



**Town of Port Deposit  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Legislative Meeting  
Conference/Video Meeting  
April 6, 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, Councilman Baron, Town Administrator Rinkerman, and Finance Manager Sookiasian. Via Zoom: Councilman Knight and Chief of Police Smith. The Council did not have a quorum to conduct business.

**ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Brown and Councilman Broomell

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of meeting minutes from Town Council February 2, 2021 Legislative Meeting and February 16, 2021 Work Session Meeting is postponed until the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Postpone adoption until the April 20, 2021 Meeting – Ordinance and Resolution 2021-01 – a curative Ordinance and Resolution affirming Ordinances and Town Council Resolutions passed since the May, 2019 Election with less than four (4) Council members present and voting in the affirmative.

Conrad Dedication Plaque – Finance Manager Sookiasian provided details regarding the Conrad Dedication plaque. The Council members present had no objections to the plaque, but has been tabled for approval at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction Ordinance 2021-02 – Amendment to the Port Deposit Code, Chapter V Public Conduct, Section 5-5.7 Certain Actions and Conducts Prohibited to amend the firearms regulation in a public park or recreation area.

Town Administrator Rinkerman advised that the Public Hearing will be held April 20, 2021, and adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for May 4, 2021.

Appointment to Historic Area Commission – recommendation to re-appoint Martha Barchowsky for a 3-year term to expire 2024 – Postponed until the next Town Council meeting. Mayor Kuhs commented that Commissioner Barchowsky has been an asset to have on the Historic Area Commission.

Seasonal Business and/or Use Applications – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the applications which were submitted from Cool Beans Market, Granite Run Taproom, and Lee’s Landing regarding the seasonal use of the town property to expand their seating area.

Tania Flemming of Cool Beans Market has requested to continue use of the tables she currently has in place for this season. Councilman Knight and Councilman Baron expressed their support of use of the tables to help benefit the business and community. Mayor Kuhs stated he is in support of the use of the tables for this season as long as there is an understanding that next year the tables fit the defined bistro style.

Jason Usilton of Granite Run Taproom has requested continuation of the seasonal use of the parking spaces to expand the outdoor dining area. Jason Usilton stated if approved, he would be replacing the existing barricade with whiskey barrel planters to enhance the appearance. Councilman Knight expressed his full support of Granite Run Taproom using the parking spaces as an expansion of the restaurant for seasonal use as it creates a great atmosphere and is thoroughly being enjoyed by customers. Mayor Kuhs commented that the parking spots in question are prime spots in the center of town and he questioned the fairness of those parking spots only benefiting one business. He stated he spoke with another business owner about the matter and was informed that they did not have any issue with the parking spots used for Granite Run’s outdoor dining, and that the spots were primarily occupied by the tenants of the same building. Councilman Baron expressed his support of Granite Run Taproom using the parking spots for outdoor dining.

John Vontran of Lee’s Landing submitted an application for the use of tables to be placed on the promenade in front of the restaurant. Town Administrator Rinkerman explained that the Town has an easement across the promenade and presented a resolution approving a seasonal outdoor dining permit with conditions due to the public easement. The intent of the resolution and application is to redirect the standing customers to a seated area in order to leave an area of the walkway open on the promenade.

Mayor Kuhs asked how the “no standing” rule would be policed in order to ensure pedestrians can comfortably walk on the promenade through the tables and patrons. Mr. Vontran stated there would be increased security, signage, and regulations in place that state one must be seated in order to be served.

Councilman Knight and Councilman Baron expressed support of Lee’s Landing use of the promenade as an extension of outdoor dining with the discussed conditions in place. Resolution 05-2021 will be presented for adoption at the April 20, 2021 Town Council Meeting.

## **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

Finance Manager Sookiasian provided the Council with financial reports and updates for the month of March and additional updates on various projects. He informed the Council that unless there were any objections, the annual donation to the Water Witch Fire Company (WWFCO) which was previously budgeted for, is scheduled to be presented to WWFCO.

Finance Manager Sookiasian provided the Council Draft IV of the FY 2022 Budget. These documents provided details comparing the current year's budget to the current year's forecast and the current year's budget to next year's budget. He explained that Mayor's budget will be presented at the next meeting, following with the tax and revenue rates, public hearing, and budget approval.

Chief Smith provided the Chief's report for the month of March and informed the Council of the meetings attended.

Town Administrator Rinkerman provided the Council an update on various meetings and projects. This included HAC's approval of signage for Gwendolyn's Manor, submission of a letter of intent to the Army Corp of Engineers for the floodgate study, CDBG grant updates, and Façade Improvement Grant updates.

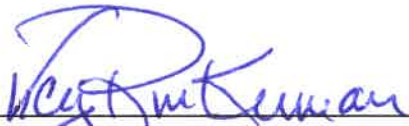
**COUNCIL REPORTS** – No council reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-02 on April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Council meeting.

The public meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Robert A. Kuhs, Mayor