

The Commissioners of St. Michaels

Closed Executive Session and Regular Working Session

January 11, 2017

Present

Commissioners Roy Myers, Joyce Harrod, Michaels Bibb, and William Boos, Jaime Windon (arrived late for vote to adjourn into closed session), Town Manager Jean Weisman, Town Attorney Chip MacLeod, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick.

4:00 p.m. - Call To Order - Closed Executive Session

President Myers called to order a meeting of the Commissioners in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland. President Myers immediately called for a motion to move into Closed Session, pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Art., § 10-508 (a) (1) (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Commissioner Myers made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Bibb, and which passed on a roll call vote of 4-0 in favor.

Adjournment

Town Manager Jean Weisman said the closed session was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. – Regular Working Session

Present

Commissioners Roy Myers, Joyce Harrod, Michaels Bibb, Jaime Windon, and William Boos, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Town Attorney Chip MacLeod, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and seven members of the public.

Call to Order

President Myers called to order the Regular Working Session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Announcement of Prior Closed Session

President Myers said that the Commissioners had met in closed session at 4:00 p.m. today, pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Art., § 10-508 (a) (1) (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Public Announcements from COSM, Staff and Public

Mrs. Weisman said the New Year began with a snow storm and the public works crew did a fine job in clearing streets over the weekend. Mrs. Weisman also reviewed snow removal regulations with regard to clearing residential and business sidewalks. Mrs. Weisman noted that Commissioner Myers had been asked by the St. Michaels Rotary to speak to the International Rotary Club of Georgia Russia on February 4, 2017 on the topic of how local governments work and how Rotary Clubs can work together with local government to improve communities. Mrs. Weisman said that the Reserve Advisors group would have a

report at the beginning of February and the Utility Study is expected in March. Commissioner Myers said that he and Mrs. Weisman had been meeting regularly with the State Highway Administration regarding three outstanding projects affecting Talbot Street and sections of Talbot Street sidewalks.

Special Presentations and Discussions

- RDC Inn at Perry Cabin – Request for amendment of Growth Allocation Approval

President Myers called upon Mrs. Weisman, who provided background on the request, noting that the amendment would allow the Inn to use their new barn for special events. President Myers then introduced Zack Smith, representing the Inn at Perry Cabin, who asked for the Commissioners' thoughts on the process. President Myers said the amendment process was very specific and that a formal request is required to start the process. Town Attorney MacLeod provided more detail regarding flexibility or streamlining that could be possible later in the process, given that the change was not structural, but a use issue. Zoning Officer Sarah Abel said there was a use restriction in that the barn was within the 300-foot buffer, but if the barn were moved out of the buffer, the use change would not be as much of an issue. Smith thanked the Commissioners for their direction.

- FY2016 Audit – Rick Tull, Lank, Johnston, & Tull

President Myers then introduced Rick Tull, who provided an overview and synopsis of his firm's FY2016 audit of the Town's finances, and answered questions from the Commissioners and the public. Mr. Tull noted that the Town had received its "unmodified" opinion, which was the highest rating a Town could receive on an audit, meaning the Town was in compliance with all regulations regarding its finances.

- Update by the former Streetscape Advisory Task Force

President Myers introduced Laurie Pratt of Mulberry Street, who provided an overview of the position of the Streetscape Advisory Task Force on the Town's streetscape and tree planting. The Taskforce is no longer a current committee. Mr. Pratt urged the planting and maintenance of more street trees as the Taskforce had recommended in their report of June 2008.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 481

President Myers noted that the public hearing on Ordinance 481 had been postponed.

Consent Agenda

President Myers announced that a vote to approve the consent agenda included departmental reports for the month of December 2016, and noted that disbursements for December 2016 totaled \$321,900.42, of which \$30,267.00 was disbursed to Hertrich Fleet Service for a 2017 police vehicle. There were no requests for discussion of consent agenda items on the regular agenda. President Myers therefore called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Harrod and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Items for Discussion

- Sidewalks and the Code

Mrs. Weisman called the Commissioners' attention to the memo she had provided and was the second discussion of the matter since the Commissioners' meeting on October 26, 2016. Mrs. Weisman said that because the Code is not specific with regard to conversion of sidewalks from brick to brick. The Commissioners then shared their ideas and opinions on what Town policy should be going forward. After a discussion of some length, the Commissioners agreed to turn the matter over to an ad hoc committee. In response to a question by Tad DuPont of Locust Street, Mrs. Weisman then clarified that the sidewalk repair would include the Mill property to Marengo Street. The Commissioners also addressed a question about liability. Commissioner Bibb then made a motion that an ad hoc committee be formed that would include the zoning officer and others, and which would look at the language in the code regarding

sidewalks, and come back to the Commissioners with suggestions for changes that would make the regulations fair. Commissioner Windon seconded the motion, which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Comments from the Public

Mr. duPont had observations regarding the use of the barn for weddings on the Perry Cabin property, and urged the Commissioners to make efforts at cost cutting in the next budget cycle. Marian Brown of Water Street urged the Commissioners to not continue to allow incursions into the 300 foot buffer. Chris Agharabi of S. Talbot Street suggested that the Town do a better job of advertising meetings, publishing minutes and summarizing agendas and providing dates so that more people would come to meetings and be aware of issues in which they have an interest.

Commissioners' Calendar

The Commissioners agreed to have a strategy session at 4:30 p.m. on January 18th, prior to a joint meeting of the County Council and the Tourism Board on January 24, 2017. The board and the Council will be discussing the distribution of a 1 % increase in the accommodations tax that the State is considering. The Commissioners discussed other agenda items for their meetings going forward. Commissioner Windon volunteered to help with the Communications issue.

Announcement of Future Meetings/Events

- January 18, 2017 – Library meeting room - Regular Legislative Session -
- February 8, 2017 – 6:00 – Town Office – COSM Regular Work Session
- February 20, 2017 – Town Office closed for President's Day
- February 22, 2017 – 6:00 – Town Office – COSM Regular Legislative Session

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanna Warnick
Administrative Clerk

Public Handouts:

Agenda

Dept. monthly reports

RDC Inn at Perry Cabin request for Amendment of Growth Allocation Approval

Letter from Laurence Pratt on Streetscape Advisory Task Force

Audit June 30, 2016