**06/03/2021**

**Town Council Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Full council board. Town Manager Wendy Dixon, Town Clerk Tammy Kelledes, Town Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement Clerk Jaime Fowler, Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan, Public Works (PW) Foreman Billy Biddle, Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Foreman Bill Lesmerises. Kevin Randolph, Acting Chief Glenn Ray.

Public in Attendance: Rich Covert

Meeting was brought to order at 6:06 PM by Mayor Reichart.

Invocation: Pastor Randolph

Approval of May 2021 minutes: Mayor Reichart asked for approval. Commissioner Mackey made a motion and Commissioner Cunningham seconded it.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Reichart opened for approval of Ordinance 2021-O-3;. Then 2021-O-9 also will be opened for discussion.

Mr. Covert submitted questions regarding the proposed budget.

* Why is the project trash revenue always in the negative on the budget? Town Clerk Kelledes explained that the 3% annual increase in the contract was not passed on to the residents last year; however, it will be for the upcoming budget.
* Why did the projected insurance expense decrease? Town Clerk Kelledes explained she did a review of the last five years and it was budgeted too high.
* Why is there an increase in personnel costs? Mr. Covert indicated that he was made aware that will be addressed in the budget presentation.

Mr. Covert brought concerns as to when the budget is introduced to the public. The budget was presented at the last meeting and voted on tonight; he thinks it seems too quick and that there is not a lot of detail. Mr. Covert’s biggest complaint is with people on Facebook. They complain but they don’t come to the meetings to ask questions. He said the county does two or three meetings regarding the budget. Mayor Reichart agreed but also stated that they have a much larger area to cover. Town Clerk Kelledes stated that we wish more people would come to the meetings like Mr. Covert does. Commissioner Mackey said everyone gets on Facebook and could also get on Zoom. Commissioner Cunningham suggested having a meeting just on the budget. Mr. Covert added that he would like to see more detail. Mayor Reichart said he has compared ours to other towns and we have more detail. Commissioner Cunningham said he understands what Mr. Covert was saying. Commissioner Knight stated that having an earlier budget presentation is not a bad idea and we will take it into consideration. Town Clerk Kelledes suggested having something like a pre-budget hearing. Mayor Reichart asked Mrs. Kelledes to go ahead and do her presentation.

Town Clerk Kelledes explained the increase in personnel is for the Chief of Police plus two potential new officers. In addition, there is the possibility of adding another person to Public Works and the annual cost-of-living increase. Most of the increase in personnel projections are due to the potential for added staff with the Baldwin project and moving north with the Waste Water Treatment Plan. The budget will be reevaluated after six months. Town Manager Dixon explained that Baldwin did not move forward the last time and although he may not continue, we have to budget for it. Town Manager Dixon asked Mr. Lesmerises if he would need employees immediately and he stated that he would. It is projected that, in the long run, he will need 2 ½ people when all is said and done. Town Manager Dixon said if they had the money, she would like to get a grant admin because we could all use one.

Mayor Reichart asked Mr. Covert if he saw the donation money that was made to the firehouse from the Town. He said that he had not seen it. Commissioner Cunningham asked if the money that was in the budget for sidewalks could be used to fix sidewalks. Town Manager Dixon explained that the I & I repairs need to be done first.

Commissioner Cunningham asked why we cut the Drug Task Force money in half. Mayor Reichart said Commissioner Mackey wanted to continue to support them and we don’t need a vote at the table. What matters is that when we need them, they will come.

Town Manager Dixon explained that we don’t have a grant for the Town Hall sidewalks and handicap ramp but by doing it, it will make us eligible for other grants. The existing sidewalks can’t be fixed with the grant from COVID but the I & I can. After the I&I repairs, we will need to fix the roads and can evaluate the sidewalks as well. Commissioner Cunningham said what would be really great is to have a sidewalk that goes to the school. Town Manager Dixon explained that is a state highway road.

Mayor Reichart asked to close the public hearing, Commissioner Mackey made motion, and Commissioner Harrison seconded it.

Mayor Reichart then read Ordinance 2021-O-3 regarding the satellite antennas. Commissioner Harrison made motion to accept; Commissioner Cunningham seconded it. All in favor.

Mayor Reichart read Ordinance 2021-O-9; Commissioner Knight made motion to accept Commissioner Mackey seconded it.

**Fire Department**

Mr. Covert discussed the new fire truck and the carnival. He also said they are starting to rent the hall out again. Commissioner Mackey asked if they have made good money; Mr. Covert responded that they have profited around $23,000. The Fire Department will have another tractor pull on September 11 2021.

**Planning Commission**

Mayor Reichart stated that there wasn’t really anything new to report. Town Manager Dixon spoke to Scott at KCI and referenced the papers included in their binders. Commissioner Mackey asked how close we are to this moving forward with Baldwin. Attorney Ryan said they revised the Master Plan. All impact fees will still have to be paid. Town Manager Dixon suggested that we adopt an impact fee for the Town to help with an increased need for public safety with the addition of more residents.

