



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Legislative Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
June 1, 2021**

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

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – At the May 18, 2021 Council meeting, motion was made by Councilman Broomell, seconded by Councilman Baron, to convene in closed executive session at 8:28 p.m., pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, Section 3-305 (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter pertaining to a local business. ROLL CALL VOTE: Deputy Mayor Brown – Y, Councilman Broomell – Y, Councilman Baron – Y, and Councilman Knight – Y.

PRESENT: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Baron, Councilman Broomell, and Councilman Knight, Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Legal Counsel McCarron.

The Mayor and Council discussed conditions of the summer business use permit. Counsel McCarron provided a legal opinion regarding the issuance and non-compliance for a summer business use permit.

The closed executive session adjourned at 9:01 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: In person: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Knight, Councilman Tome, Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, Treasurer Sookiasian and Chief of Police Smith. Video: Counsel McCarron

ABSENT: None

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Kuhs administered the Oath of Office to Incumbent Tom Knight and Daniel Berlin for a 4-year term on Town Council. Mayor Kuhs administered the Oath of Office to Wayne Tome, Jr. for a 2-year term on Town Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from Town Council May 4, 2021 Legislative Meeting and May 18, 2021 Work Session Meeting were presented.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve the minutes presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Abstentions by Councilman Berlin and Councilman Tome, Jr. Three in favor with Mayor's vote. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET ADOPTION

Ordinance 2021-03 – Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget

Treasurer Sookiasian presented Ordinance 2021-03 – Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget and reviewed the budget notes.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve Ordinance 2021-03 – Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget as presented. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment to Planning Commission – recommendation to re-appoint Chris Komisar for a 3-year term to expire 2024 and William Baron to serve the balance of the term of Sterling Shuman through June 2022.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to re-appoint Mr. Heck for another 3-year term on the Planning Commission and Mr. Baron to serve the balance of Sterling Shuman through June 2022. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

2021 Façade Improvement Program Update – Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the Council that the 2021 Façade Improvement Program application has been released to the public. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2021. Applications will be reviewed by members of the Cecil County Historical Trust.

Road Repair on Granite Avenue – Treasurer Sookiasian informed the Council of road repair needed on Granite Avenue due to erosion.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to proceed with the road repair on Granite Avenue addressed by Treasurer Sookiasian. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Treasurer Sookiasian provided the Council with financial reports and updates for the month of May.

Chief Smith provided the Chief's report for the month of April and informed the Council of the meetings attended.

Deputy Mayor Brown inquired what shifts Chief Smith has in place for the Cecil County Sheriff's Office summer schedule. Chief Smith stated that she has the schedule set for 5 shifts on the weekend only.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council an update on various meetings and projects. This included the recent Planning Commission meeting approving the Preliminary Site Plan and Preliminary Subdivision Plan with conditions for Bainbridge development, World Turtle Clean-Up Day hosted by High5 Initiative, Memorial Planter Decorating Event, the Shoppe at the Manor ribbon cutting ceremony, Granite Avenue and Race Street Project update, and Rice Tot Lot/Dog Park updates.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Tome, Jr. presented Chief Smith with a laptop computer from the Water Witch Fire Company.

Councilman Berlin expressed his excitement to serve on the Town Council.

Councilman Knight stated that he has been in contact with the town's IT company regarding the phone system who will get back to him about the fee for the service he inquired about for Chief Smith.

Deputy Mayor Brown welcomed the new Council members. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for the Water Witch Fire Company attending the last Town Council meeting to hopes to obtain additional funds, and announced that he and his wife personally wish to donate \$5,000 to the Water Witch Fire Company.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Tome, Sr. voiced his concern regarding residential trashcans on the sidewalk as it is a safety hazard for pedestrians walking on the sidewalk and hinders the town's appearance. He also informed Town Council of an individual at Lee's Landing who went into cardiac arrest, and the response from Lee's Landing staff to give the individual CPR until paramedics arrived.

Wayne Tome, Sr. stated his issue with the guardrails along the bridge on North Main Street. State Highway will not allow the guardrails to be removed due to safety. He suggested the town investigate putting a brown powder coating on the guardrails to improve their appearance.

Shelia Tome voiced her concern regarding the sidewalks on the North end of town and stated they are treacherous and have been in bad condition for 30 years and need to be addressed. Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that there is potential funding through the State Highway Administration for streetscape projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

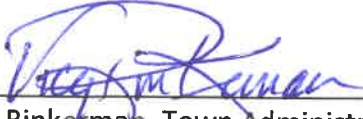
Annual Rockfish Tournament – June 5, 2021 in Marina Park

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 3-104 Administrative Function to discuss Council appointments to Committees and Section 3-305 (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter pertaining to a local business. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. Motion carried unanimously. Council did not return to open session.

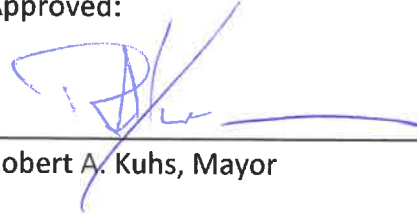
The public meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor