

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

WORK SESSION

February 26, 2019

A Work Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station on Tuesday February 26 2019 with Mayor Steve Mathews presiding and called to order at 4:30pm.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Steve Mathews; Councilwoman Alison Gadoua, Councilwoman LaToya Purnell; and Councilwoman Jenny Hall

STAFF PRESENT

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Trish Goodsell, Assistant Town Manager; and Jordy Kuczak, Economic Development Coordinator

MEETING ETIQUETTE

Mayor Mathews stated that he believes in transparency and allowing the citizens to say what they wish; however, in light of recent interactions and events he advised he will be cracking down on people speaking disrespectfully to the elected officials and staff members.

JUDY JOHNSON MEMORIAL

Tom Sullivan, member of the Snow Hill Rotary Club was present to request that a “Judy Johnson Day” be an annual occasion in Snow Hill. He advised that he has met with Dr. Byrd from the Purnell Museum and that a memorial will be erected at the Snow Hill library in the near future. He stated that he would like to see the observance close to Mr. Johnson’s birthday, which is estimated to be between October and December. It would ideally be part of a First Friday and they are looking at November 1, 2019 for the first event.

The Mayor and Council voiced approval of this request. Mayor Mathews advised that the seated Mayor would issue the Proclamation closer to the actual day of observance.

MAYOR & COUNCIL SALARIES

Mayor Mathews advised the Council that they were provided copies of the draft Ordinances for an increase in salaries for the Mayor and Town Council. The proposed increase would be the Mayor’s salary to \$7000 and the Council’s to \$5000, with the Eastern District seat not receiving a raise until re-election.

The Ordinances will be presented at the March town meeting. If passed in April, the question will be placed on the ballot for the May 7, 2019 election.

GRASS IN STREETS

Mayor Mathews wanted to discuss this issue, as a complaint was issued at the town meeting regarding grass and leaves in the roadway. He stated that if the Code Enforcement officer clearly see fresh grass in the street, he can issue a citation. This applies to all types of debris, including leaves, weeds, etc.

Resident Jan King questioned what happens if there is an issue of neighbor leaves blowing onto another property. Mayor Mathews stated that the Code officer will use common sense on those issues.

Resident Cathy Freeman stated that leaves in the roadway is a small problem compared to the issue on Purnell Street with flooding and debris running into the street. She added that clearing around the ditches is fine but is also causing erosion.

OUTDOOR MARKET

Hallie Miller and Hettie Gordon presented a concept plan for an outdoor market to the Mayor and Council. They requested approval to close a portion of Green Street from Washington to the cross walk at Pearl Street. The closing of the street would be from April to October 26th, every Saturday except on dates of town scheduled events. The Green Street business owners voiced support and two other business owners expressed concern regarding parking, which brought them to the new area of closure.

There will be room for 20 vendors, which will sell anything from handmade goods to seafood to good quality yard sale items. Any food vendors would be required to have a permit from the health department.

Councilwoman Gadoua voiced concern over committing to every Saturday with a first-year concept. Mrs. Gordon explained that vendors for these types of markets need consistency for success.

Mayor Mathews advised that Mrs. Pruitt will work to draft a contract that will be presented at the March town meeting for approval and vote.

TOWN RENTALS

Mayor Mathews advised the Council he wants to have a good discussion on rental fees for town properties, such as the parks and train station in the near future.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Resident Cathy Freeman stated she wished people cared as much about blighted homes in town as they do about vacant stores downtown. She stated that the town forces residences to lose their homes instead of trying to assist with their renovation. Mayor Mathews advised that the town does not pay to renovate privately owned homes and that the Code officer goes through a process before condemnation that allows the home owner to try to fix or repair the issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mathews adjourned the work session at 5:31pm.

Respectfully submitted: Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager