

Town Council Meeting

Town of Greensboro

9.2.2021

In attendance: Town Manager Wendy Dixon, Town Clerk/Treasurer Tammy Kelledes, Finance Clerk Samantha Geib, Mayor Kevin Reichart, Comm. Brandon Cunningham, Comm. Michael Mackey, Comm. Loge Knight, Comm. Robert Harrison, Deputy Chief Glenn Ray, Rich Covert, Waste Water Foreman Bill Lesmerises, Amanda Weaver, Cindi Harrison, Cathy Spencer, David Spencer, Barbara Mutolo, Rev. Doug Morley, Christine LaMonica, Public Works Foreman Billy Biddle, Officer Ashley Collison.

The Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Reichart at 6:00 p.m. on September 2, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation led by Rev. Doug Morley from Greater Impact

Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to approve the July 15th, August 5th, and August 19th, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Comm. Cunningham made a motion. Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All in Favor, minutes approved.

Deputy Chief Glenn Ray introduced Christine LaMonica to the Council. She is currently with the Baltimore City Police Department and is looking to move from the “big city” to a smaller more community-oriented police department. She believes it would be a better fit for her and her family. Amanda Weaver and the Council offered her a thank you for her interest in the position since it is hard to find officers right now.

Committee/Department Head Reports

GVFC

Rich Covert spoke on behalf of the GVFC. The Fire Department will be hosting their tractor pull next Saturday, September 11th. Gates open at 4 and anyone who would like to help would be greatly appreciated. The new bleachers that were purchased will not be up in time for this tractor pull. They will also have a few other food truck vendors as that was the only complaint last time.

Planning Commission

No August meeting; the next meeting will be this month.

Parks Board

The Parks Board will be meeting quarterly. The next meeting will be in October.

Public Works

Public Works Foreman Billy Biddle spoke. Billy and Allan started going around town trimming trees and bushes so we do not have any issues/complaints from the school buses. Bulk pick-up will be on Tuesday. Allan and Billy brought down four pieces of equipment for Kids in the Park Day; the kids seemed to have a good time.

Billy brought up the issue with Dollar General and their tall grass. The guys spent about three hours cutting and weed eating, we do not have the man power to continue cutting their grass. Billy spoke with the landscaper for Dollar General and was told they stopped cutting it because they were having trouble getting paid from Dollar General. Billy told the Council that they have tore up multiple blades cutting their grass. Comm. Knight asked if this is something we could outsource. Planning and Codes Clerk, Jaime, has sent letters to the corporate office but we are not getting answers from them. The council suggested holding their business license until we can get this issue handled. We are going to check with the Town Attorney to see what can be done.

Billy also brought up the grass strip in the sidewalks down sunset. Back in the day Public Works would maintain that strip until they had a lot of push-back from residents. It was then determined that the grass strip was the owner's responsibility since they paid for their own sidewalks. We are now facing the issue though that the home owners are not taking care of that strip of grass and it is starting to over grow.

Waste Water Foreman Bill Lesmerises, spoke about the PLC card; it went bad but did not affect any of the sampling. Our sampling is going great. East lift station has two new pumps that are installed and up and running. There is an issue with algae growing in the ultra violet area. The algae is clogging up the UV's and filters. Bill thinks that if we got some sort of cover for that area it would help with the algae growth. Bill would like to get this taken care of sooner rather than later, he will get some ideas/figures.

Bill and Chief Glasel have been working with Hertrich and Enterprise to get figure/options for leasing vehicles for Public Works and the Police Department. Bill does not agree with leasing for Public Works; it can get expensive. Leasing/Fleet is a better option if you have more vehicles.

Police

Deputy Chief Glenn Ray spoke; Chief Glasel was unable to attend the meeting. Chief Glasel reached out to a company about new decals but hasn't heard back.

Chief Glasel is looking to get police bikes for the officers. The council was given one quote for the bikes. The Sheriff's office also has bikes that were never really used and offered to sell them to us, they are working on a price and will let us know.

The new tasers came in. The final training for them will be on the 9th of this month.

Deputy Chief Glenn Ray brought up the accident that happened at the intersection of Bernard and Academy. We received a call from a resident asking to make it a four way stop instead. That intersection has never been an issue before; the problem is a truck parked on the corner filled with trash/debris that is blocking the view. Is it a police matter of code enforcement? Comm. Cunningham suggested putting no parking signs up. Chief Glasel sent a letter to the owners of the truck asking to move the truck. Jaime, Code Enforcement, also sent a letter about the trash issue. Ms. Dixon suggested just calling and talking to the homeowner and see if we can get it moved. Last time there was an issue, the homeowner was easy to talk to and got it taken care of quickly. Comm. Cunningham would like to add this issue to the next Town Council meeting.

Administration

Town Clerk/Treasurer, Tammy Kelleles spoke about the Kids in the Park Day. It was a success!

