

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013**

Acting Mayor Mabel Mumford-Pautz called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. In attendance were Council members James R. Gatto, Linda C. Kuiper and Mauritz Stetson, W. S. Ingersoll, Town Manager, Jennifer Mulligan, Stenographer, and guests.

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Mayor and Council Meeting of September 3, 2013. **Mr. Stetson moved to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council meetings of September 3, 2013 as presented, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz stated that cash on hand and in banks was \$1,161,740.36.

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

Ms. Barbara Macbeth of the Chestertown Garden Club and Mr. Miles Barnard of South Fork Studio Landscaping presented a concept plan for improvements that they would like to make at Fountain Park. The activities included widening pathways and sidewalks, installing brick and wrought iron fences around three sides of the park, installing benches that included creating a circular brick bench around the fountain, and installing trees.

Mr. Stetson asked the cost of the improvements. Mr. Barnard stated that they do not have cost estimates yet. Mr. Gatto stated that restoring the topsoil lawns and eliminating compaction would be an integral part of the plan. Mr. Barnard agreed.

Mr. Gatto stated that overuse of the park is killing the grass. He said that he thought there should be better management of the Farmer's and Artisan's Market where the grass would not constantly be trampled. He also suggested that the Nearly New building be incorporated into the park. Mr. Gatto stated that he had reservations of a wall being built around the park.

Ms. Kuiper stated that preventing people from walking across the planting beds was necessary. She also thought that increasing the walkways was a good idea. She said that the dirt areas were not utilized at the Farmer's Market but there was still no grass there.

Mr. Barnard stated that more planning was necessary before the project began. He said that restoration on the lawn required long-term management. Mr. Gatto stated that there should be an operational management plan for the park to oversee aeration and seeding, etc.

Ms. Kuiper asked if there was an average income from the House Tour and Pilgrimage that would go towards this project. Ms. Macbeth stated that Pilgrimage was once every three years and the Garden Club specified that park renovation receive the Pilgrimage

funding but she did not know how much that would be. She said that \$3,200.00 has already gone into designing the project and hoped the Town would commit financially to the project for strategic planning.

Mr. Stetson stated that the Council would need actual budget figures to work with. Mr. Ingersoll stated that it looked like a major undertaking and should be addressed at budget time. He also said that the Council should think about the design itself and understand it and commit to it before funding it. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the brick and wrought iron fence walls would block off High Street and a four foot brick fence would wall off the western end.

Ms. Kuiper asked if the plans could hang in the lobby for the public to see. She said that the Garden Club should also come up with a budget and a timeframe.

Mr. Barnard asked if there were any immediate plans for work in the park, focusing on restoration. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the Town was interested in restoration particularly.

Mr. Barnard stated that he thought the Garden Club was looking for a commitment from the Town this evening to help pay for a detailed plan. Ms. Kuiper asked that Mr. Barnard come up with some figures for the planning process. Mr. Gatto stated that there should be lawn and restoration costs as well as costs for Mr. Barnard's services.

Mr. Ingersoll stated that this total project may be eligible for a Community Parks and Playground Grant.

Mr. Ingersoll asked if the Garden Club is 100% in favor of the plan. Ms. Macbeth stated that the members did vote and were in favor of the plan.

Mr. Ken Kozel, President and CEO of Shore Regional Health was present and stated that the Chestertown hospital will now be called University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown. He said that the hospital went through a merger on July 1, 2013 and now encompassed a five (5) county region.

Mr. Kozel stated that after the merger, a new board was developed representing Shore Regional Health and was a compilation of members from Chester River Hospital's Board and Shore Regional Health's Board. There were eight (8) members on the Board and they are responsible for the management of Shore Health. Mr. Kozel stated that over the next twelve (12) months the Board will be meeting monthly.

Mr. Kozel stated that they were in process of finalizing a new management team that will oversee all three (3) hospitals in the system as well as the emergency center in Queenstown. There would also be a strategic planning process that will help align Shore Health's and University of Maryland's vision with the State of Maryland and Federal government on how health care is managed. Mr. Kozel stated that medical staff relationships were also being built, trying to align one medical staff for the entire region. Clinical services would be expanded, especially in Chestertown.

