

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND

Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 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; Councilwoman Jenny Hall; and Councilman Michael Pruitt.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Bob Donnelly Public Works Director; Karen Houtman, Town Planner; John Holloway, EMS Supervisor; Cindy Byrd, Director of the Julia A. Purnell Museum; and James Pilchard, Chief of Police.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation by Pastor Dale Jacobs, Snow Hill Christian Church.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Dorman swore Michael Pruitt (Western) and Jenny Hall (Central) into office for their Council districts. They will serve two more years until their next election.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the May 2015 town meeting were mistakenly omitted from the packet. They will be included in next month's packet for adoption.

A motion was given to approve the work session minutes for May 26, 2015 and June 2, 2015 by Councilwoman Cook and was seconded by Councilman Pruitt. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Councilman Pruitt asked about water and sewer billing that is over 90 days past due. Kelly Pruitt explained that most of these are due to foreclosed properties.

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

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

No questions or comments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Bob reported that he spoke with Cecil and we have been requested to submit quotes for approval for \$80,000 USDA funds.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Karen reported that the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on June 10th, not the 11th as reported. There will be two meetings held in July to discuss zoning maps.

Councilman Pruitt asked if the standard building height was 25 feet. Karen advised that it is and any variations could be presented to the Board of Appeals.

Karen discussed lot of records status, advising that lot yard modifications can be done.

Karen read into record Ordinance No. 2015-03 Floodplain. She advised that a public hearing will be held on July 14, 2015 at 7pm and the final draft will be different than the one she had provided due to changes at the regional office that she needs to incorporate. An emergency Ordinance will be presented at the July town meeting to ensure no lapse in legislation for property owners.

Councilman Pruitt questioned some areas of the draft addressing impact of properties near to the area and environmental compatibility. Mrs. Houtman stated this was standard language for all jurisdictions.

MUSEUM REPORT

Cindy reported that a Minutemen exhibition will be at the Museum in February 2016. The re-enactment will take place with them camping in the Museum just as they did in 1776. There will be media coverage for the entire event.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

June 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015, on Fri, Sat, and Sun, 7am-7pm, there will be an additional provider to respond to calls.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Pilchard reported he spoke with The Wilson's regarding noise violation complaint and advised them of the Code. He has briefed his officers on the issue to be aware.

Chief Pilchard advised that there had been no burglaries since May and that was an attempted burglary at the food pantry.

Traffic stops are being increased due to the opiate issues.

Chief Pilchard spoke with Charles Reeder regarding a complaint regarding speeding on Powell Street. He will look at increased volume in the area but there are no speed limit signs posted. Councilman Pruitt inquired about temporary speed limit signs. Councilwoman Cook suggested future discussion regarding installing speed bumps on problematic roads. Bob Donnelly commented that speed bumps could potentially hinder slow plows, street sweeper or road maintenance.

Carolyn Brown advised that when you are exiting Coulbourne Lane onto Church Street you cannot see due to vehicles parking on both sides of the road in front of the school. Chief Pilchard believes the parking lot is due to open again in November and that will alleviate the problems with vehicles.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 2015-02 Budget FY2015-2016

This Ordinance is to adopt the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Mayor Dorman advised that there would be no real property tax increase, staying the same at \$0.86 per \$100 and corporate property will remain \$1.82. Town employees received a 1.5% cost of living raise. Kelly Pruitt read the Ordinance into record.

A motion was given by Councilman Pruitt to adopt the Ordinance and seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 2015-03 Floodplain

See notes under "Planning and Zoning Report" – first reading by Karen Houtman, Town Planner.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. The County taxes were increased for this coming budget year. Tax rate is currently \$0.77 and will increase to \$0.835 per \$100 assessed value. The piggy back is currently \$1.25 and will increase to \$1.75 in January 2016.
2. Food pantry will be open this Friday, June 12, 2015.
3. A work session was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the turnout was very good. It was held at 6pm and people commented this time worked better for them. Discussion is being had regarding holding some work sessions at 6pm instead of 4:30pm.
4. July 3, 2015 is the Independence Day celebration in Town, along with First Friday.
5. The Canoe Joust is scheduled for July 11th at Sturgis Park.
6. The OC Air Show is being held this coming weekend in Ocean City.

