

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

NOVEMBER 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, November 13, 2018 with Mayor Steve Mathews presiding and was called to order at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Steve Mathews
Councilwoman LaToya Purnell
Councilwoman Jenny Hall
Councilwoman Alison Gadoua * **formerly Alison Cook**

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager
Trish Goodsell, Asst. to the Town Manager
Jon Hill, Code Enforcement Officer
Jordy Kuczak, Economic Development/Events Coordinator
Randy Barfield, Public Works Director
Russ Harrison, WWTP Superintendent
Cindy Byrd, Museum Director
Tom Davis, Chief of Police
Kevin Karpinski, Town Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

Mayor Mathews called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the invocation by Sylvester Bratten. Mayor Mathews voiced his appreciation for the Council requesting he serve as Mayor for the next seven months.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Mathews informed the audience that there was a change to the agenda. Toy Town will not be discussed, as a meeting was held earlier tonight with the attorneys and everyone is working toward moving forward together. A report will be presented at the next town meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for October 2018 by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilwoman Gadoua. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was given to approve the Finance Report for October 2018 by Councilwoman Purnell and was seconded by Councilwoman Gadoua. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The results of the vote were: 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Resident Carolyn Brown questioned if the town received a response on the grant application for the PNC bank building. Mayor Mathews responded that the town received \$150,000.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. Kuczak drew attention to the holiday flyer that highlights event dates and encouraged everyone to attend.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mr. Hill provided an update on the demolition process, advising that three properties on E Martin Street are proceeding toward demolition. A controlled burn was done at 425 S Church Street in lieu of demo.

Resident Jan King requested an update on the house next to her on Martin Street. Mr. Hill advised that he has issued a demolition order, which allows the owner 60 days to respond and advise what they intend to do with the property. Resident Dick Thompson questioned how any properties the town has acquired through this process. Mr. Hill responded that they have acquired two on Covington Street and are in the process of one more on E Martin.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Resident Ed Phillips thanked Mr. Barfield for his assistance with a water issue at his residence.

Mrs. King commented that the public works crew should be commended for all their hard work to keep the town looking so good. The audience applauded.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

Dr. Byrd encouraged attendance at the First Friday Holiday Open House on December 7, 2018.

Dr. Byrd advised that staff continues to work on the history book, as well as the walking tour brochure. Mr. Hill will share with her the houses slated for demolition so she may photograph them to capture the town's history. Publication of the book and walking tour brochure should be in late spring/summer 2019.

Dr. Byrd reminded everyone the museum is open year-round.

Resident Diana Nolte advised that the businesses need more brochures, in which Dr. Byrd reported they are currently designing new ones and will be distributing as soon as possible.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Davis reported that Halloween went well with no significant issues. All SHPD officers worked, as well as other agencies. Resident Ron Geesey questioned if SHA can be contacted in the future to request closing Church Street down to assist with ensuring safety of kids crossing the road. Audience members suggested using the ROTC as crossing guards during the event.

Chief Davis reported that the process of tagging abandoned vehicles in town has gone well. He advised that they have addressed a total of 55 to date. Last week there was a total of 47, with 41 already having been taken care of. He thanked the residents for their participation. A resident questioned how a titled vehicle on private property could be considered abandoned. Mayor Mathews commented that any vehicle is required to be tagged by law. Chief Davis added that if the vehicle is not tagged it must be covered with a commercial grade car cover.

Resident Nancy Thompson asked if a decision had been made regarding downtown parking. Her husband, Dick Thompson added that he felt it a waste of time for police officers to chalk tires, especially when they are short on personnel. Mrs. Thompson suggested permits for residents who live there. Mayor Mathews added that years back parking permits for shoppers were made and they can be used again to see if it helps with the concerns. He asked Town staff to make copies and distribute to business owners.

A resident on Bay Street reported that he continually sees vehicles passing buses illegally and he is concerned that a child is going to be injured. He requested occasional police presence between 7:00am – 7:30am to show motorists that police are patrolling the area and this may encourage them to abide by the law.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Diana Nolte stated that she really wants a follow up on the Toy Town issues. She added that everyone needs to work together or we will be in a world of hurt.
2. Resident Fran Price questioned why the town purchased the PNC bank building. Mayor Mathews advised there is hope for a restaurant or viable business there. The town paid \$265,000 for the property and received a grant from the State for \$150,000. Resident Gary Weber requested that in the future if the town wants to give away or purchase a building, they should present it to the taxpayers first.
3. Mrs. Thompson questioned the status of Mr. Tran's building at 110 W Green Street. Mr. Hill explained the status, as it has been moving slowly and doesn't seem to be progressing.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Mathews made it clear that he has no intention of running for Mayor in the next election.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

1. Councilwoman Purnell thanked everyone for attending. She encouraged everyone to pay attention to the holiday flyer of events and stressed the importance of coming together to make things a success.
2. Councilwoman Hall thanked everyone for attending and thanked them for their input and advised they will continue to give theirs in return.
3. Councilwoman Gadoua mirrored everyone's statement, adding that she encourages transparency and she is available for contact anytime.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Mrs. Nolte advised that she needs volunteers to decorate vacant storefronts downtown.
2. Mr. Weber asked the town attorney who he would represent, using an example if board members were not on the same page and there was legal action. Mayor Mathews responded that Mr. Karpinski represents the Mayor and Council, not the citizens. Mr. Karpinski advised that if there was legal action between the Mayor and the Council, he would recuse himself.
3. Resident Orneva Allen asked if the mirror that was located on the corner outside of Town Hall was going to be returned. Mr. Barfield advised that he is looking into new options to avoid it being broken so much.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was given to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Gadoua and was seconded by Councilwoman Purnell. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was passed. The results were 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Goodsell, Assistant Town Manager