Mr. Kozel stated that the quality of care provided to all citizens in the region was at the highest level.

Mr. Ingersoll asked if the same number of beds would remain at the Chestertown hospital. Mr. Kozel stated that at this point the number of beds would remain the same, but the strategic plan would outline what the future holds for all five (5) counties.

Chief Baker presented the Police report for August 2013. Chief Baker stated that John Dolgos was promoted to Lieutenant on August 31, 2013. There was an opening for a certified police officer, which was advertised, and there were four (4) viable candidates. He said that he would proceed with interviews.

Mr. Stetson asked Chief Baker to better clarify the breakdown of overtime.

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz stated that there was an increase of police vehicles in her ward but would like to see the officers walking.

Mr. Drew McMullen of Sultana Projects, Inc. was present to discuss the proposed building for 200-204 S. Cross Street. He gave an overview of Sultana's efforts over the years and what Sultana was hoping to expand upon in the coming years.

Mr. McMullen stated that their existing facilities were not large enough to accommodate the programs that were offered. He said that the proposed building would house an educational center, wet lab, and kitchen. There would also be a project shop where Sultana's maintenance would occur, noting that this would be an attraction for tourists.

Mr. McMullen stated that Sultana was trying to reach LEED Platinum certification on the proposed building. He said that they would be attending the Historic District Commission meeting on October 2, 2013 for approvals.

Mr. McMullen stated that he was seeking financial assistance from different entities and asked that the Mayor and Council provide letters of support. **Mr. Stetson moved for Mayor Bailey to sign letters of support on behalf of Sultana Projects, Inc. for the proposed building at 200-204 S. Cross Street, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ingersoll stated that the revised Sign Amendment (Ordinance 07-2013) had excised anything having to do with anything other than the marquee sign. He said that if it was adopted, it would become effective on October 6, 2013. Mr. Gatto stated that he would like the Planning Commission to review this to see if this is what they wanted. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the remaining pieces included in this ordinance were the recommendations of the Planning Commission. Mr. Ingersoll stated that he give it to the Planning Commission and would return with it at the next meeting.

Mr. Ingersoll introduced Ordinance 08-2013 Amending Chapter 54: Brush, Weeds and Grass. Added to the language was, "All invasive plants are prohibited and lawns on empty residential lots shall be kept free from plants or weeds or grass growth in excess of 8 inches".

Mr. Ingersoll stated that he sent an email to the Council regarding Secretary Gill's visit to Chestertown to tour the waterfront on Friday, October 11th. He asked that the Council reply in order to plan for the event.

The Council decided to hold the ribbon cutting for the Rolling Road Dog Park on Saturday October 12th at 11:00 a.m.

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz asked for a motion to reappoint Mr. Don Cantor as Chairman to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. **Mr. Stetson moved to reappoint Mr. Don Cantor as Chairman to the Board of Supervisors of Elections, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz asked for a motion to reappoint Mr. Coby Stohrer to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. **Mr. Gatto moved to reappoint Mr. Coby Stohrer to the Board of Supervisors of Elections, was seconded by Ms. Kuiper and carried unanimously.**

Acting Mayor Mumford-Pautz asked for a motion to reappoint Ms. Loretta Lodge to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. **Mr. Stetson moved to reappoint Ms. Loretta Lodge to the Board of Supervisors of Elections, was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Ms. Kuiper stated that the Chestertown Farmer's Market ranked 28th out of 100 registered Farmer's Markets in the Country and number 2 in the State of Maryland.

Ms. Kuiper stated that there were issues of non-profits coming into the Farmer's Market without a permit. She asked that non-profits get the no cost permit from Town Hall before setting up in the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Kuiper thanked Mr. Ingersoll for the new handicap parking space in front of the Nearly New shop.

Mr. Stetson stated that there would be a Dog Park meeting on September 19th.

There being no further business, **Ms. Kuiper moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Gatto and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by:


Jennifer Mulligan
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey
Mayor