



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Legislative Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
March 15, 2022**

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 Knight, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Tome Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Treasurer Sookiasian. Via Zoom: Deputy Mayor Brown

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2022-01 - Port Deposit Zoning Code amendment, Article XI, Section 211 to amend the regulations for occasional festivals, events of public interest or special events, occasional outdoor. The proposed Ordinance would give the Mayor and Town Council flexibility to determine the length of time for an annual Seasonal Business and Use Permit and establish a rental fee on a case-by-case basis. Planning Commission has recommended approval.

Overview of Ordinance – Town Administrator Rinkerman provided an Overview of Ordinance 2022-01.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Update – Treasurer Sookiasian provided an update on pending and previously approved projects for using the ARPA funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 03-2022 – Amendment to Resolution 09-2020 to amend the conditions for Seasonal Business and/or Use regulations relative to days per week, hours of operation, and length of time, right to establish other restrictions and conditions on a case-by-case basis, and creating a standard for type of table and maximum seating per table - Town Administrator Rinkerman presented Resolution 03-2022.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

GFL Contract Renewal for FY 2023 – 2025 – Treasurer Sookiasian presented the proposed GFL contract renewal for FY 2023-2025. Deputy Mayor Brown inquired about the approximate margin/differential from what the town charges the residents and the cost the vendor charges the town. Discussion ensued on the matter and Treasurer Sookiasian stated that there is no need to increase the costs for residents at this time.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to renew the GFL contract for another three (3) years. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Councilman Berlin stated he would prefer a two (2) year contract. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – N, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Office Contract Renewal – Treasurer Sookiasian presented the Cecil County Sheriff's and clarified that the contract presented is not to determine the number of shifts but for the rate at which their service would be provided. Mayor Kuhs stated that since the rate has increased by 10%, he believes that the shifts should be cut 10% for budgeting purposes since not all shifts are being filled. Councilman Knight disagreed, stating that he does not agree with cutting CCSO shifts. Treasurer Sookiasian stated there is no need to cut shifts and suggests having the Deputies available as much as possible as the town wouldn't want to deter the Deputies from signing up for patrol shifts. He also stated that the town has already budgeted the full hours/shifts, and wouldn't see an impact unless all shifts were continuously filled. Councilman Tome, Jr. asked about providing Chief Smith more hours. Council members who also serve on the Public Safety Committee explained that Chief Smith provides more administrative services while CCSO provides patrol services. Councilman Tome, Jr. then inquired about the status of the town's Police Department. Councilman Knight and Deputy Mayor Brown clarified the matter while expressing safety concerns, procedures, and use of outside resources.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to renew the Cecil County Sheriff's Office Contract. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – N, Brown – Y. Motion carried.

Barbacane and Thornton & Company Contract for FY 2022 – 2024 – Treasurer Sookiasian presented the Barbacane and Thornton & Company Contract for FY 2022 – 2024 stating that there is a 10% cost increase, but due to the size of the town and the preparation work completed by Treasurer Sookiasian, the price is still minimal compared to other municipalities.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to renew the Barbacane and Thornton & Company Contract. Seconded by Councilman Knight. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Berlin reminded Council of the Snakehead Tournament to be held on May 14, 2022.

Councilman Tome, Jr. stated that there have been individuals within town attempting to break into cars and homes and reminded everyone to lock their vehicles. Treasurer Sookiasian stated that Administrative Assistant Heath has obtained footage of the individuals by the fire house and has provided that footage to Chief Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements

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 3-305 (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. Council did not return to open session.

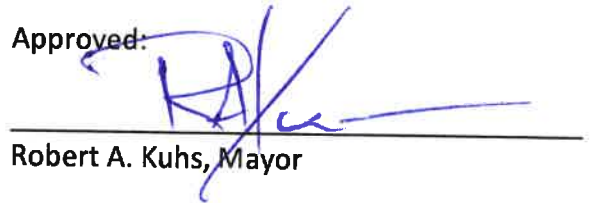
The public meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor