

## Town Council Meeting 10/01/2020

**In attendance:** Angel Perez, Crystal Anders, Richard Covert, Joseph & Melanie Grabarski, Attorney Lyndsey Ryan, Town Manager Wendy Dixon, Town Clerk/Treasurer Tammy Kelledes, Finance Clerk Jaime Fowler, Bill Lesmerises, Billy Biddle, Melissa Lubanao, Officer Glen Ray, Brian from the YMCA, Chief Lee, and all Commissioners.

6:01 PM Mayor Reichart brought the meeting to order and lead in the pledge of allegiance. Pastor Doug said the prayer.

### **Agenda Items:**

Melanie Grabarski: bought 309 N Main Street in November 2018 but never received a bill. She bought the house online through Hubzooauction.com and used Deutsche Bank. The water bill is over \$2,000.00 in arrears and they just received their bill. They claim that the water is off and they have not used the utilities. They live directly across the street and have for years; they bought this house to fix up. The conclusion was that the water bill never got to them because they never checked in with the Town as a new home owner, so the bank was still receiving the bill. Ms. Grabarski figured there was no charge because they weren't using water or sewer. Finance Clerk Jaime explained that there is still a minimum every quarter even with the water off it is \$185.33. Commissioner Mackey explained the only way to get rid of that is if you unhook from the town and then it cost around \$10K to hook back up to it. Commissioner Cunningham suggested they pay the trash & BRF fee for the time owed along with the minimum from the last bill. The last bill was \$262.99 which would bring the total to be paid somewhere around \$600. Joseph Grabarski said they had contacted the town about trees and no one told them about their water bill. Finance Clerk Jaime asked if they asked for information or billing on the water bill, he stated no. He also said he emailed with Planning & Codes Clerk Sam about the trees with questions but once again never brought up or asked about his water bill. Planning and Codes Clerk Sam Geib researched every water bill that was abnormally high this quarter due to COVID as an extra step and all of them were due to usage. Mayor Reichart made mention about how he thinks they should be paying the sewer, trash and BRF which would come to around \$1,300.00. Commissioner Mackey and Commissioner Knight both said they want to try to help with the bill as much as possible. Attorney Lyndsey said she would look more into what we are allowed to do legally for them. For now, the Commissioners decided to have the Grabarskis pay just the current bill and the council is going to reconvene. They stated to come back in two weeks and discuss it at the October 15 meeting. In the meantime, Public Works is going to check the meters, and Town Hall will check the work orders.

Brian from the YMCA: Just wanted to thank us for all we do and Mayor Reichart said he is very excited for the partnership.

Crystal Anders: Discussed community yard sale and that she would make sure the park was cleaned up after the yard sale. They will practice social distancing and wear masks. Council is all on board with moving forward.

GVFC: Richard Covert talked about drive-up movie theatre doing Hocus Pocus and hopefully another one on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully next spring there will be a tractor pull again. They are working on the track.

Planning Commission: N/A

Parks: Commissioner Knight said we put together new members and are still looking for more members. Town Clerk/Treasurer Kelleles talked about the Christmas parade planning and Whoville. They are having a meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Public Works: Billy Biddle brought up Ober Park and said they spent a lot of time cleaning up trash from the soccer players out there and picked up two truckloads of trash. In addition, the the goals had been moved. Public Works also spent one day at Jesse park making the parking area bigger. And they are working on painting the curbs and hydrants soon.

Bill Lesmerises: Said the water for the town is going really well with testing. We are using the most water we have ever used though. Usually it is around 4 million and it went up to 5 million.

Chief Lee: See attached. Also added he will address the soccer players and drinking at the park.

Admin Report: Town Clerk/Treasurer Tammy Kelleles discussed the new credit card machine we need for Town Hall and the costs. Town Hall is doing more budget reviews and preparing for audit. Council wants the office to make the decision on the credit card machine.

Town Manager Report: Working on Grants. Working on not putting sand in waste water treatment plant. Town Manager Dixon talked about Halloween for the Town and how she has purchased bags for the kids. Talked about FY21 decrease before pandemic and that there may be a second round of federal aid. Reviewing budget half way through the year due to this. Next year will be completely different doing the budget.

Old Business: Commissioner Mackey thanked whoever cut the grass on the Baldwin field, said it looks very good. Commissioner Harrison asked about second set of quotes for solar panels. Town manager Dixon stated that they are looking at multiple different options and Attorney Ryan said the interest rates are so low right now that you may be better off buying them and that there is a grant in December for it.

New Business: 2020-R-08 "Nuisance flooding plan" = required plan. Discussed low lying areas like next to the Choptank. "Caroline County Hazardous Mediation Plan" Town Manager Dixon said they adopted the counties plan in the past. Commissioner Mackey brought up Smugglers Cove. Need to adopt plan, Commissioner Cunningham made motion Commissioner Harrison seconded it. "All in favor I".

Bills: Mayor Reichart brought up the property tax reimbursement checks.

Town Council Remarks: Commissioner Knight brought up the fundraiser "Shoot for hope" which is Oct 24<sup>th</sup> at Schraders.

Mayor Reichart brought the meeting to a close. Commissioner Harrison made motion and Commissioner Mackey seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully prepared by:

Jaime Fowler