We hired a part-time person, for better checks and balances. Her name is Beth and she has a very lengthy administrative background. Comm. Cunningham said he was not aware that we had officially hired anyone for the position. Ms. Dixon told the council at the previous meeting that they think they have found someone and would send the council an email about her. Comm. Cunningham said he never received the email. Resident, Amanda Weaver, asked where the job was posted because she did not see the job posting. Ms. Dixon told her it was posted on *indeed* for two and a half weeks. Ms. Weaver wanted to know why it wasn't posted on the Greensboro page. Mayor Reichart said they can look at how jobs are posted for the future and make any changes needed. Ms. Weaver also commented that it is disgusting that no one at Town Hall can speak Spanish. She does not know why it is not a requirement. Ms. Dixon told her that it is something they look for first. Comm. Cunningham wanted it stated for the record that he was not aware that they had hired anyone for the part-time administrative position. Mayor Reichart would like to discuss the hiring process at the next Town council meeting.

ARPA funds: there will be an upcoming training. Based on the information that Mrs. Kelledees gave the council, Operations and Maintenance would be excluded from the funds. Mrs. Kelledees gave the Council an invoice to review to approve or to consider approving for the East Pumping Station. She would like to pay the invoice out of the ARPA funds. The invoice will still get paid but it is a matter of if they want the ARPA funds to cover it. Water/Sewer is covered under the ARPA funds. The Council agreed to pay the invoice with the ARPA funds.

Main Street affiliate designation; Mrs. Kelledees gave the council a copy of the application. There is a Resolution that the Council would have to approve to submit the application. The Main Street and Sustainable Communities designations open up a lot more opportunities to give the main streets a much-needed facelift. Comm. Cunningham would like more time to go over the application and would like to have it added to the Workshop meeting.

Town Manager

Ms. Dixon put the SOP for comp time in their books. Ms. Dixon will give the Council a report of comp time at the workshop meeting. Ms. Dixon gave the Council the social media policy for the County and would like to discuss our social media policy at the next workshop meeting.

We need volunteers for almost all boards in the town. Board of Elections, Board of Appeals, Citizen Advisory, Planning and Zoning Board, Terri Sprouse had to resign from the PZ board, and the Parks board. If you know anyone that would be interested, please have them contact Town Hall.

Ms. Dixon believes they found someone for the part-time Public Works position. She gave a copy of their resume to the Council. He already has his CDLs. Comm. Cunningham's biggest concern is that he has jumped around with jobs but it is a plus that he has his CDLs, although it is a restricted CDL license, none of the town vehicles are manual. He is also flagger certified. As long as he passes the drug and background check the Council would like to move forward with the hire. He will still be on a probation period.

Bill and Billy will be going to confined spaces training. Allan and the new PT hire will go together at a later date.

Ms. Dixon had a conversation with Peter Johnson, he will be at the October Planning and Zoning meeting. Ms. Dixon and Bill took Mr. Johnson down to the Baldwin property and he had some really good ideas. The comprehensive plan will be expensive and most people budget it out over 5-years.

Ms. Dixon spoke with James Giles with State Highway. The sand that was put down after a hydraulic line busted on a sprayer was what SHA was told to put down from MDE. Mr. Giles told Ms. Dixon if the Council wanted to speak with a representative from SHA, they would send their Public Relations person to one of the meetings. Comm. Cunningham raised a concern about the sand washing into the storm drains and clogging things up. He would like us to contact SHA about cleaning out the storm drains and it hasn't been done. He asked to have the representative come as soon as they can.

Ms. Dixon is working on the hiring and firing package as requested by the Council. Ms. Dixon is teaching Jaime the leave system. We are working on updating job descriptions in the spare time. Right now, Ms. Dixon is working on getting paperwork ready for MD State Retirement, unemployment insurance, and payroll audits; they will start coming in from November to January.

Ms. Dixon gave the Council the Police schedule and the public works on-call schedule; both are subject to change.

Ms. Dixon met with Chief McDermont from the Federalsburg Police Department to discuss LEOPS. We have a copy of Federalsburg's application so if we decide to do it, we will have some guidance. Comm. Cunningham would like to know when the cut-off date is and asked to have LEOPS added to the workshop meeting.

Public Hearing

*Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to open the public hearing on **Ordinance Number 2021-O-11 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, AS AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS PROPER PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith."** Comm. Mackey made a motion to open the public hearing. Comm. Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. Public hearing opened.*

There was no public or council comment.

Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance Number 2021-O-11. Comm. Cunningham made a motion. Comm. Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor. Public hearing closed.

*Mayor Reichart opened the public hearing on **Ordinance Number 2021-O-12 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO TO AMEND CHAPTER 14 OF THE TOWN CODE "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" TO ADD SECTION 14-4.1 TO PROHIBIT THE PARKING OF WRECKED, DISMANTLED, INOPERABLE OR UNREGISTERED VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN"**.*

Resident Amanda Weaver spoke, stating she does not agree with the ordinance. The issue is when residents have dismantled, inoperable, wrecked and unregistered vehicles that just sit. Ms. Weaver thinks it is not right for us to tell residents they can't work on their cars on their own property. She wanted to know how we would know they were or weren't working on the vehicles. Mayor Reichart stated that if the vehicle was in a garage or somewhere not visible from the street that is not an issue. Resident David Spencer thinks it is unfair to not allow any unregistered, wrecked, dismantled or

inoperable vehicles and thinks we should look at other towns ordinances to see if this ordinance could be adjusted. They would like to see us allow one unregistered vehicle.

Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance Number 2021-O-12. Comm. Mackey made a motion. Comm. Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. Public hearing closed.

*Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2021-O-11 entitled **"AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, AS AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS PROOPERTY MAINTNENCE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH."** Comm. Mackey made a motion. Comm. Cunningham seconded the motion. All in favor. Ordinance number 2021-O-11 approved.*

*Mayor Reichart asked if there was a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2021-O-12 entitled **"AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO TO AMEND CHAPTER 14 OF THE TOWN CODE "VEHICELS AND TRAFFIC" TO ADD SECTION 14-4.1 TO PROHIBIT THE PARKING OF WRECKED, DISMANTLED, INOBERABLE OR UNREGISTERED VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN"**. There was no motion.*

Mayor Reichart said we would go back over the ordinance and rephrase and have another public hearing on the matter.

Old Business

Basketball Courts

Two grants were put in; one for the Choptank park and the secondary one is for Ober Park.

Aaron's Place Food Pantry

Comm. Knight spoke for Aaron's place. It is a local food pantry that they would like to bring to Greensboro. They just need a place to set up. Comm. Knight asked to have it added to the agenda to see if anyone had any ideas of where they could hold the pantry. Resident Barbara Mutolo told the council that the St. Paul's church has a food pantry that is always stocked. She also suggested the empty space where Laurie's Treasure Shop was located. It is a private building and the Town does not have access to it. Doug Morely suggested working with the local churches and St. Paul and said he would help to make the connection.

There was also a suggestion of the little apartment space behind the Town Meeting Hall. Comm. Knight said it could be a start for now but that is a very small space.

Elections

Mrs. Kelledes spoke, stating that we are starting to get the information out there and that we have had a few people pick up applications. We have had two people pick up applications but nothing turned in as of yet. It was asked if there is a background check and everyone was a little unsure and we would ask the town attorney to see if that is something that we have done in the past.

David Spencer asked why the application asked what the goals/objectives were for being on the council. Mayor Reichart told him he could leave that part out if he liked but it was for a bio for the open house

they have before the election. So the residents can meet and get to know those that are running for office. Residents suggested having the meet and greet at a different location to allow for more space.

Comm. Mackey brought up that renters are allowed to run for office as long as they live in the town for a year or longer. He does not think that it is right since they could leave at any time.

Bills

Comm. Cunningham did some research into other municipalities and thinks that we should require two signatures on the checks and should be reviewed by the council before they are paid. Mayor Reichart said that we can certainly discuss the way the bills are paid in the next workshop meeting.

David Spencer spoke and said the time he was on the council bills were never paid until they were approved by the council.

Comm. Harrison brought up a credit card bill from Provident State Bank for \$9,000 and wanted to know who signed that check and who approved those purchases. Comm. Harrison read some of the charges from the credit card break down and wants to know who approved those charges. There was a charge for an MML conference meal that was high and being questioned. Comm. Knight and Ms. Dixon spoke up and said they skipped meals in order to be able to attend this meal with the Governor. Comm. Cunningham wanted to state for the record he was angry that he was not invited to attend the MML conference this year. Comm. Cunningham wants to know why the council was not aware of these charges. Mayor Reichart said we will discuss the bills and per diem at the next workshop meeting. Comm. Cunningham questioned all the Amazon charges since there were multiple. Ms. Dixon explained the purchases. He also questioned why the Chief's card was ran about every other day for gas. He believes that is a red flag; the other officers do not use that much in gas monthly. Comm. Harrison wants to see the credit card bill before it is paid and the breakdown of the purchases.

Town Council Remarks

Ms. Harris came to Comm. Mackey about 609 N Main St.; it is being a big issue with all the unregistered cars and the overgrowth. The property is locked in a legal battle between family members. We are working with the homeowner to get it taken care of but his hands are tied at the moment. Ms. Harris would like to be added to the agenda to discuss this issue.

Comm. Cunningham wanted to thank Greater Impact for cleaning up Sunset Ave and would like a heads-up so the council can help.

Mayor Reichart asked for a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting to go into closed session for a personnel matter. Comm. Mackey made a motion. Comm. Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Geib.