

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

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, February 9, 2016 with Councilman Michael Pruitt presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Councilman Michael Pruitt; Councilwoman Alison Cook; and Councilwoman Jenny Hall

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager; Karen Houtman, Town Planner; Randy Barfield, Public Works Director; John Holloway, EMS Captain; Michael Day, Economic Development Coordinator; Cynthia Byrd, Executive Director, Julia Purnell Museum; and James Pilchard, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for January 2016 by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was given to approve the January 2016 Financial Report by Councilwoman Cook and was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

No questions/comments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Day reported that 102 W. Green Street has been sold and being worked on; The Emporium building has been rented and tenant has moved in; and he will be at the Boat Show booth the rest of the week.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No questions/comments.

2. Ordinance No. 2016-01

Vacant Building Regulations

This Ordinance adds a new Chapter to the Town Code, establishing regulations for vacant residential and commercial properties. It will require annual registration and maintenance; inspections; paying of fees; violations and penalties.

A motion to table this Ordinance until the Vacant Building Committee returns with recommendations was given by Councilwoman Hall and seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was passed. The vote was: 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

3. Ordinance No. 2016-03

Comcast Franchise Agreement

This Ordinance grants unto Comcast of Delmarva, LLC a franchise for the installation, maintenance, and operation of cable communication facilities with the corporate limits of Snow Hill, as presently constituted and as subsequently enlarged, prescribing certain conditions and fixing the duration of such franchise.

The Ordinance was read for introduction and will be presented for adoption at the next town meeting.

4. Carter Electric proposal

Mrs. Pruitt presented a proposal from Carter Electric for electric access for streetlights on N. Washington Street. The cost to run the lines under the roadway is \$11,000. Approval is needed to spend an additional \$7000 to run new electric lines to Kathy Gordon's building.

A motion to approve \$7000 to be spent on this project was given by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

5. Committee Reappointments

Michael Labesky is willing to serve another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals Committee. A motion to reappoint Mr. Labesky was given by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

Michael Farlow is willing to serve another term on the Historic District Commission. A motion to reappoint Mr. Farlow was given by Councilwoman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried. The vote was: 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS No questions/comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR Mayor Dorman was absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL No comments/questions

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Fran Price stated that she saw on WBOC news that the Town of Cambridge was handling their vacant building issues through SB248.
2. Fran Price commented on the parking spaces in the municipal lot behind Town Hall. She stated that there are 14 spaces and 10 have been assigned to the Town staff and Police Department, leaving 4 for general use. She stated that people have been complaining of the lack of parking spaces and also feels that a handicap space should be installed in one of the last 4 spaces. She advised that her husband is handicapped and could utilize a space. She reported that there are 2 handicap spaces on Market Street that workers occupy and do not have handicap tags. Councilman Pruitt stated that Mayor Dorman will be addressing the parking issues.
3. Carolyn Brown thanked the town for recognizing Agnes Hall's 100th birthday.
4. Fred Schultz asked for clarification on what Comcast wants from the agreement, whether it is a building or rights for cable. Mrs. Pruitt advised it was rights to cable and this would be a renewal for 10 years.

Fran Price asked if this would allow WiFi downtown. Mrs. Pruitt advised that this equipment would not provide that.

Todd Crosby referenced page 5 of the agreement, Section 3.26 & 3.27 and asked if consideration could be had for requiring lines to be buried.

5. Fred Schultz asked if the Vacant Building Ordinance was open for discussion. Councilman Pruitt advised that no discussion was going to be had at this time but he was free to make a comment. Mr. Shultz stated that he feels requiring a Knox Box in one section and requiring houses to be boarded up in another in contradictory. He added that it took a lot for him to get renters and he has invested a lot in his buildings.

Michael Day advised that the committee will meet soon to review the document.

Gary Weber suggested that in tandem with the committee to have another committee to look at the reality of whether it makes sense to open a business in town. Mr. Day responded that there is currently an outdoor recreation committee that works with the Tourism Department that will unfold in the next few months. Mr. Weber stated that events do not help restaurants due to vendors, nor do they help the shops. He added that we need to get serious about increasing the population.

6. Mike Karnis reported that truck traffic on Bay Street in regards to speeding is a problem. He stated that he can hear Jake-braking from Market Street to the feed mill. The speed issue is Tyson trucks as well as independent companies and also includes health department workers. He has spoken with the Mayor, the Police Chief and State Highway workers. There are children in the area of Bay and Walnut that could be at risk.

Kelly Pruitt stated that she will speak with Tyson or the Chief can and SHPD will run radar and start ticketing. Chief Pilchard stated that they have monitored the area and have not had any reportable issues. Councilwoman Cook asked if they could perform radar on rotation.

