



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
August 17, 2021**

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: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Tome Jr., and Town Administrator Rinkerman.

ABSENT: Councilman Knight and Treasurer Sookiasian.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2021-05 – Zoning Code Amendment, Article IX, Part IV, Section 129 – revision to Critical Area District Overlay Map. Town Administrator Rinkerman provided a summary of Ordinance 2021-05.

Public comment – No public comment.

No additional discussion by Council.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve Ordinance 2021-05 as presented. Seconded by Councilman Tome Jr. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS – Introduction and Public Hearing was held on August 3, 2021

Charter Amendment Resolution 04-2021 (CAR 04-2021) – amends Charter Article III, Section 309.d in order to clarify that a fair summary of an ordinance must be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town in the 20 calendar days following the ordinance’s passage; provides for compliance with certain provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland relating to Charter amendments; provides that the title of CAR 04-2021 constitutes a fair summary of such Charter amendment; and generally relates to such Charter amendment.

No discussion by Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Berlin to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 04-2021 (CAR 04-2021) as presented. Seconded by Councilman Tome Jr. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y and Knight - absent. All in favor. Motion carried.

Charter Amendment Resolution 05-2021 (CAR 05-2021) - repeals and re-enacts, with amendments, Charter Article VII, Section 719 in order to: authorize the Town to borrow money for any proper public purpose by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness; specify

certain matters that the Council shall determine or provide for ordinance and other matters that the Council may determine or provide for by resolution concerning general obligation debt of the Town; permit the Council to delegate authority to Town official(s) to determine certain matters regarding general obligation debt; provide that general obligation debt may be sold by public or private sale; authorize or provide for the methods by which general obligation debt may be bid for when sold by solicitation of competitive bids at public sale; provide for the manner in which any notice of sale or summary thereof may be published or disseminated by methods other than publication; and provide for the manner of giving notices of redemption or put; provides that the powers set forth in Charter Section 719 are additional and supplemental to any other general obligation borrowing authority applicable to the Town; provides for compliance with certain provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland relating to Charter amendments; provides that the title of CAR 05-2021 constitutes a fair summary of such Charter amendment; and generally relates to such Charter amendment.

No discussion by Council.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 05-2021 (CAR 05-2021) as presented. Seconded by Councilman Tome Jr. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y and Knight - absent. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft letter Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) – Town Administrator Rinkerman met with the Maryland Department of the Environment Wetlands and Water Waste Program regarding the Conowingo Sediment Agreement for their re-licensing of the Conowingo Dam. A settlement was reached between MDE and Exelon and she was asked how the town could best utilize the payments Exelon is making to MDE to address water quality. Town Administrator Rinkerman provided a letter with some background of the town and the impacts that the Conowingo Dam and its spill gates have on the town. This included not only flooding after storms but also nuisance flooding in Marina Park and the issues caused by sediment and debris.

Council provided Town Administrator Rinkerman their approval of the draft letter presented to be sent to Maryland Department of the Environment.

Snakehead Fishing Tournament Proposal – Councilman Berlin is moving forward with hosting a Snakehead Fishing Tournament. He explained that the Snakehead fish is an invasive species from Asia and has been a huge issue in the area. Councilman Berlin would like to bring awareness of the issue and inform the community that it is federal law to kill the fish if it is caught. In addition to bringing awareness by posting information, he proposed hosting a Snakehead Fishing Tournament on September 25, 2021.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Brown discussed the erosion and damage done at the Bannon property after the last large rainstorm and inquired about the status of the storm water ponds on the Bainbridge property. Town Administrator Rinkerman informed Council that Toni Sprenkle, Bainbridge Development Incorporation stated that they are not complete and are sediment ponds at this point in time, and will be converted into

storm water ponds. She also clarified for the Mayor and Council that Cecil County reviews the storm water management plans for the Bainbridge development.

Councilman Tome Jr. thanked Treasurer Sookiasian and town staff for helping to clear mud off of the roadway using the fire hose from WWFCO. He also discussed clogged drains and the clearing of rocks near the culvert. Councilman Tome Jr. requested that the tree by the Gerry House be examined due to the frequent falling branches.

Councilman Berlin stated that the leaning pole he mentioned at the last Town Council meeting will have an additional wire installed for support and to hopefully straighten the pole. He also inquired about the status of the Welcome to Port Deposit signs.

Councilman Berlin stated that the Snakehead Fish Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 25 and provided updates on the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Shawn Branch, Gerry House owner, requested the difference between a sediment pond and storm water pond on the Bainbridge property.

Jason Usilton, Granite Run Taproom requested to extend the seasonal business use of the parking spaces in front of the restaurant and would be willing to pay money for the use of the space. Mayor Kuhs stated his thoughts on the request. Mr. Usilton had a question regarding the enforcement of public parking throughout town.

Tania Fleming, Cool Beans Market expressed her support of Mr. Usilton’s request and stated how much of an asset his outdoor seating has been for the town.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements.

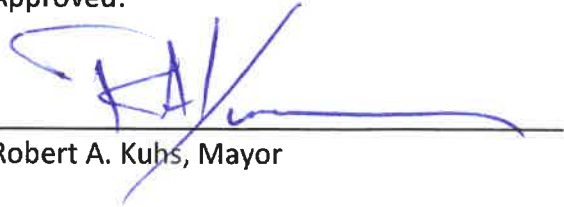
The public meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor