

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

MARCH 13, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station at 200 Belt Street on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 with Mayor John Dorman presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor John Dorman
Councilwoman Alison Cook
Councilwoman Latoya Purnell

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager
Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager
Jon Hill, Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Day, Economic Development Coordinator
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
John Holloway, EMS Supervisor
Cindy Byrd, Museum Director
Tom Davis, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

Mayor Dorman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation from Councilwoman Purnell.

Mayor Dorman advised that the auditor was sick, so the annual audit would not be presented.

AGH ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Franklin provided the annual report to the Mayor and Council. He highlighted that by 2030 over 1/3 of the population will be over 65 in Worcester County, causing some challenges for insurance. He advised that mental health providers are low in the County. In Maryland deaths increased due to addiction but in Worcester County it decreased by 42.3% this year. They did an assessment of needs and are looking into prescription concierge service at the hospital and increased school system health literacy.

Mayor Dorman advised that a mental health provider is coming to Snow Hill. Jon Hill, Code Enforcement added that Dr. Jani will be moving into the former Purnell Mansion on Market Street.

John Holloway, EMS Supervisor advised that he had been meeting with representatives of AGH to discuss a mobile integrated health program and is hoping they will consider collaborating with EMS on this. Mr. Franklin responded that they are looking at this now and he will follow up.

Resident Kemp Wills questioned the percentage of people without insurance. Mr. Franklin advised that in Worcester County it was 16% in 2010 but from 2012-2014 it decreased to 5.6%.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for February 2018 by Councilwoman Purnell and was seconded by Councilwoman Cook. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial report for January 2018 and February 2018 were both presented for review. A motion was given to approve the Finance Reports for January and February 2018 by Councilwoman Cook and was seconded by Councilwoman Purnell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Pruitt highlighted flyers that were provided for Easter in Snow Hill scheduled for March 24th and the annual Spring Clean Up Day on April 30th. She also added that Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager had completed the bi-annual newsletter, which was available to the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mr. Day advised that the Merchants Association decided to hold a Fifth Friday event in Snow Hill. This will be unique to the area. Three of the four will be cornhole tournaments with professional judges. The fourth one will have a holiday theme.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

No questions or comments.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

Dr. Byrd advised that the Museum will host a scavenger hunt after the Easter Egg hunt on the 24th.

Their annual spring reception will be held on First Friday, April 6, 2018.

Staff is busy working on the Cultural Heritage book.

FIRE / EMS REPORT

No questions or comments.

POLICE REPORT

No questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 2018-01 Ethics Ordinance Amendment

Mrs. Goodsell read the Ordinance into record. This Ordinance will amend Chapter 16 of the Town Code of Snow Hill, entitled “Public Ethics”, to address changes mandated by legislation (House Bill 879) enacted during legislative session that local governments must incorporate, including provisions that preclude former elected officials from lobbying in a matter that is subject of legislative action for one calendar year after the elected official leaves office; clarifies prohibited uses of prestige of office; restricts public access to home addresses on certain financial disclosures; and alters the contents of financial statements to include only indebtedness to entities doing business with the Town.

A motion was given to adopt the Ordinance by Councilwoman Cook and was seconded by Councilwoman Purnell. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 2 in favor; 0 opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

No questions or comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Dorman highlighted events and meetings coming up:

- Easter – March 24th
- Cornhole Tournament – March 30th
- Town Offices closed – March 30th
- Budget Sessions – March 27th & 28th
- Worcester Health Conference – April 4th
- Teacher of the Year dinner – Blue Dog – April 6th

Bonnie, the town’s UPS driver is retiring. A gathering to honor her will be held on April 4th at the Blue Dog from 4:30pm – 6:30pm and is open to the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

No comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Resident and business owner Todd Crosby addressed Councilwoman Cook regarding an interview she did with the Bayside Gazette. He stated he had received numerous calls from patrons asking if their business, The Blue Dog had closed based on her comment in the article that Snow Hill needed a restaurant in town. He added that her statement was insulting and detrimental to building up the town.

Councilwoman Cook advised that she had stated that she would like to see “another” restaurant in town because having more options would bring more people. Reporter Josh Davis confirmed that when he interviewed Ms. Cook he stated “another”. Mr. Crosby read the article aloud and it was determined that the article was misquoted.

Mr. Crosby stated that under the last Mayor there were many incidents where town representatives were misquoted and asked if there is a way that persons interviewed can screen the article prior to publication to avoid future issues. He also requested more care be taken when speaking with the press.

2. Resident Marvin Purnell, owner of 435 W. Market Street stated he read an article in the Bayside Gazette regarding citizens problems with the police department. He stated he had spoken with Mayor Dorman on other issues, as well as that of having his home broken into and a person attempting to squat in his residence from 2016 to almost a year later. He stated that when Chief Davis came he explained the issues and it took a great deal of time to hear from him regarding progress, and he still has not had the issue resolved.

Mayor Dorman stated that Chief Davis had resolved the concerns of Mrs. Brown and that he feels there won't be many issues moving forward.

Chief Davis advised that he had been following up on the matter, working with Salisbury Police on the investigation and that he had informed Mr. Purnell of this progress.

Mrs. Brown stated she needed clarification on which number to call to reach the police department, which she was told was 410-632-2444. She stated that the phone book has it listed as 410-632-2447. Chief Davis advised he would get it corrected with the next publication.

Mr. Purnell questioned if the lack of assistance was due to racial issues or personal issues with past conflict. Chief Davis quickly addressed the fact that no racial issues were a factor.

3. Resident Sylvester Bratten questioned the status of Dr. Clara Small and the book agreement. Mayor Dorman advised that the town attorney is speaking with her attorney to attempt to retrieve the work she did on the project or to return the payment. Dr. Byrd advised that the project for the Cultural Heritage book is still moving forward, just not by Dr. Small.
4. Resident Andrew Richards complained about speeding issues in his neighborhood and his concern regarding children or animals getting hurt. He questioned if more speed limit signs and possibly children at play signs could be erected. Randy Barfield stated he would take care of it.

Mayor Dorman called for a motion to enter Executive Closed Session to discuss property and personnel. Councilwoman Cook gave a motion to enter closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilwoman Purnell, seconded by Councilwoman Cook, the Council voted to meet in closed session at 7:48pm at the Train Station to discuss property and personnel, as permitted under the provisions of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Topics discussed, and actions taken included: Personnel – future discussion will be had. Property – will schedule a meeting for future discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Purnell left Executive Closed Session and re-entered into open session. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager