

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
October 10, 2017

The Town Meeting was called to order by President Andy Thompson at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Mary Carol Durange, Joseph Letts, Andy Thompson and Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator. Commissioner Karl Fockler was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jack Kronner

Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2017 As a quorum from the last meeting was not in attendance, no vote could be taken. Tabled.

Accounts Payable Review October 12, 2017—Accounts payable in the amount of \$55,870.76 and 7,955.20 were presented. Commissioner Capano moved to accept, Commissioner Durange seconded. Approved 4-0.

Miller Environmental August Report – Josh Griffith A total of 2,505,000 gallons were produced for the month, with an average daily production of 84,000. No coliform samples tested positive. Weekly housekeeping and monthly maintenance was performed. Nine Miss Utilities were provided. Third quarter meter readings were accomplished. A leak check at 224 Conestoga showed on leaks. The replacement of the valve at the Water Tower is now complete and working.

Cecil County Sheriff's August Report – No Report

Comprehensive Plan & Charter – Initial Planning Discussion – Commissioner Thompson suggested a work session next week to compile a list of tasks for the committees. The meeting needs to be advertised to the public. As there was no common date found it will be handled at the next scheduled meeting.

Charter Article V Sect. 25-501 – Noise Commissioner Thompson went out with a decibel reader and found that the range was within guidelines. Commissioner Durange stated that the business is about done for the year as the weather is getting colder. Commissioner Letts stated that this is an ongoing issue and if we are going to do something we need to do it sooner rather than later, or if not, we need to let people know that too. Commissioner Durange stated that the state will no longer come out and check it, so we cannot get an accurate reading. Commissioner Thompson stated that he thought that the issue had been addressed and the offender had toned it down. We do need to keep it on our radar and monitor it. Commissioner Capano also stated that the instruments to monitor decibel levels are very expensive and sometimes obsolete right after you buy them.

Town Administrator's Report

OLD BUSINESS

Stone Pier "Free Fishing" Update We have received from the DNR that removal of the parking restrictions at the Stone Pier would keep the Free Fishing instated.

SHA Sidewalk Project Update The Sidewalk project is scheduled to begin again with a detour coming into town from either direction on October 11, 2017. The equipment is in town.

Charlestown Event Punch List Mr. Pumpaly was asked to look into developing a checklist for using town facilities for large events. He presented a permit from Perryville and from Chesapeake City that we might pattern a permit application of our own to be. Commissioner Thompson likes the event application process to keep everyone on the same page. He does not feel we would need a fee for such an application. Mr. Pumpaly suggested that the Commissioners look over the forms and make a decision at the next meeting. Commissioner Letts stated that we need to make sure that the safety aspect of such events needs to be addressed early on and this process would be a help in keeping this in the forefront. Commissioner Thompson asked if everyone was on board with not charging for the permit. The Commissioners were in agreement to look over and make a decision of the format for the next meeting.

Chickens in the Incorporated Town Mr. Pumpaly continued the ongoing discussion of chickens being kept by homeowners. The HOAs active in our community all have regulations prohibiting chickens/poultry. The state has a permit process and owners need to file a poultry registration form. Mr. Pumpaly has no idea if poultry owners are following this. Commissioner Durange and Commissioner Capano stated that any animal can be considered a comfort animal and this might open up for lawsuits those trying to prohibit chickens. Commissioner Durange made the suggestion that in future comfort pets would have to be documented. Commissioner Capano asked if this complaint was the one that came up before the P & Z Board, that one had the 200 foot buffer on backyard and so was approved. Commissioner Thompson will draft some legislation and send it out by the end of the week to all the Commissioners for their thoughts. Functioning HOAs should work through their covenants to enforce them. Commissioner Durange stated that comfort pets should be required to be documented. Commissioner Capano stated she does not have a problem with chickens. Commissioner Letts stated that any new legislation still does not address the current problems being caused by chickens and Commissioner Thompson agrees that the legislation will have to address both.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Day Special Edition Advertising Mr. Pumpaly asked the Commissioners if they would like to place an ad in the Whig for Veterans Day. How much supports Veterans organizations? Without knowing how much the consensus was to decline.

Commissioner Durange asked if the Commissioners were in favor of placing an ad in the Perryville High School Yearbook. Commissioner Letts moved to place the ad at a cost of \$300.00, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 4-0.

Period of Public Comment

Elizabeth Cable presented the Commissioners with information concerning chickens. Chickens in Cecil County are considered agriculture animals which applies to animals other than cats and dogs unless you have a lot of over 1 acre. They also violate animal control laws concerning noise. Comfort animals can be permitted through an online process which costs the owner \$25.00, but she feels that we need to be careful with that and abide by the federal guidelines of comfort animals. Concerning HOA in Scott Gardens their developer in reality has stopped enforcing the rules and by Maryland law cannot be turned over to the homeowners. She has searched Cecil County and others and presented the Commissioners with templates to use in drafting an ordinance. In her opinion the Cecil County Ordinance would be a good place to start.

Heather Durgin – Cool Springs has a large number of children and have had two dogs killed in the past year. They are very concerned about speeding in the neighborhood. Something needs to be done. She suggests speed

bumps and if not permanent then temporary ones. Commissioner Thompson stated that they will look into the issue. It will be put on the agenda.

Pia Fassold – Seconds Heather’s comments.

Sam Jones – He lives in Trinity Woods Preserves. He lives near the playground and at a cut through to Cool Springs. He is also concerned about the speeding. He stated that the speed bumps can be worked around. He can bring more information at a future meeting. He also stated that there is no sidewalk at the playground.

There being no other further business for the evening, Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM, Commissioner Capano seconded. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I

Approved 10-24-2011