

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

APRIL 14, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station at 200 Belt Street on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 with Mayor John C. Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor John C. Dorman; Councilwoman Alison Cook; and Councilman Michael Pruitt.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Trish Greene, Asst. to the Town Manager; Karen Houtman, Town Planner; Bob Donnelly Public Works Director, ; John Holloway, EMS Supervisor; Cindy Byrd, Director of the Julia A. Purnell Museum; and Kirk Daugherty, Chief of Police.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation by Pastor Joe Poe of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to adopt the March 2015 Town Meeting minutes by Councilman Pruitt and was seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was given to approve the March 2015 Financial Report by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilman Pruitt. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Dorman announced that Kelly Brewington was on vacation.

Councilman Pruitt asked how any compost bins had been sold. Trish Greene advised that 5-6 were sold over the past 2-3 weeks. Resident Carolyn Brown asked how citizens were being told they are available for purchase. Mayor Dorman responded that it was advertised in the Town newsletter, as well as the Town website and Facebook page. Mrs. Brown commented that people who do not have these resources do not know about these things.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Bob reported the contractor for the water tower may come tomorrow if things dry from the rain. Councilwoman Cook asked if there still issues with the water and there have not been any reported issues.

Councilman Pruitt advised that on the corner of Ironshire near the high school a drain is blocked off and wondered why. Bob will check on this tomorrow and follow up.

WWTP REPORT

Councilman Pruitt asked about the warranty repairs to the WWTP and the progress being made. Bob advised that the contractor “dropped the ball” and he has asked for help. They are coming tomorrow and Thursday, along with Alex from Harold Robson.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Karen reported that she contacted Lisa Challenger from the Worcester County Tourism office in regards to the inquiry about a walking trail opportunity behind the Train Station (railroad tracks). Lisa advised that they are not currently pursuing a walking trail at this location, as they are focusing on the excursion train.

Karen made a correction to her report, stating that the Planning Commission meeting will be held on April 30th, not April 23rd. They will be meeting with the consultant to discuss flood plain regulations and setbacks.

Councilman Pruitt asked what the reported Code Violation was. Karen could not recall but will email him a response once she checks.

MUSEUM REPORT

Cindy made a correction to her report, advising that there were 76 guests to the Museum, not 65, as reported. She was provided the actual amount today and 65 was an estimated amount.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

No questions or comments.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Daugherty advised that 3 freezer thefts occurred three weeks ago. There was a person of interest but unable to make a successful conclusion. However, since they made contact with that person there have been no reported incidents. He suggested person with outdoor freezers should check them on a daily basis so the police may obtain a better time frame of occurrence.

Chief Daugherty advised that this was his last town meeting prior to his retirement on May 4, 2015 and he thanked the elected officials, the citizens, and various agencies for their assistance during his tenure.

OLD BUSINESS

No questions or comments.

NEW BUSINESS

No questions or comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Dorman contacted Dr. Clara Small to assist with the Cultural Heritage vision for Snow Hill. Dr. Small plans to write a book with her brother that will include many historical paths. Mayor Dorman provided her with Mr. Edward Lee's notes to work with.
2. The Teacher of the Year for 2015 was Cassidy Hamborsky, a teacher at Snow Hill Middle School. Over the past 7 years, there have been 5 teachers from Snow Hill that have been selected out of 14 schools in the County.
3. Artists will be located throughout Town for the Paint Snow Hill event on April 16-19.
4. Snow Hill Brewing Company will be opening next to Food Rite before Memorial Day. They will be providing customs brews for local restaurants and hope to have a Grand Opening in July. Their future plans include a tasting area, brick oven pizza, and providing 36 jobs.
5. "Barks in the Forest" is being held at Furnace Town on April 18, 2015.
6. Huey Brown passed away on March 24th and a celebration of life is being held on April 18th at 4pm at Makemie Presbyterian Church in Snow Hill.
7. Spring Fest is coming up, starting on May 7th and continuing through May 10th.
8. The Worcester County Commissioners will be hosting a budget meeting on May 5th at 5pm at the Snow Hill Middle School. They are proposing a \$0.11 tax increase.
9. The new Chief will be sworn in on May 4, 2015. An Open House will be held at 5pm at Harvest Moon Tavern for retiring Chief Daugherty.

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation honoring the service of Police Chief Kirk Daugherty was read by Trish Greene and presented by Mayor Dorman.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Councilman Pruitt commented that there is difficulty in getting people involved to serve in local politics. He suggested having a healthy discussion regarding changing the voting district boundaries or adding another district that would allow 4 Council seats.

Edward Lee commented that he spoke with Councilman Pruitt on this matter prior to his taking office and feels that it would be inappropriate to discuss this idea now. He stated that there was discussion prior to the 2010 US Census with the former Mayor and that State documents do not support this idea. He added that this will not encourage citizens to vote,

but would rather dilute any semblance of representation from the minority district. He suggested would be good on finding a way to change attitudes and atmospheres.

Councilwoman Cook voiced in favor of Mr. Lee's recommendation. A resident in the audience added that he thinks it is always good to look at this matters and that all viewpoints should be considered, as long as discussion are more temperate than they have been in the past.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Resident Fran Price stated that she read there has been discussion on selling the old Firehouse. Mayor Dorman responded that many different ideas have been discussed, including possibly selling the building. Fran added that if a decision is made to sell, the owners of her building are interested.

Councilman Pruitt commented that he believes government should not own a lot of property.

Fran added that she read a real estate broker from Baltimore was mentioned in the Economic Development report as showing the Firehouse and the former Opera House and she does not understand why a local realtor was not used. Mayor Dorman corrected this, stating that no realtor has been involved with these building and that investors from out of town have looked at purchasing the building.

Mayor Dorman advised that he met with a reporter from The Daily Times who will be running a story about the Opera House building. He added that he has been speaking with the County about getting the Purnell building but want it given to us with no strings attached. Carolyn Brown asked when a vote was taken to purchase the building. Mayor Dorman advised that he building would not be purchased; it would simply be a deed transfer of ownership.

2. Carolyn Brown advised that there are many potholes in town that need to be fixed, especially a large on Coulbourne Lane. Bob advised that the potholes had been fixed there last week but would check the area tomorrow.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Creasy thanked Chief Daugherty and the Snow Hill Police officers for checking their property while they were away.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, Mayor Dorman adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted: Trish Greene, Asst. to Town Manager