Mr. Cover asked if Baldwin will fix another road since they will destroy it. Town Manager Dixon said she would discuss the idea with Mike Baldwin. He also asked about an acre of land the school was supposed to give them for Baldwin to erect a water tower. Mr. Covert said Baldwin walked away from it because of the water tower permit. Commissioner Mackey said he thought Mr. Baldwin had to put another sediment pond in there but he would look into it.

**Parks Board**

Commissioner Knight stated there wasn’t a meeting; it was moved to June 23, 2021. The Parks Board made a post requesting that the residents give input/ideas for Ober Park.

**Public Works**

PW Supervisor Billy Biddle spoke about the hydrant at Bodies that got hit by a tractor trailer from Dollar General. The Fire Company requested that we add something reflective on it when we repaint the fire hydrants. All the guys have spent a lot of time out to the plant lately. The 6-wheeler truck has been ordered but he does not know when it will be available. Bulk pick-up takes two days now because they had a lot of things to take to the dump.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant**

Supervisor Bill Lesmerises spoke and said they hope to get the east lift station started Monday. They received a shipment of sand and moved 14 tons of it. Mr. Lesmerises stated that things are going well. One filter is down but they do have a replacement in the shop. It is normal maintenance for the plant. He stated that they got three years out of the first one and they have gotten four years out of the current filter. Commissioner Mackey if there were any more wipes? Mr. Lesmerises said that it is an ongoing issue. Attorney Lyndsey spoke about the RFP; Pro-Start was selected. They are similar to Miller whose contract ends July 1, 2021. Commissioner Mackey asked what Miller was pricing us at and Lyndsey said $2500 more than competitors. Commissioner Mackey made motion to select Pro Start as our new company to help with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and Commissioner Cunningham seconded it. Commissioner Mackey said Mr. Lesmerises will know if they are doing their job. Mr. Lesmerises said he’s very confident they will do a good job.

**Police**

Deputy Chief Ray discussed how many calls, traffic stops and arrests. They are having the SUV serviced.

**Admin Report**

Town Clerk Kelledes stated that we originally thought it was a suggestion to have work groups to discuss the use of ARPA Funds but now realized it is not a suggestion; it is highly suggested. Mrs. Kelledes stated that we will know more soon. Final updates are coming.

There has been new interest on homes along Main Street.

Riverfest is still in the works and planning continues. Per Mrs. Kelledes, there will be meetings with EMS next week. Town Manager Dixon stated that there will be two weeks of meetings. They told the Sheriff’s Department that they need to help. We are looking for additional volunteers.

**Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Dixon said that she will start painting the corn hole boards for Riverfest. Once we get sponsors, we can add their info to the boards. The events are a joint effort with the Chamber of Commerce. We will split the profit and the costs. Our proceeds will go towards Whoville.

Ms. Dixon stated that a conditional offer for the Chief of Police was made. Commissioner Mackey asked if he accepted and Ms. Dixon said yes.

Christina Robinson moved the CAC meeting to next week.

Ms. Dixon showed the council the Maryland Rockfish sign that will be raffled off at Riverfest.

Discussion held regarding Zoom for meetings. Commissioner Mackey made motion to not continue Zoom meetings and Commissioner Harrison seconded it.

Discussion regarding rental inspections:

* Need to verify that we are unable to do inspections at Greensboro Heights
* Jaime is going to get training for rental inspections and Hal will still do construction inspections. Will meet with Hal on Monday, 06/07/2021, to discuss.
* Commissioner Cunningham asked if we ever requested that his boss come to a meeting like they discussed. Ms. Dixon stated that she has not reached out for that yet.

Ms. Dixon mentioned that she gave her contact information to the person whose apartment burnt down in Greensboro Heights.

**New Business**

Discussion held regarding the parking ordinance that states a person cannot park in the street if there is room in their driveway. Commissioner Mackey said it keeps being brought up by Mike W. on Facebook. Commissioner Cunningham said it sounds like the police need to get out more and do more patrolling of people parking illegally.

The Postmaster from Ridgely was supposed to attend the meeting to discuss people parking on streets and blocking mail boxes but she did not show. Mr. Lesmerises suggested group mail boxes.

Mr. Covert stated that 407 W. Sunset’s grass needs to be cut. Ms. Fowler will send out a notice.

Commissioner Mackey asked if he can park on his street. Town Attorney Ryan pulled up the ordinance and said it basically reads that you cannot leave you car running in the middle of the road. It doesn’t state that Mackey cannot park his trailer on the road. The tractor trailer parked on Wood Duck was also brought up. Commissioner Harrison suggested Billy Biddle go out and see where we could use more “no parking” signs.

**Uniforms**

Town Manager Dixon said Unifirst should be picking up the old uniforms on Monday and then the Town should be done with the contract.

**Bills**

Reviewed and approved.

**Town Council Remarks**

Commissioner Knight discussed His Hope Youth Awareness day June 25, 2021; there will be a lot of giveaways for people 18-24 years of age.

Commissioner Mackey asked about our new website. Ms. Dixon said it was almost done.

Mayor Reichart stated there is a lot going on this weekend.

Mayor Reichart requested motion to close the meeting. Commissioner Knight made motion and Commissioner Cunningham seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully prepared by,

Jaime Fowler

Planning & Zoning and Codes Enforcement Clerk