

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2019

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, January 8, 2019 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

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
Cindy Byrd, Museum Director
Tom Davis, Chief of Police

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / INVOCATION

Mayor Mathews called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation led by Sylvester Bratten.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Mathews welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Mathews read and signed a Proclamation for School Choice Week.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion was given to approve the Town Meeting minutes for December 2018 by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilwoman Purnell. 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 December 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

No questions or comments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

No questions or comments.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mayor Mathews advised that Attorney Reena Patel was present and had approved the presentation that Mr. Hill would be giving on the status of Toy Town Antiques & More. Comments and questions would be taken during Old Business.

Mr. Hill provided information on the property, discussed Memorandum of Agreements, code violations, and safety concerns. He provided an update on the current status of the building.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Resident Trudy Bratten questioned when the mirror would be replaced on the corner of Bank and Green Street. Mr. Barfield advised it should be replaced in the next couple weeks.

WWTP REPORT

No questions or comments.

MUSEUM REPORT

No questions or comments.

POLICE REPORT

No questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Resident Diana Nolte questioned why the agenda on the website did not have Toy Town presentation listed. Mrs. Goodsell advised that it was later added after it was posted, with the correct agenda on Facebook Monday afternoon and the correct agenda on the town website this afternoon. Mrs. Nolte commented that it seemed purposeful that it was omitted so people would not attend and feels it is poor communication on the town's part.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resident Luann Johnson requested an update on the trains in town. Mrs. Pruitt advised that the Maryland Delaware Railroad is fixing tracks for Tyson, but the process is slow moving. The Town does not have a say in the rail travel, nor do they fund it.

Another resident from Purnell Street commented that she is worried about safety issues since the tracks haven't been used in so long, as well as current road conditions. She added that she hopes people will be advised of the status so they are aware of train travel.

2. Resident Richard Mitchell questioned the status of a bike trail from Shad Landing to town. Mayor Mathews advised that this is a possibility depending on the finalization of the sale of property between the State and Mr. Odachowski. Councilwoman Gadoua added that if the sale goes through it would take years to bring the trail to a state in which it could be fully traveled.
3. Luann Johnson reported that the drinking water has an odor of sewer in the area of Belt Street and also on Purnell Street (reported by other residents). Mr. Barfield stated he would speak to her after the meeting to obtain more information so he can address the matter.
4. Resident Kevin Brown introduced himself and his wife as new residents of Washington Street. He questioned road paving for streets in town that are in bad shape. Mr. Barfield explained that due to budgetary restrictions each year he assesses the most traveled and worst roads and makes a plan to repair as many as they can. He is currently looking at roads now for the upcoming budget year.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

No questions or comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

1. Diana Nolte voiced a point of order on closed sessions, stating that they are supposed to be allowed back after the meeting is reopened and provided a summary. Mayor Mathews stated that once they adjourn the closed meeting, they check the parking lot to see if anyone is present and if not, they close the open session.

Mayor Mathews called for a motion to enter Executive Closed Session for legal discussion. Councilwoman Gadoua gave a motion to enter closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hall. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried. The Council adjourned the open session at 7:35pm.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilwoman Gadoua, seconded by Councilwoman Hall, the Council voted to meet in closed session at 7:35pm at the Train Station for legal matters, as permitted under the provision of Section 3-305 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Topics discussed, and actions taken included:

- Discussion on possible code enforcement for Toy Town Antiques & More
- Scheduling of an emergency HDC meeting by Jon Hill

- Personnel matter was addressed

Mayor Mathews left Executive Closed Session at 8:53pm and re-entered into open session.

Diana Nolte addressed the town's attorney, stating that after the December meeting the Seaton's did not hear from anyone regarding boarding the windows. She added that she spoke to someone with knowledge about windows who suggested plastic to cover them to address the safety concerns. Mr. Hill stated that he spoke with Todd Crosby, who suggested this alternate method and he advised him he would consider it if it worked; however, building code determines how to board the windows.

Mayor Mathews told Mrs. Nolte the problem is that she is communicating with them over issues that the Seaton's should be discussing with the Mayor and Council, but they are not present. Mrs. Nolte advised that she is just a concerned citizen on the matter.

Resident Fran Eisenhart requested to make a statement, adding that she feels badly for Mrs. Nolte and hates to see her upset over "someone" who will step on her.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was given to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Hall and was seconded by Councilwoman Gadoua. 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 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Goodsell, Assistant Town Manager