

July 27, 2016

Present

Commissioners Jaime Windon, Roy Myers, Joyce Harrod, Michael Bibb and William Boos, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Sarah Abel, Zoning and Codes Enforcement Officer, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and seven members of the public.

Call to Order

President Roy Myers called to order the regular legislative session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. in the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Announcements

Mrs. Weisman that the annual Unity Day Picnic at the Griffin Apartments courtyard in the 200 block of North Street, originally scheduled for July 30th had been postponed Mrs. Weisman also noted the excessive heat watch from Talbot County and that relief locations in St. Michaels are the library, the Community Center, and Christ Church.

Special Presentation

- Dana Newman, Library Director for Talbot County Free Library

President Myers introduced Ms. Newman, along with members of her staff – Shauna Beulah, St. Michaels Branch Manager, and Barbara Lane, Board of Trustees President,. Ms. Lane requested the Commissioners’ support for upgrading the rather small sign on Talbot Street to a universal library sign, or more significant signage, which would be more visible and direct visitors to a very useful community information source. The representatives also briefed the Commissioners on the planning for a renovation and an addition to the St. Michaels Library. Ms. Lane said the plans included adding a second story to the existing library building and acquiring property for parking .Ms. Lane also asked for the Commissioners’ support for the expansion project and the State capital grant for it. Ms. Lane said the initial letters of support would be needed by Spring 2017. The consensus from the Commissioners was to support the library and their renovation projects.

Consent Agenda

President Myers announced that a vote to approve the items on the consent agenda would include approval of department reports for the month of July 2016, and approval of a Public Event permit application from St. Michaels Concours D’Elegance Inc. for a car and fashion show on the grounds of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum on September 25, 2016. President Myers asked if the Commissioners wanted to remove any item from the consent agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. President Myers said he wanted to remove the car museum event for additional discussion, and called for a vote on the July 2016 minutes, which remained on the agenda. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Harrod, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. President Myers then called upon Beverly Pratt of Mulberry Street, who provided more detail on the car museum event, in particular parking and traffic issues, based on the Commissioners’ questions. Ms. Abel added details of her emails and conversation with Chief Smith regarding parking arrangements. After some additional discussion, Commissioner Myers said he was making a motion to approve the permit, contingent upon coordination of parking and traffic issues between the Town, the Car Museum organizers and Police Chief Smith. Commissioner Bibb seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Contracts and Leases

- Renewal of Community Garden Lease

Mrs. Weisman said the lease for the Community Garden property is expiring and, in order to renew, the Town must again declare the property as surplus. Community Garden member Val Ken-Gray provided a five-year overview of the success and value of the gardens. President Myers directed town staff to start the surplus declaration process and prepare an ordinance, and to revise the lease to include language as discussed.

Ordinance eligible for Vote

- Ordinance No. 477 – Cable TV Franchise Renewal

President Myers announced that Ordinance No. 477 was discussed on July 13, 2016, that a Public Hearing was not required, and that Ordinance No. 477 was introduced by Commissioners Harrod and Bibb. President Myers noted that Ordinance No. 477 was now eligible for vote.

President Myers called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the title of the Ordinance into the record for the second time as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 47: AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CHAPTER A350, ARTICLE III (CABLE TELEVISION) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS AND REENACT A NEW CHAPTER A350, ARTICLE III ENTITLED “CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISING” FOR THE PURPOSES OF SETTING FORTH MINIMUM REGULATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISES MAY USE AND OCCUPY THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF THE TOWN; ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH CABLE SYSTEMS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED, INSTALLED, OPERATED, MAINTAINED AND REGULATED WHEN UTILIZING THE TOWN’S PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF ONE OR MORE NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISES FOR CABLE SERVICE WITHIN THE TOWN; ESTABLISHING MINIMUM OPERATIONAL AND CUSTOMER SERVICES STANDARDS FOR CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISES; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISE APPLICATION, MODIFICATION AND RENEWAL; ESTABLISHING A CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISE FEE AND APPLICATION FEE; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO CABLE SERVICE AND CABLE SERVICE FRANCHISING IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS

Mrs. Weisman said there had been no changes to the ordinance since the last discussion. Commissioner Bose said he would be happy to work with the Town attorney on the drafting of a new lease agreement. As there were no further comments from the Commissioners or the public, President Myers then called for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 477 as presented. Commissioner Bose made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Windon, and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Boards and Commission Appointments

- Board of Zoning Appeals – 1 vacancy – open-ended
- Ethics Committee – 1 vacancy - 3 yr term expires Dec 2016 -
- Waterways Management Advisory Board – 1 vacancy – 3 yr term expires Dec 2017
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – 1 vacancy – 3 yr term expires Dec 2017

President Myers said he had spoken to two of the applicants for board positions, who had both indicated they would be happy to serve on any of the boards. President Myers suggested that the

appointments be postponed until the August 10th meeting so he could interview the applicants as to their preferences. The other Commissioners agreed to the postponement.

Items for Discussion

- Areas where money might be saved

The Commissioners discussed various options for saving money, including conversion to electronic filing for legislation, voting, etc., conversion of Town lighting to energy saving lights. Commissioner Bibb said there was federal funding assistance available to convert the lighting, and the long-term savings on electric consumption would be significant. The Commissioners also discussed whether it would be more cost effective to have Public Works cut Muskrat Park instead of a contractor. President Myers also suggested increased slip fees and revisiting the recycling contract as possible ways to economize.

Comments from the Public (Residents and Taxpayers)

There were no additional comments.

Comments from the Commissioners

There were no additional comments.

Commissioners' Calendar

The Commissioners made changes and additions to their meeting agendas for meetings in September and October 2016.

Announcement of Future Meetings/Events

- August 10, 2016 – 6:00 – Town Office – Regular Work Session
- August 24, 2016 – 6:00 – Town Office – Regular Legislative Session
- September 5, 2016 – Office closed for Labor Day

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Suzanna Warnick
Administrative Clerk

Public Handouts:

Agenda

Ordinance No. 477: Cable Service Franchising