

TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND
Life on the River

WORK SESSION

March 26, 2019

A Work Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station on Tuesday, March 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; Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager; Jon Hill, Code Enforcement Officer; and Randy Barfield, Public Works Director

WILL MAST - ROBOTICS

Will Mast was present, representing the robotics team who has been utilizing the upstairs fire house for practice and storage of their equipment. Mr. Mast presented the Mayor and Council with one of their award-winning banners as a thank you for the use of the space since 2016.

Mr. Mast explained that they are transitioning to the Worcester County 4H office, as the Town needs the upstairs area for storage. He requested to continue using the office space and a portion of the area for practice in the firehouse. Cindy Morris with the 4H office explained they cannot get everything in their office.

Mayor Mathews explained that the town is in a storage crisis for all the town documents and cannot provide the space at this time. Mr. Barfield advised that the downstairs wash bay was full as well. However, the Mayor and Council agreed that they could use some downstairs space occasionally for practice.

DR. PLACK

Dr. Plack addressed the Mayor and Council regarding property behind his building and the issues they have been experiencing regarding ownership. He stated he would like something done and is willing to sell it to the town or give to those who need it. He does not want to continue paying taxes on it.

Gary Weber advised he spoke with the property owners and they are on board to purchase. Fran Price stated that she knows one owner who is opposed. Mr. Weber further stated that he hoped the town would be able to acquire grant funding for delineation, but Mayor Mathews advised that he does not think they provide that funding. He will confirm with Ann Gibb, Grants Administrator.

Mayor Mathews, along with Council stated they do not wish to acquire the property and should not be involved with any decisions.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Council had no additional questions after reviewing the proposed budget spreadsheets. Councilwoman Gadoua stated she feels that it is consistent with last year's budget, except for salary increases. She once again stated that she wants to focus on money for demolition of blighted homes and street paving and is pleased that the town staff plans to apply for grant assistance with these projects.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION - VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies on the Historic District Commission, with the resignation of Ann Coates and Michael Farlow. Mayor Mathews advised that they are looking for people with a knowledge of older homes.

SUMMERFIELD DEANNEXATION HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on the de-annexation of the Summerfield properties on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Train Station.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Resident Mimi Suznavick of W. Federal Street voiced a complaint regarding street lights in town. She stated that while traveling from Down Under into town, turning on Market Street, then toward Ross Street she saw 12 lights not working. She sees dimming in other areas. She voiced concern regarding safety for the youth with the coming summer months.
2. Resident Fran Price advised that the street lanterns downtown go off in the middle of the night instead of at dawn. Mrs. Pruitt will report this to Mr. Barfield.

Mayor Mathews called for a motion to enter Executive Closed Session to discuss personnel matters. Councilwoman Jenny Hall gave the motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Gadoua. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was passed. The vote was 3 in favor; 0 opposed.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

Following a motion by Councilwoman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Gadoua, the Council voted to meet in closed session at 5:05pm at the Train Station for personnel 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:

- Personnel – police department
- Personnel – town hall

Mayor Mathews left Executive Closed Session at 5:57pm and re-entered into open session. No one was present.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mathews adjourned the work session at 5:59pm.

Respectfully submitted: Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager