



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Legislative Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
April 4, 2023**

The public was invited to call into the meeting via videoconferencing or audio by phone.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuhs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: In person: Mayor Kuhs, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Tome, Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman. Via Zoom: Deputy Mayor Brown and Treasurer Sookiasian.

ABSENT: Councilman Knight

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Mayor Kuhs presented the Safety Tip of the Month to Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the March 7, 2023 Legislative meeting and March 21, 2023 Work Session meeting were presented.

Motion made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome – Y. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kat Koenig announced the next Port Deposit Heritage Corporation will be held April 19, 2023 in addition to Meet the Candidates to be held at Community Connecting Us on April 13, 2023.

PRESENTATION

Mayor's Budget for FY2024 – Treasurer Sookiasian presented Resolution 05-2023 – Tax Rates and Other Revenue Rates for FY24 Budget – Public Hearing May 2, 2023; and Ordinance 2023-01 – Fiscal Year 2024 Budget – Introduction May 16, 2023 and Public Hearing June 6, 2023.

Treasurer Sookiasian highlighted some of the changes from the previous year's budget. The FY 2023 Property Tax rate is .5450 per \$100 and 2023 Constant Yield Rate of .5421 per \$100.

The FY 2024 Budgeted Property Tax Rate will be the constant yield rate of .5421 per \$100. Treasurer Sookiasian stated that in order to match the contract with the refuse vendor an increase of \$10.21 or 3.9% is required. The FY 2024 rate per unit is \$274.60

Treasurer Sookiasian provided budgeted expenses to include salaries, workers compensation, health insurance, equipment, general maintenance, professional fees, insurance, trash removal, utilities, and the fire department appropriation.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding, Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor & Port Deposit – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the MOU requested to be renewed as a sustaining partner and representative of the CCSC Consortium.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with The Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Roll call: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome – Y. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

TREASURER – Treasurer Sookiasian presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March. He provided comments regarding revenue and expenses provided in the report.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Town Administrator Rinkerman provided various updates to include the March 23, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting consisting of review and approval of the preliminary site plan for the Powers road extension, preliminary site plan for Commodore Road – tabled pending submission of a preliminary site plan, and approval of the master signage concept plan for Phase I of the Bainbridge development. Town Administrator Rinkerman provided updates on Senate Bill 517 regarding the proposed State Park, release of the the façade improvement grant application, and the submission of multiple application for the Public Works and Code Enforcement Administrator position.

COUNCIL REPORTS –

Deputy Mayor Brown informed the Council that he is currently working on drafting a RFP in regards to securing a consultant for Public Safety.

Councilman Berlin inquired about the percentage rate of parking citations that are paid. Treasurer Sookiasian advised that the percentage rate of paid citations is high for both in-state and out of state residents. Councilman Berlin suggested offering a lifetime boat launch permit for individuals 60 years of age and older. Mayor Kuhs discussed potential pros and cons to offering a lifetime permit.

Councilman Berlin mentioned that the time on the clock in the center of town is off, reminded the Council and public that if they see a turtle in the middle of the road to please move it, and voiced that everyone needs to spread the word about meetings to get more public in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – A local boyscout attended the meeting in order to learn about citizenship within the community.

Kathleen Koenig inquired about obtaining some of the wood from the trees that were cut down in town, and about the current status of the County working with the town to get properties out of cyclical tax sale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Update – Deadline to register to vote is April 9, 2023 at Cecil County Board of Elections. Absentee Ballot application is available at Town Hall or call 410.378.2121 to have one mailed to you. Election Day is May 9, 2023 at Water Witch Fire Company, 15 N. Main Street, Port Deposit. Polls open 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Meeting audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Wayne Tome, Jr., Mayor