

**SNOW HILL MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

**Old Fire Hall, 212 W. Green Street, Snow Hill**

**Minutes**

**Masks are optional.**

**4:30pm – Work Session**

A Work Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at The Old Fire Hall on Green Street on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, with Mayor Pruitt presiding.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Michael Pruitt

Councilmember Janet Simpson

Councilmember Regina Blake

Councilmember Jenny Hall

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Rick Pollitt, Jr., Town Manager

Carol L Sullivan, Executive Administrator

Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

Lorissa McAllister, Ecom. Devel. Director

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1. **Discussion Items:**
   1. Broadband Services with Brett Davis

Lorissa McAllister introduced Brett Davis, Chief Sales & Development Officer for Simple Fiber, based in Salisbury, Maryland. Mr. Davis explained that, through economic development grant funding from the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, and the agreement of the Worcester County Commissioners, he is bringing high speed internet services to Snow Hill. Mr. Davis gave a presentation of the advantages of high speed internet and its role in attracting new business to an area by providing a competitive edge. He is asking that the Town consider switching their internet service from Comcast to Simple Fiber at considerable savings to the Town.

Ms. McAllister stated that she has run a cost comparison of Simple Fiber’s fees to those currently being paid to Comcast and noted the Town would save money making the switch as well as enjoy the benefit of having high speed internet to promote the Town’s business climate.

Discussion was then held with Mr. Davis about his product and how it would be implemented as part of the Town’s infrastructure. Mayor Pruitt asked if the broadband infrastructure would be made available to other potential users located along the lines and Mr. Davis assured him it would be. The Mayor also asked that Mr. Davis provide references from the City of Salisbury IT department.

Town Manager Pollitt noted that Mr. Davis has presented a contract for services and it was currently under review by the Town’s legal counsel. He hoped to have it ready for the next Town Hall meeting if the decision was made to move forward with the proposal.

* 1. **120 Water, a presentation by Josh Taylor, of Davis Bowen & Friedel, The Town’s Engineers.**

Josh Taylor, the Town’s consulting engineer from Davis, Bowen & Friedel, presented the Mayor & Council with news of a new Federal mandate that all lead and copper piping in public water systems must be identified and eventually eliminated due to potential health hazards associated with lead and copper. This will be an enormously comprehensive and somewhat intrusive exercise in that it will impact every property receiving public water from the Town government. The Town has received a proposal from 120 Water of Zionsville, Indiana to oversee the process of taking an inventory of all lead and copper piping in Snow Hill and steer the Town into compliance with the Federal regulations.

Mr. Joe Riitano, of 120 Water, joined the meeting by Zoom and explained that the Town must be in compliance with the regulations by October of 2024. He has submitted a proposal to get the process started at a cost of $22,860, spread over two fiscal years. Mr. Pollitt stated that since this is a mandated exercise required by the Federal government, money from the Town’s coffers could be applied to the project. Mr. Taylor noted that 120 Water was the leading consultant in this field and that DBF was confident that they could support them in this effort by sharing their plans, drawings, etc. of the Town’s water system.

Mr. Pollitt stated that the agreement with 120 Water will also have to be reviewed and accepted by legal counsel and he hoped to have that opinion in hand by the next Town Hall meeting, as well. It was noted during discussion that this will be a sensitive matter for private property owners and that the Town and 120 Water will need to show extreme transparency and cooperation in all communications with the public.

1. **Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Blake, seconded by Councilmember Hall, all in favor. The time was 5:49pm.**

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| **NAME** | **AYE** | **NO** | **ABSTAIN** |  | **RECUSED** | **ABSENT** |
| **Jenny Hall** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Regina Blake** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Janet Simpson** | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TALLY** | **3** |  |  |  |  |  |
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Respectfully submitted,

Carol L Sullivan

Carol L. Sullivan

Executive Administrator