



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
January 17, 2023**

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

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – At the January 3, 2023 Council meeting, motion was made by Councilman Knight, seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown, 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, 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 appointments to Boards and Committees; and (3) to consider acquisition of real property for the public purpose and matters directly related thereto. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mayor Kuhs – Y, Deputy Mayor Brown – Y, Councilman Berlin – Y, Councilman Knight – Y and Councilman Tome, Jr. – Y.

PRESENT: Mayor Kuhs, Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Knight, Councilman Tome, Jr., Toni Sprenkle, BDC Executive Director, and Town Administrator Rinkerman.

The Council discussed the salary and benefits for the proposed Public Works position and potential town acquisition of Bainbridge property with Executive Director Sprenkle.

The Closed Executive Session meeting was adjourned at 9:00 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 Knight, Councilman Tome, Jr., Town Administrator Rinkerman, and PW & Code Administrator Steffen. Via Zoom: Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin and Counsel McCarron.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Introduction – Dytonia Reed, BGE Government and External Affairs introduced herself to the Council and provided information on small business loans available. Councilman Knight inquired if there is any plan for expansion of gas lines in the area. Ms. Reed explained that there is no expansion planned for Cecil County at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Works – Lawn Mower – PW & Code Administrator Steffen advised that the current smaller lawn mower is leaking oil. He suggested a mower with a 48"-50" deck at approximately \$4,700.00. Mayor

Kuhs suggested a location to obtain an estimate. PW & Code Administrator Steffen will discuss funding with Treasurer Sookiasian in addition to gathering estimates.

Cameras Update – S. Main Street – Town Administrator Rinkerman re-visited the discussion of cameras on South Main Street. After presenting the Public Camera Agreements for electric utility service at 15 S. Main and 33 S. Main at the last meeting, staff has researched alternative solutions after concerns regarding conflict of interest were expressed.

Counsel McCarron clarified for the Council that if they decide to proceed with the Public Camera Agreements, there is no conflict of interest. He explained it would be a different circumstance if the town were paying rent to have the camera placed on someone's private property, however, the agreement is for reimbursement of the electricity used to operate the surveillance camera.

Town Administrator Rinkerman and PW & Code Administrator Steffen presented alternative solutions provided by the security camera company. To place a camera on the street scape light outside of Backfin Blues rather than the previously presented proposal on 15 S. Main Street, would cost an additional \$1,650. If mounted on the building at 15 S. Main St. the owner of D'Lorenzo's has graciously volunteered to allow the camera to connect to their Wi-Fi, resulting in a stronger and more reliable signal.

Councilman Berlin expressed his concern about the town having cameras placed on private property and asked Counsel McCarron if this is something that has been done before with other municipalities. Counsel McCarron explained that although not ideal, in many cases municipalities will place utilities or other items on private property due to the circumstances or ease of use. Discussion ensued and Counsel McCarron provided clarification on the matter.

Councilman Knight explained the expenses regarding the agreement and the 3 years of electricity he plans to donate for the cameras.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the Public Camera Agreement for the Electric Utility Service on 15 S. Main Street. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Tome – Y, Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Knight – Abstain. Motion carried.

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented an alternative solution to having the camera placed on 33 S. Main. The solution would cost approximately \$10,000.

Motion was made by Councilman Tome, Jr. to approve the Public Camera Agreement for the Electric Utility Service on 33 S. Main Street. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Berlin – Y, Brown – Y, Tome – Y, Knight – Abstain. Motion carried.

Election 2023 – Update – Town Administrator Rinkerman advised the Council of the upcoming election in May 2023. The election will be for two(2) Council members and Mayor to serve a four(4) year term. The initial Election Board meeting will be held January 18, 2023. The candidate packages are available at Town Hall on February 9, 2023. The deadline to submit the package is March 13, 2023 by 4:30 P.M.

Hopkins Quarry Park update – Town Administrator Rinkerman announced the first public meeting for the Hopkins Quarry Park will be held at Town Hall on February 21, 2023. The consultant will be designing a recreational park questionnaire to be provided on the town’s media sites.

Sustainable Community Renewal – Town Administrator Rinkerman advised that the Sustainable Community 5 year plan is due by December 18, 2023. She will reach out to community members for committee assistance.

NEW BUSINESS – Rock Run Embankment Stabilization MDE Permitting – Town Administrator Rinkerman advised that RK&K has been working on the engineering and design for the embankment at Rock Run Park. The cost of the required MDE permit and all necessary requirements is \$22,585.50 which was not included in the original engineering/design cost. Council has agreed to postpone the motion and discuss the matter further.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Tome, Jr. informed the Council that he spoke with Steve Overbay who stated that the County is willing to condemn some of the vacant dwellings if the town agrees to fund demolishing the properties. Discussion ensued on the matter. Town Administrator advised that the town would need to know the procedure and what the agreement consists of. Counsel McCarron stated that he would look into the details of the potential agreement. Deputy Mayor Brown and Councilman Knight voiced their support of the use of ARPA funds for the project and learning more details.

Councilman Berlin inquired about the process when large items and trash is discarded on town property and County property.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Hopkins Quarry Park Public Planning Meeting – Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Recreational park questionnaire will be released February 7 on town media sites & surrounding community pages - public is asked to participate in the survey.

Community Art Project with Community Connecting has been announced on media sites – deadline for artists to submit a proposal is March 1, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. Audio recording is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kúhs, Mayor