

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Work and Legislative Remote Session

Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Boos called to order a remote session of the Commissioners' regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Commissioners Willam Boos, Michael Bibb, Dennis Glackin, Joyce Harrod and Jaime Windon, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Communications Manager Kim Weller, and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick. Police Chief Anthony Smith joined later in the meeting.

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- II.

Agenda Amendments

- There were no agenda changes.

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- III.

Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Commissioner Bibb said he would be holding one of his Coffee with a Commissioner sessions at the Boy Scout Cabin at 8:30 a.m. on the coming Saturday. Commissioner Harrod said there would be a session at the Housing Authority to encourage people to register to vote on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. Mrs. Weisman said she had attended County meetings regarding available grant funding for small businesses and encouraged businesses to get their applications in. Mrs. Weisman said that Friday, June 12th was the last day to register to vote or file for candidacy. Mrs. Weisman also said absentee ballots are available from the Town Office and on the website and can be faxed, mailed or emailed upon request. Mrs. Weisman said that ballots will be mailed out starting next week. Mrs. Weisman said she was working with the League of Women voters to schedule a virtual Candidates' Forum on July 7th and the Town would communicate the details as they are finalized. Mrs. Weisman also noted that the Unity Walk held on Sunday was a very lovely and meaningful event for St. Michaels. In response to a question by Commissioner Glackin, Mrs. Weisman said absentee ballots must be postmarked by July 13th - election day - and received by the Town no later than July 15th.

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- IV.

Comments from the Public

- There were no public comments.
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- V.

Consent Agenda for Minutes, Department Reports and Event Permits

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Minutes

May 12, 2020

May 14, 2020

May 15 2020

May 18, 2020

May 27, 2020

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Department Reports for May 2020

Police Dept.

Finance

Profit & Loss

Year to Date

Administration

Public Works

Planning and Zoning

Marketing and Communication

- President Boos said approval of the Consent Agenda would include approval of departmental reports and minutes for the month of May 2020. As there were comments or questions, President Boos made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

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- VI.

Ordinance for Discussion and Introduction

Ordinance No. 511

- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING A THIRD EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 INITIALLY DECLARED PURSUANT TO EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 506 AND EXTENDED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NOS. 507 AND 509; PROVIDED THAT THE TITLE OF THIS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY, AND GENERALLY RELATING TO A CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS

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- President Boos said Ordinance No. 511 was eligible for discussion and introduction. Mrs. Warnick read the title of the ordinance - a third extension of the State of Emergency in St. Michaels -into the record as noted above. President Boos made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Commissioner Bibb seconded it. Mrs. Weisman said this ordinance differs only in that it allows some of the Town boards and Commissions to meet outdoors. As there was no additional discussion, Ordinance No. 511 was passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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- VII.

Items for Discussion

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Promoting St. Michaels during the pandemic

- Mrs. Weisman said she had had a concern, given the restrictions on capacity in retail shops, no indoor seating in restaurants and limits on events, that the Town might have visitors in numbers that the Town would be unable to serve. She had therefore asked Communications Manager Kim Weller to present her adjustments to her promotion and advertising plan. Mrs. Weller said she already scaled back her advertising through the end of June and would be shifting some advertising toward day trip and “top of mind” ads and focusing on the Fall and Christmas timeframes. Mrs. Weller said she would have a virtual presence at the MML Conference and had plenty of images and material to share. The Commissioners generally approved of the direction of Mrs. Weller's plan. Mrs. Weller said she would proceed with caution.
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Historic Trees

- The Commissioners discussed historic trees in general and the historic tree between the Snuggery and the Victoriana Inn in particular. Commissioner Glackin said preserving historic trees in St. Michaels was an admirable goal and perhaps the Planning Commission could do some research and develop legislation. He also noted the issue of the tree between the two inns is a matter for the property owners to resolve, as the tree straddles both properties. After some additional discussion, the Commissioners agreed to refer the matter of historic trees to the Planning Commission. The Commissioners also agreed that Peter Leshner should be consulted by the Planning Commission with regard to historic trees in the Historic District and in the Critical Area. Commissioner Glackin made the motion to refer the matter of historic trees to the Planning Commission and ask them for a proposal. President Boos seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

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Talbot County additional funding for sewer and road work in St. Michaels

- Cost share with County for St. Michaels road and sewer work on W Harbor Road
- President Boos said that the Town has budgeted money for street work on eleven streets in the town, and the County, in the process of upgrading sewers in Town, has repaired six of the eleven, which is approximately \$1 million dollars' worth of work. President Boos continued that the County now wants the Town to assume \$350,000 of its debt to the Rural Development Fund for the remainder of the work. President Boos said there is money in the Town's repair and replacement fund to pay it off, or the Town could carry the debt service at currently low interest rates of about 2.5 percent. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to assume the debt from the Rural Development Agency. Mrs. Weisman said she would need to do a budget amendment and requested a motion from the Commissioners. President Boos made a motion to approve the assumption of the County's \$350,000 debt to the Rural Development Fund to continue the County's work on the St. Michaels sewer repair project. Commissioner Glackin seconded the motion but amended the motion to include in the budget amendment he savings to be incurred by assuming the debt as stated in Mrs. Weisman's June 3rd memo to the Commissioners. President Boos seconded Commissioner Glackin's amendment.

Contractor Casey Rauch said his firm would be starting work almost immediately, beginning with repairs to W. Harbor Road.

President Boos then called for a vote on Commissioner Glackin's amendment, which passed 5-0 in favor.

Mrs. Warnick then called the roll for the motion to approve the debt assumption, which then passed 5-0 in favor.

- VIII.

Commissioners Calendar

- Listening Session for Zoning Update
- Commissioner Glackin proposed another listening session for the zoning code re-write and suggested a Saturday morning remote meeting. The Commissioners set June 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Windon suggested a special working session with the Police Chief to discuss any issues or concerns the town may regarding racism, and the budget amendment draft. The working session was set for June 23, 2020.

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- IX.

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Memo from Kimberly Weller
Communications Manager
Town of St. Michaels, Maryland
(410) 745-9535

The Commissioners of St. Michaels issue the following statement

The Commissioners of St. Michaels unanimously condemn the actions of the Minneapolis Police that caused the death of one of their citizens, George Floyd. We call on police departments and public safety organizations across the country to adopt policies of inclusion, engagement and most importantly respect for its citizens.

We believe that if police departments across the country adopted the approach to public safety that has been implemented in St. Michaels, MD, this terrible result and others like it could be avoided. Our town's public safety is led by our Chief Anthony Smith. He has spent his entire adult life in law enforcement, 25 years with the Maryland State police and 14 years with St. Michaels. He believes in and strictly enforces the concept of community policing and he is always vigilant and will not tolerate any form of racism within our police department. He and all of his officers know our residents personally. They work with our youth on a daily basis and as a result have developed a trust within the

community. They run programs, such as SMYLE that is funded by the town and its residents, that engage our young people with the police. Arrest or detention is always the last resort. As a result, St. Michaels has one of the lowest records of arrest of many towns in Maryland.

We believe that all police should interact with citizens and visitors at a personal level and that treating everyone with dignity can co-exist with law enforcement.

By Authority of Commissioners of St. Michaels

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- President Boos said the Commissioners and discussed and agreed that a statement regarding the recent civil unrest surrounding the death of George Floyd in Minnesota was appropriate. President Boos made a motion to release a public statement, and read the statement into the record as displayed above. The Commissioners voted to approve the statement on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. Chief Anthony Smith thanked the Commissioners for their support.
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- The Commissioners agreed that the Public Works crew needed to go back to work and Mrs. Weisman said she was working on the parameters to enable them to do so.
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- X.

Announcement of Future Meetings

July 3 2020 - Office closed for 4th of July

July 13 2020 - Election Day for Commissioners

July 14 2020 - Regular COSM Work and Legislative Session

- XI.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.