



**Town of Port Deposit  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Work Session Meeting  
Conference/Video Meeting  
March 16, 2021**

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

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On March 2, 2021, at 7:57 p.m., on motion made by Deputy Mayor Brown, seconded by Councilmember Broomell, the Mayor and Council convened in closed executive session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, Section 3-305 (b) (4) to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

Present at the Closed Session: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilmembers Broomell, Knight, and Baron, Town Administrator Rinkerman, Bainbridge Development Corporation Board of Director Members Dr. Carl Roberts, Steve Cassard, and Toni Sprenkle.

Mayor and Council discussed the progress with the development of the Bainbridge property and potential business and industrial organizations considering this property as a site location.

The Closed Executive Session was adjourned at 8:40 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 Baron, Councilman Broomell, Councilman Knight, and Town Administrator Rinkerman. Via Zoom: Legal Counsel McCarron

**ABSENT:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Ordinance and Resolution 2021-01 – a curative Ordinance and Resolution reaffirming Ordinances and Town Council Resolutions passed since the May, 2019 Election with less than four (4) Council members present and voting in the affirmative.

No public comment.

No Council comments.

Ordinance and Resolution 2021-01 will be considered at the April 6, 2021 Legislative meeting.

Resolution 03-2021 – Curative Charter amendment reaffirming Resolution 01-2019 and Resolution 08-2018 that reduced the number of Council members from six to four.

No public comment.

No Council comments.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve Resolution 03-2021. Seconded by Councilman Knight. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Election Update – Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the Council that the Board of Supervisors of Elections met on March 9, 2021 to verify the petitions and financial disclosure statements submitted by four potential candidates for the May 11, 2021 election. The board confirmed three of the four applications that were submitted, as one of the applications did not meet the requirement of 25 signatures, therefore the individual is unable to run for office.

The board verified that Incumbent Thomas Knight, Daniel Berlin, and Wayne Tome Jr. met the requirements for the elected office and are unopposed for the three Council seats up for election in May 2021. Pursuant to Section 610D of the Port Deposit Charter, the Board of Supervisors of Elections cancelled the May 11, 2021 Municipal Election. Candidates will be sworn into office at the June 1, 2021 Council Meeting. Thomas Knight and Daniel Berlin will take an oath of office for a four year term to expire in May 2025. Wayne Tome Jr. will take an oath of office for a two year term to expire May 2023 as stated in the Port Deposit Charter.

Letter of Intent U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Feasibility Study for flood gate closures – Town Administrator Rinkerman advised the Council that she has been in contact with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in regards to the intent to get on their list for funding to complete an in depth feasibility study. She has been given the go-ahead from the U.S. Army of Engineers to submit a letter of intent.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COUNCIL REPORTS** – Councilman Knight stated that he has been doing some research on the town's firearm regulations as the State of Maryland allows municipalities to enact firearms regulations which affect the town owned properties and buildings. He states that the current ordinance states that firearms are not permitted in the town parks. Councilman Knight explained that he would like to keep the ordinance in-tact to prevent anyone from hunting or carrying an open weapon through the park, however wishes to amend the ordinance to permit individuals who have a valid concealed weapon permit in the park. He advised that there should also be signage posted in the park publicizing the firearm regulations once the Ordinance has been amended.

Deputy Mayor Brown recommended discussing signage and language of the proposed amendment at the next Public Safety Meeting.

In order to speed up the process, Legal Counsel McCarron has recommended that while the Ordinance change is in process, to proceed with informing Chief Smith of the proposed amendment and publicizing a memorandum of understanding to avoid unnecessary conflict with anyone in the park who may have a valid

concealed weapon permit.

Deputy Mayor Brown inquired about the status of the new dog park on North Main Street. Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the Council that the installation of the new concrete has been delayed due to cold weather. The town is also in discussion with Cecil County to acquire 41 N. Main Street that would be included in the dog park. The dog park should be ready this spring or summer. Councilman Knight added that it would be great to have the additional cameras installed for the dog park opening.

Councilman Broomell commented on the great amount of progress that has been completed with the new waste water treatment plant being built in town.

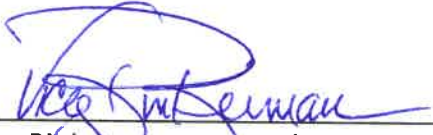
Deputy Mayor Brown stated that he looked at the trees in Marina Park which were discussed at the previous Town Council Meeting for possible removal. He along with the remainder of Council agreed that the trees look healthy and they do not see a need for removal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – No announcements.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor