



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

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

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – At the February 1, 2022 Council meeting, motion was made by Councilman Knight, seconded by Councilman Berlin, to convene in closed executive session at 8:00 p.m., pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, 3-305 (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for the public purpose and matters directly related thereto relative to the Bainbridge property. ROLL CALL VOTE: Deputy Mayor Brown – Y, Councilman Berlin – Y, Councilman Knight – Y and Councilman Tome, Jr. – Y.

PRESENT AT CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Knight, Councilman Tome, Jr., and Town Administrator Rinkerman.

The Mayor and Council discussed the Bainbridge property relative to potential public acquisition and a proposed recreational use for the Tome School campus.

The closed executive session adjourned at 8:17 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, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Tome Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Treasurer Sookiasian. Via Zoom: Deputy Mayor Brown

ABSENT: Councilman Knight

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

OLD BUSINESS

Abandoned Properties Update – Town Administrator Rinkerman contacted Cecil County Permits and Inspections regarding several properties that have been reported on Race Street and properties in cyclical tax sale on Main Street. The building inspector inspected the properties last week and advised they will be re-posted. Letters will be sent to the property owners.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2023 Port Deposit Transportation Priorities Letter – Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that the County Executive requested a list of the town's priorities to be considered for the inclusion in Cecil

County priorities list. The Council was provided a copy of the priorities letter. The Council had no comment or amendments to the letter presented and will send for submission.

Marina Park Event Proposal – Town Administrator Rinkerman was contacted by Community Connecting Us President, Erica Berge regarding a pirate event by a reenactment group called the Skullduggery Crew. The event has been held at Havre de Grace the past few years but has been cancelled at that location this year. Mrs. Berge will be coordinating volunteers for the event and working with the Skullduggery Crew who stated that they usually charge \$800 for the event, but since it is their first time in Port Deposit, they would only charge \$400. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the event and the ability to recoup the money by charging an admission fee and having vendors. Council concurred to support the event and closing the boat launch for the weekend of the event.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Brown stated that the trash area of Lee’s Landing is in bad condition and has now become a health hazard. Town Administrator Rinkerman will contact John Vontran of Lee’s Landing regarding the issue.

Deputy Mayor Brown discussed the usage of ARPA funds for a 10% premium pay for town staff during COVID with the Town Council.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to issue a 10% premium pay for staff for COVID response. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Brown – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Berlin announced that the Snakehead Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 14th. Pleasant View Baptist Church has agreed to run the children’s division of the Snakehead Tournament. They are hoping to find vendors and food trucks to expand the event.

Councilman Tome Jr. inquired about the cost and purpose of the dumpster in Marina Park. He also discussed the ARPA funding and requested that the Water Witch Fire Company to not be categorized with non-profit organizations and instead be categorized as a public service.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Winter Wonderland Promotion runs through February 2022.


The public meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor