

August 23, 2017

Present

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

Call To Order

President Boos convened the Regular 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.

Announcements

Mrs. Weisman said that several staff members from the Public Works Department will be attending classes in September on water treatment. Mrs. Weisman added that the classes are sponsored by the Maryland Center for Environmental Training to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Mrs. Weisman said that there had been some flooding on Talbot Street from the last storm. Mrs. Weisman said that Talbot county had come to “jet out the lines” in response to a call from St. Michaels, and that work was continuing. Mrs. Weisman also provided an update on plans for the Frederick Douglas celebration, and Commissioner Harrod offered an update on the progress for Project Purple. Mrs. Weisman added that the Town’s purple lights would be in the Town’s trees beginning September 1st. Commissioner Bibb said that he and several members of the police and fire departments had successfully completed the emergency training necessary for administering the Narcan antidote for drug overdose. Commissioner Bibb said he had also been asked to sit on a committee for climate change, sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

President Boos also announced that the Commissioners had held a closed session on August 9th at 7:30 p.m., according to Maryland Code, State Government Art. Section 10-508 (a) (1)(i), to discuss a personnel matter related to a specific employee as to the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal resignation or performance evaluation; and (ii), any other personnel matter affecting one or more specific individuals.

Comments from the Public

There were no public comments.

Consent Agenda

President Boos said that the consent agenda included minutes for public and closed sessions in July and August 2017, as well as a permit application from the Concourse D’Elegance for their 2017 event. There were no requests for discussion of issues outside the consent agenda. Commissioner Myers asked if staff could check to see if the Chief would be present for the Concourse event, and Mrs. Weisman said she would follow up with the Chief. President Boos then called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers, and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearing and Possible Vote

- Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2017-05

President Boos noted that the resolution had been discussed on August 9th and introduced by Commissioners Myers and Bibb, and called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the resolution title into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION 2017-05, A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS, PASSED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND AND §§ 4-302(1) AND 4-304 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF ST. MICHAELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING CERTAIN FUNDS AS PART OF THE TOWN BUDGET; UPDATING CERTAIN FISCAL MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS.

President Boos declared the public hearing on Resolution No. 2017-05 open and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public. President Boos then closed the public hearing and called for a motion to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2017-05. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers. The Commissioners and Town Manager Jean Weisman had a brief discussion of process, with President Boos noting that the resolution would become effective 50 days from today. The motion then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Presentation on new technology - Commissioner William Boos

Commissioner Boos provided an overview of the current meeting preparation process and then presented highlights and details of the technology upgrade for the Commissioners' agendas and meeting packages. Commissioner Boos said the program was cost efficient and would save time and paper over the whole meeting preparation process. The Commissioners said their individual experiences with the program had been positive. After some additional discussion, Commissioner Boos made a motion to purchase the technology upgrade. Commissioner Windon seconded it, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote in favor. Mrs. Weisman thanked Commissioner Boos for all of the research and time he had put into this improvement.

Items for Discussion

- 800 S. Talbot Street - discussion and potential action

Mrs. Weisman provided an update and referred to the memorandum she had provided. Mrs. Weisman noted that at the last meeting, the Commissioners had calendared a potential vote to demolish the building at 800 S. Talbot Street, and to authorize an architectural competition for the design of a new Town Office building to be constructed on the property. Commissioner Bibb said that due diligence had been done, all committees and studies had been completed, and there was general consensus that the existing building was in poor condition and could not be rehabilitated or salvaged as a whole from a cost perspective. After some additional discussion, President Boos and Mrs. Weisman recapped what they had determined the Commissioners wanted – that the current building on the 800 S. Talbot Street property be put out to bid for price and scope for demolition, in-fill and grading; that an architectural design competition be instituted for the new town office, as well as a design competition for Hollis Park as a waterside park once the current Town building was vacated. The Commissioners expressed their general agreement. Commissioner Myers then made the motion as stated above. Commissioner Bibb seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

- Webb Lane – road extension as a public road

Mrs. Weisman introduced Tim Glass from Lane Engineering and Don Bibb from the Housing Commission of Talbot. Mrs. Weisman said the preliminary site plan, as approved by the Planning Commission, was up on the screen for the Commissioners to view. Mrs. Weisman noted that any storm water feature should require the minimum of maintenance so as not to over-burden the Town's public

works crew. Zoning Officer Sarah Abel said the adjacent property owners had been notified of the proposed annexation of Webb Lane extension into the Town. Mrs. Weisman said the Town already maintains the road in terms of maintenance and plowing, except for the extension out to Dodson Avenue. Mrs. Weisman said that the Commissioners could agree to accept the road extension without the storm water management portion if they so desired. The Commissioners agreed that engineering approval of the storm water portion of the project was key, and that the Town wait one year on the takeover in lieu of a bond. After some additional discussion and questions, President Boos made a motion to approve the road extension of Webb Lane by taking in the road base only, subject to resolution of the storm water issue by the engineers, and that a waiting period of one year be observed in lieu of a bond. Commissioner Bibb seconded the motion, which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Items for Discussion and Introduction

- Ordinance No. 484 – Open Container Law

Mrs. Weisman said this issue had been precipitated by the receipt of an email from the resident of Mulberry Street complaining about open alcohol containers on the streets throughout the day. Officer Oswald said the open container law would help officers cite people for carrying containers outside an established consumption area, and not be restricted to actually catching individuals drinking from the containers. Officer Oswald said exemptions to a container law for a specific event would be easier to manage. Commissioner Windon said the law should be clear to reduce liability first and foremost, and exemptions for special events would provide enough flexibility. Commissioner Boos said language should change to say “no person shall possess any open container of alcohol on public property.” Mrs. Weisman said if the law is changed, some public education should accompany it, i.e. informing marinas, restaurants, bars of the change. Commissioner Myers brought up penalties and it was suggested that the draft language be changed to read “punishable by a fine of up to \$200.00.” Mrs. Warnick then read the title of the ordinance into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 484, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS, CHAPTER 80, (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) ARTICLE I, (CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC), SUBSECTION 80-2 (CONSUMPTION ON PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED) TO AMEND THE LAW TO PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM POSSESSING ANY OPEN BEVERAGE CONTAINER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE UPON ANY PUBLIC PROPERTY OR PUBLIC PLACE WITHIN THE TOWN UNLESS AN EXCEPTION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE TOWN

Commissioners Myers and Bibb introduced Ordinance No. 484. President Boos noted that the ordinance would be eligible for a vote at the next meeting.

Commissioners’ Calendar

The Commissioners made changes and additions to meeting agendas for their meetings in September and October 2017. The Commissioners set Monday, August 28th at 4:00 p.m. for a closed session to discuss real estate matters.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanna Warnick
Administrative Clerk

The Commissioners of St. Michaels
August 23, 2017

Public Handouts:

Agenda

Draft Resolution 2017-05

Draft Ordinance No. 484