



**Town of Port Deposit  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Legislative Meeting  
Conference/Video Meeting  
October 5, 2021**

*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, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Knight, Councilman Tome Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, Treasurer Sookiasian, and Chief of Police Smith. Via Zoom: Counsel McCarron

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from Town Council August 3, 2021 Legislative Meeting were presented.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome Jr. to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome Jr. – Y, Knight – abstain August 3, 2021 and August 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No Public Comment

**INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance 2021-06 – An Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation debt for the stormwater drainage project on Race Street and Granite Avenue.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided a brief overview of Ordinance 2021-06. The Public Hearing on the Ordinance will be advertised and scheduled for the November 2, 2021 Council Meeting. The follow up Resolution will outline the terms of the loan agreement with the USDA for the project.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION**

Community Development Block Grant for \$50,000 grant to match funding through the US Army Corp of Engineers PAS program for a Port Deposit Watershed Study for Flood and Stormwater Mitigation.

Synopsis of Proposal and Grant – Town Administrator Rinkerman discussed the draft application for the CDBG grant. She is currently working with multiple parties from the University of Maryland and Cecil County for the project which will go through CDBG's special project program.

Public Comment – No Public Comment

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented Resolution 13-2021 – Maryland Community Development Block Grant Authorizing Resolution for the Port Deposit Watershed Study for Flood and Stormwater Mitigation Project.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to adopt Resolution 13-2021. Seconded by Councilman Tome Jr. Roll call vote: Berlin-Y, Tome Jr.-Y, Knight-Y, Brown-Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Tree Maintenance and Removal Update – Treasurer Sookiasian followed up on the request for tree work at 18 S. Main Street. Treasurer Sookiasian forwarded the information received from the State Representative to the tree company for proposal. The tree company provided the estimate for the requested tree and for an additional tree located on turtle beach.

Mayor Kuhs inquired if there were any updates regarding possible solutions to prevent debris from gathering at turtle beach, mentioning previous discussion of DNR's recommendation of pilings. Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that the annual clean up events usually take care of the main debris, however the tree currently on Turtle Beach is an unusual circumstance. The town is anticipating that Exelon's settlement with MDE on water quality with the Conowingo Dam will be able to help with funding for the suggested pilings.

Deputy Mayor Brown inquired about the removal of logs/debris along the wall along the revetment wall. Town Administrator Rinkerman explained the nuisance flooding that occurs along that wall frequently washes the playground mulch away. DNR suggested leaving the logs and putting down stone and building up the revetment wall, however the whole wall would need to be done rather than just a section. Treasurer Sookiasian suggested doing a test run by putting some of the stone the town has to fill in and build up one area for the time being.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve the costs for removal of the trees requested. Seconded by Councilman Tome Jr. Roll call vote: Berlin-Y, Tome Jr.-Y, Knight-Y, Brown-Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

FEMA Risk Rating 2.0 New Flood Policy Rating Methodology – Town Administrator Rinkerman informed the Council that she was notified by Kevin Wagner, MDE Community Assistance Program Manager that effective October 1, 2021 FEMA changed their rating system and are no longer using the flood insurance maps. FEMA is now using a Risk Rating 2.0 system. Mr. Wagner stated that it would not directly impact the town but could pull as far as the 21904 zip code since FEMA has 179 policies in this zip code.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) – Chief Smith stated that the MDTA has agreed to do a MOU with the town while they are in the process of finalizing MOU's with additional towns. Chief Smith stated that the MDTA police will now have the authority to do enforcement in town for trucks, radar, and speeding. Councilman Knight explained that they usually do a more thorough inspection on trucks than the Cecil County Sheriff's Office.

Motion was made by Councilman Knight to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Maryland Transportation Authority. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Berlin-Y, Tome Jr.-Y, Knight-Y, Brown-Y. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Treasurer Sookiasian provided the Council with financial reports and updates for the month of September. The report included various projects and expenses such as the Snakehead Tournament, camera project, and advertising.

Chief Smith provided the Chief’s report for the month of September and informed the Council of the meetings attended. She provided the monthly Cecil County Sheriff Office’s Report via email to the Council.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council an update on various meetings and projects. This included the recent Planning Commission meeting where the Final Site Plan and Final Subdivision Plan for Phase 1 of the Bainbridge development was approved. She stated the Public Works and Landscaping Agreement is being developed and will be presented to the Council at either the October 19, 2021 Meeting or November 2, 2021 Meeting.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council additional Welcome to Port Deposit sign options as requested. Town Council will review the sign options and locations and follow up for further discussion at the next meeting.

Town Administrator Rinkerman asked the Council to consider devoting \$15,000 from the American Recovery Funds to the Façade Improvement Grants in order for all of the applications submitted to be approved. She explained that the completion of all of the projects would benefit the look and condition of the town.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Tome, Jr. asked Chief Smith the status of the trash cans on 74 N. Main Street. He also inquired about the bushes in Oyster Shell Alley and tree that fell on Center Street. Deputy Mayor Brown provided information on the phone line damage from the tree.


Councilman Berlin inquired about the boats on N. Main Street. He informed the Council that the Snakehead Tournament has been rescheduled to October 9, 2021 due to the recent storm and multiple spill gates at the dam opened.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.


**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – No announcements.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:

  
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Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:

  
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Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor