



**Town of Port Deposit  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Legislative Meeting  
Conference/Video Meeting  
April 19, 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:** Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Knight, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Tome Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Treasurer Sookiasian.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No Public Comment

**NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment Schedule to Boards and Committees – Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council a list of appointees to the Committees due for re-appointment. Administrative Assistant Heath is confirming the appointees' interest in being re-appointed but Town Administrator Rinkerman asked the Council to think about any potential new members that they may have in mind to fill any vacancies. Re-appointments will be scheduled for the May 3, 2022 Town Council Meeting.

Seasonal Business Use Application- Wicked Woodworks – Brian Davis – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented Mr. Davis' application for carving a largescale piece of wood art in Marina Park to promote suicide and depression awareness. Davis is currently working on a grant with the Cecil County Arts Council to obtain the tools and materials necessary for the project. He stated this is a 3 month minimum project and he would like to utilize power from the Visitor Center. Once the art is created, the piece of art will be moved to different sites.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the application presented. Seconded by Councilman Tome, Jr. Councilman Knight - Abstain. Motion carried with 3 in favor.

Seasonal Business Use Application – Lee's Landing Dock Bar – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented Lee's Landing Dock Bar's application for outdoor seating on the promenade with the same layout as the 2021 Season. In 2021, Lee's Landing Dock Bar placed high top tables on the promenade and was made aware that the Town had defined in the Zoning Ordinance and conditions for approval that only standard height dining 4-seat tables are permitted.

Chris McCollum, representative of Lee's Landing Dock Bar discussed the application submitted and stated they had 2 requests. One, to modify the date of the Seasonal Business Use Application to May 1,

2022 to October 31, 2022. Two, to allow Lee's Landing Dock Bar to use the high top tables and chair's they purchased last year.

Deputy Mayor Brown explained to Mr. McCollum that he advocated for Lee's Landing to have use of the promenade for additional dining to help recover from the hit restaurants took during COVID. He explained that in order to control the egress of the promenade and allow individuals who are not dining/drinking at the restaurant to still feel comfortable walking through, conditions were put into place. He explained that last year Lee's Landing Dock Bar represented on their application that they would place low-top dining tables with 4 person(s) seating which the Town agreed upon. Lee's Landing Dock Bar instead then placed high-top tables with 6 person(s) seating, which Deputy Mayor Brown explained promoted standing and gathering around the tables creating difficulty controlling passage through the promenade in front of the restaurant. The restaurant then stated that they would enforce having a clear path for pedestrians through the promenade, which they also did not follow through with. Deputy Mayor Brown expressed the frustration of Lee's Landing Dock Bar not taking the town seriously and working with the town when trying to help them recover from the impact of COVID.

Mayor Kuhs stated that he agreed with Deputy Mayor Brown and that Lee's Landing Dock Bar did not do what was agreed upon and that it is not the town's fault that the restaurant spent money on tables and chairs that they knew were not approved. He also expressed the difficulty that pedestrians face attempting to walk down the promenade through the "packed bar" atmosphere rather than dining tables.

Chris McCollum stated that the tables at the other 2 locations that Lee's Landing Dock Bar owners have are a mix of high top and low top tables and recognizes that this location is different. He stated he completely understands the situation as he is a former public official in Baltimore County and understands the regulations that the town has placed. He was not at Lee's Landing Dock Bar last year but he wishes to work with the town and fix the issues that occurred.

Councilman Knight stated he agrees with Deputy Mayor Brown and Mayor Kuhs and suggested if there are tables at the other 2 locations like there is at Lee's Landing, for them to interchange the high top tables to another location.

Councilman Tome Jr. expressed his concern of the large crowds standing and drinking by the water from a public safety aspect. He also mentioned that the smoking area is in a location where people gather that creates difficulty for passage.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve to amended date of the application's start date of May 1, 2022 and ending date of October 31, 2022 and to approve the use of 16 – standard height – 4 seat dining tables. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown.

Discussion ensued regarding umbrellas as last season, the placement of the umbrellas on the promenade also created difficulty for a pedestrian to have a clear passageway.

Motion was amended by Councilman Knight to allow umbrellas that are mounted in the center of the standard height -4 seat dining tables or mounted by the waterside end of the table to allow a clear passage. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator advised that the town will issue Lee's Landing Dock Bar a Seasonal Use Permit that will outline the conditions upon approval.

Councilman Tome, Jr. asked for Lee's Landing Dock Bar to police the guests leaving the restaurant/bar with drinks as the bottles and cans are frequently disposed of on the side of the roadway and in the town's public parking lots.

Appointment to DNR Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SB 541) – Town Administrator presented a letter from the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding Senate Bill 541 and the establishment of a Stakeholders Advisory Board for the development of on Brainbridge. As the Town, they have been allowed one appointment to the Advisory Board. BDC appointee, David Rudolph stated that Senate Bill 541 states that the Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources may appoint additional member to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee as needed and suggested that if the Council wishes to appoint Town Administrator Rinkerman and then later see a need for an additional member, to contact the Secretary.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to appoint Town Administrator Rinkerman to the DNR Stakeholder Advisory Committee on behalf of the town. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Knight – Y, Berlin – Y, Tome, Jr. – Y, Brown – Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Tome, Jr. inquired if there is anything in the works for redoing the parking lot across from Jefferson Hall. Town Administrator Rinkerman advised that the project is in progress and the town is waiting for a bid.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

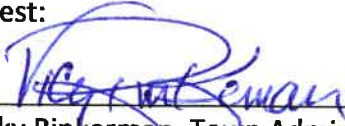
**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – River Sweep, April 23, 2022 in Marina Park – sponsored by Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

Snakehead Tournament – May 14, 2022 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 3-305 (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals relative to appointments to Boards and Committees. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. 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.

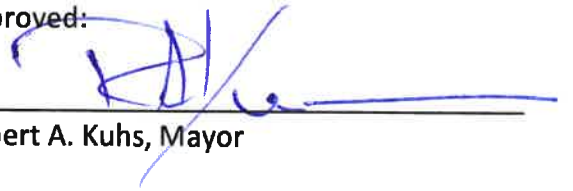
The public meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor