



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Legislative Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
April 5, 2022**

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

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 p.m. on March 15, 2022 Work Session Meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Knight to convene in Closed Executive Session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, Section 3-305 (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto relative to the Bainbridge property. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENT AT CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Council members: Knight, Berlin and Tome, Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, BDC Appointees David Rudolph and Joe Brant.

Discussion was relative to appointments to the Bainbridge Development Corporation and the recent development regarding the historic Tome School campus. No decision or vote was done in closed session. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and Council did not return to open session.

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., Town Administrator Rinkerman, Treasurer Sookiasian, and Chief of Police Smith.

ABSENT: Councilman Knight

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH – Mayor Kuhs presented the Safety Tip of the Month to Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from Town Council March 1, 2022 Legislative Meeting and March 15, 2022 Work Session Meeting were presented.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Local Alex Turkin presented his proposal for utilizing Hopkins Quarry as a rock climbing hot spot. He previously asked town officials for permission to rock climb on the private property which was denied due to liability issues but suggested to speak to the Council about the possibility of creating public access. He stated he spoke with the Access Fund which is a national organization whom helps develop

these types of areas for public use in addition to the Mid-Atlantic Climbers Association who provided Turkin a list of resources to help make the proposal a reality. He mentioned that the closest premiere rock climbing park is in Harpers Ferry, WV so having this in Port Deposit would be a great asset and recreational attraction for the town.

Mayor Kuhs expressed concern of the liability as it would need further investigation. Deputy Mayor Brown and Councilman Tome, Jr. expressed their favorable interest of the opportunity. Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that grant funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Parks and Playground Program would be required for the development of a rock climbing park.

Town Resident, Shawn Branch stated that the recordings on the Port Deposit Cell Phone Tour seem to be outdated and he volunteered to help update the recordings. Town Administrator Rinkerman expressed that the Cell Phone Tour was created by the Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce before the Chamber dissolved. The update has been in limbo for several years, but the Town will contact the company to obtain estimates and information on updating the recordings.

PRESENTATION- Mayor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 – Documents for the Budget: Resolution 04-2022 – Tax Rates and Other Revenue Rates for FY23 Budget – Public Hearing May 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall; and Ordinance 2022-02 – Fiscal Year 2023 Budget – Introduction May 17, 2022 and Public Hearing June 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

Mayor Kuhs presented the Mayor's Budget to the Council and explained that ARPA funded projects are not part of the budget with the exception of the Water Witch Fire Company donation and the town's contribution to the Façade Improvement Program.

Treasurer Sookiasian provided detailed information on the Mayor's Budget. Some of the included items were utility taxes, real and local property taxes, highway user revenue, permits and fees, trash collection, salary expenses, workers compensation, general maintenance, and professional fees.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Funding Update - Treasurer Sookiasian presented estimates for ARPA projects that were previously discussed. The first estimate was for the new computers and phone system for Town Hall.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the project presented. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Two estimates were provided for the second project, new welcome signs for the town. Treasurer Sookiasian expressed that one of the companies provided an estimate, but did not want to be involved if the signs required granite pillars. Councilman Berlin stated that he wishes to utilize the granite in town and would like to see it incorporated in the 3 larger signs. Deputy Mayor Brown stated he may have a contact for a masonry to do the granite work requested. Discussion ensued regarding the Town moving forward with using posts for the installation until an estimate could be obtained for the masonry work.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the estimate for the welcome signs. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Connecting Us Program Proposal – Erica Berge, President of CCU discussed the current programs that she offers and CCU and the attendance of youth ranging from elementary school age to high school students. With the amount of youth attending and being limited with helping hands, she reached out to Danielle from the Town of Perryville’s Outreach program. Perryville’s program offers free after school childcare, has a Police Officer who cooks the youth dinner throughout the week, helps with homework, has case workers available to help the youth however need, among many other resources and activities. Town Administrator Rinkerman explained that Danielle has offered to work with the town and CCU in order to help replicate their current program here in the Town of Port Deposit. This would include writing a grant to help cover the costs of staff to run the program, supplies, and equipment to be successful. The Town would be required to manage the program’s payroll and grant reports, etc.

Deputy Mayor Brown expressed his support of the program and how grateful he is for the amazing opportunity and investment into the youth of the community.

Councilman Tome, Jr. voiced his support of the program and expressed gratitude for everything Erica and Brian do for the community.

The Council concurred to move forward with the grant application for this program at Community Connecting Us.

Seasonal Business Use Applications -Tackle Stand, Marina Park, Robert Bryne, 109 N. Main Street- Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the application for the Tackle Stand in Marina Park.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the application. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Seasonal Business Use Application - Granite Run Taproom, Jason Usilton - Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the application for the outdoor seating at Granite Run Taproom.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the application. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Owner Jason Usilton expressed his gratitude and inquired about pop up stands which he may submit an application for a later time.

Discussion with business owners on the possibility of a farmers market in the middle of town briefly ensued. The matter will be discussed at a later time once more pre-planning has occurred.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Treasurer Sookiasian provided the Council with financial reports and updates for the month of March. The report included various revenue sources, projects and expenses including the police computer and software and the town’s health insurance refund.

Chief of Police Smith provided a brief update to include the number of calls for service, code complaints, and meetings attended. She provided statistics provided by the MDTA of their shifts and work within town in addition to the reports provided by the Cecil County Sheriff’s Office.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council an update on meetings and projects. This included the upcoming pirate event meeting, updates on the Rock Run erosion project, the stormwater management project on Granite Ave. and Race St., Community Legacy Grant updates, interest from the public on property going to auction at 37 Race Street, and release of the 2022 Façade Improvement Application.

COUNCIL REPORTS –

Councilman Berlin stated he is looking for vendors and sponsors for the Snakehead Tournament on May 14, 2022.

Councilman Tome, Jr. suggested using ARPA funding to provide a tablet to each of the Council Members in efforts to cut back on the use of paper at meetings and for them to have a device to attend the Council meetings via Zoom if needed. Staff was asked to move forward with seeking an estimate for the tablets.

Councilman Tome, Jr. stated there is a lot of drug activity by Netters Alley and inquired about placing a gate in order to prevent cars from driving back onto the property.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – River Sweep, April 23, 2022 in Marina Park – registration 8:30 a.m. - sponsored by Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway. Register early at www.upperbaytrails.com or call 410-457-2482

Snakehead Tournament – May 14, 2022 in Marina Park

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor