, outdoor public service and well used. **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to approve \$1,100.00 for additional bandwidth to the Wi-Fi at the Fountain Park, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Kuiper stated that Hegland Glass won the 2013 Niche Award for fused glass and one of their pieces was chosen for an award at the Ballet Hispanico in New York City.

Ms. Kuiper stated that there was a “pop-up” store which opened at 335 High Street run by nine (9) Washington College graduates with eight (8) businesses in the store selling a variety of items.

Ms. Nancy McGuire of the Downtown Chestertown Association stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Ingersoll and the Town Crew for their help with the bench project.

Ms. McGuire stated that there was a conversation earlier about stores closing downtown and she said that nine (9) new stores have opened downtown. She said that this past Friday’s “First Friday” was a huge success.

Ms. McGuire stated that the “Taste of the Town” was a well-attended event and enjoyed by all. She said that “Plein Air” was also a nice touch to the weekend.

Ms. McGuire stated that she and Ms. Bernadette Bowman put together a dialogue with College students and business owners, along with Mr. Casey Willson at the Lemon Leaf. The students presented their findings regarding the downtown businesses at the Washington College Science Center last week. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the College students have great ideas on ways that would attract students to the downtown. Ms. McGuire stated that she would like to add a student representative to the Downtown Chestertown Association.

Ms. Deborah Lane was present and stated that the American Cruise Line would return to Chestertown beginning this Wednesday, May 8th. The cruise line would return Monday, May 13th and Wednesday, May 22nd. The Council was given a copy of the itinerary.

Mr. Michael Hanscom, proprietor of the Brampton Inn, said that he viewed the downtown shopping center in a perilous state. Mr. Hanscom said that significant attention had to be paid to tourism as this could be a prime tourist destination.

There being no further business, **Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m., was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by 
Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:
Margo G. Bailey
Mayor