



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Legislative Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
February 1, 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 Berlin, Councilman Knight, Town Administrator Rinkerman, Treasurer Sookiasian, and Chief of Police Smith. Via Zoom: Deputy Mayor Brown and Councilman Tome Jr.

ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from Town Council January 4, 2022 Legislative Meeting and January 18, 2022 Work Session Meeting were presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Funding Update - Treasurer Sookiasian updated the Council regarding the ARPA funding informing them that the program has changed as new and more flexible guidelines were released in January. The finance committee is working on developing a list of potential projects to consider for the funding. This includes, but is not limited to, new welcome signs, picnic tables, playground equipment repair, bank erosion study, planning costs for waterfront improvements, Oystershell Alley drain repair, façade grant contribution, phone, computer, and sound system updates, and donations to non-profit organizations. Treasurer Sookiasian stated that they do not need approval of the projects at this time, but suggested that the Council consider approval for starting the process of obtaining estimates and gathering information for the new phone, computer, and sound system. He also suggested a motion to be made regarding the façade grant in order to proceed with the process and application. Discussion ensued regarding potential projects to consider for the list, and Treasurer Sookiasian suggested that the Council provide additional ideas.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve the town's contribution to the façade grant for FY2023. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y, Berlin – abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

MML Summer Conference Information – Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council information regarding the upcoming MML Summer Conference. She advised that if any Council members are interested in attending to let her know ASAP to make accommodations.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Treasurer Sookiasian provided the Council with financial reports and updates for the month of January. The report included various revenue sources, projects and expenses including professional fees, real property taxes, trash collection, and USDA loan settlement.

Chief Smith provided the Chief’s report for the month of January and informed the Council of the meetings attended. She also provided the press releases and intelligence meeting report that was provided to her from the Cecil County Sheriff’s Office. Discussion ensued regarding Mayor Kuhs previous request to have Chief Smith contact Garmin and other GPS companies to clarify that Route 222 should not be marked as a truck route. Chief Smith stated that she will draft a letter to present to the Council at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council an update on projects. This included the closure of Route 222 on February 14, 2022 for approximately 2 months for the installation of sewer lines to the Bainbridge property and will post a press release tomorrow morning. Town Administrator Rinkerman attended a meeting with Community Connecting Us (CCU) and the Cecil County Public Library to which the Cecil County Public Library has agreed to provide assistance with the addition of computers and internet service to CCU.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided an update on the homes in cyclical tax sale within town. She advised she spoke with the Deputy Attorney for Cecil County regarding the Dorchester County Program. Counsel McCarron is reviewing the town’s code relative to what capabilities the town has for the homes posing a safety threat.

COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Kuhs inquired about the reasoning behind the decrease in funding awarded to the town for the Façade Improvement Program. Town Administrator Rinkerman responded that she was advised that there were numerous applications submitted and less funding available.

Councilman Tome, Jr. asked if there were any updates or information on the lights by the basketball court. Treasurer Sookiasian stated that there is no recent update from Delmarva, but he will follow up.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Winter Lights Promotion runs through February 2022.

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 Berlin. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Knight – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Council did not return to open session.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor