

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Present

Commissioners Joanne Clark, Ann Borders (by phone), Joyce Harrod, Jaime Windon, and Roy Myers, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Zoning Officer Sarah Abel, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and approximately six members of the public.

Call to Order

President Clark called to order the legislative session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. 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.

Public Announcements

Town Manager Jean Weisman provided an update on the arsenic removal project at the Town's well #2 on Marengo Street. Mrs. Weisman said the project was moving forward, but there has been a delay in obtaining key parts. Mrs. Weisman said, however, that the project was on schedule and the well should be back online in May 2016.

Special Presentation

- President Clark said that the special presentation by Richard Potter, President of the local NAACP, would be rescheduled for a date in March.

Consent Agenda

President announces that a vote to approve the items on the consent agenda would include: approval of the minutes for the month of January 2016, and approval of sign permit application from SMYLE and the St. Michaels Police Dept. for Shamrock signs to be affixed to utility poles in front of Carpenter Street. President Clark said approval of the consent agenda would also include approval of public event permit applications from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for the following events: the OysterFest, the Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival and Maritime Model Expo, the Annual Boat Auction, Big Band Night, and the Museum's Community Block Party, and a permit application from the Eastern Shore Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival. Commissioners Myers and Borders received clarifications of detail regarding the Big Band night and the Sea Glass festival, but no item was removed from the agenda. There were no other comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Windon seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. President Clark suggested that the Museum and Town staff could get together to discuss a possible information booth to promote a Heritage Day event at the Community Block Party event.

Items for Discussion

- Town Designations – Main Street and Arts & Entertainment District

President Clark called upon Sarah Abel who provided background on what the Town has learned about the Main Street and Arts & Entertainment District designations. Ms. Abel said that in general, the research indicates that the value of the Main Street and the Arts & Entertainment designations did not offset the amount of additional staff time and paperwork required to obtain them. Commissioner Windon said she had concluded that both designations were better suited to towns that were less self-sufficient or in need of revitalization, or did not have a staff person dedicated to tourism and advertising. After some additional discussion, the Commissioners agreed to table the project for a later discussion and focus on existing projects as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Crosswalks on Talbot Street**

Mrs. Weisman provided background for the discussion. Mrs. Weisman said that, in her conversations with the State, they had indicated that they have not yet addressed crosswalks in their upgrade plans for Talbot Street. Mrs. Weisman said that Public Works will be installing two crosswalks on Fremont Street. Commissioner Borders said that some crosswalks on Talbot Street are not in the right place and are unsafe for pedestrians, and she suggested that the State should come in and evaluate all crosswalks and determine where crosswalks should be. After some additional discussion, it was agreed that staff would draft a letter to the State Highway Administration from the Commissioners which would include a request for a walk-through, and to hear the Town's safety concerns.

- **Skateboard Park**

Mrs. Weisman said that the Commissioners had a draft Resolution 2016-03 before them that would authorize the removal of the skateboard park to accommodate additional parking. Mrs. Weisman said that the Planning Commission in 2014 had suggested relocating the park rather than eliminating it altogether. After some discussion, it was generally agreed that the park is under-utilized, it is used primarily by out-of-town skaters, and the Town has no plans to upgrade it. The Commissioners were in general agreement that the land would be better used for additional parking. The Commissioners also agreed to remove Ordinance 311 from the Code, close the park as of March 31st, and direct Public Works to remove the fence and equipment. Mrs. Weisman said she would add the words "effective March 31st" to the ordinance, and would make telephone inquiries to see if individuals or municipalities would want the equipment. Mrs. Warnick read the title of Resolution 2016-03 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION 2016-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING THE EQUIPMENT AND FENCING FROM THE SKATEBOARD PARK AT 301 MILL STREET TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING IN THE TOWN

President Clark called for a motion. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Commissioners' Calendar

The Commissioners made changes and additions to their agendas for meetings in March 2016, including a discussion of a property swap with the Maritime Museum at the March 23rd meeting.

Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Borders said that her participation in the meeting via telephone had worked well..

Comments from the Public (Residents and Taxpayers)

There were no additional comments.

Announcement of Future Meetings/Events

President Clark made announcements as follows:

- March 9, 2016 – 6:00 – Town Office – COSM Regular Work Session
- March 15, 2016 – 11-4:00 – Town Office – Budget Workshop
- March 16, 2016 – 11-4:00 – Town Office – Budget Workshop
- March 23, 2016 – 2:00 – Town Office – TENTATIVE Budget Workshop
- March 23, 2016 – 6:00 – Town Office – COSM Regular Legislative Session

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanna Warnick
Administrative Clerk

Public Handouts:
Agenda