

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Work and Legislative Session

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Edgar M. Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin. Building

300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, MD



I. Call to Order

President Boos called to order the combined working and legislative 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 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Bill Boos, Joyce Harrod, Michael Bibb, and Roy Myers, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Zoning Officer Sarah Abel, Delegate John Mautz, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and 39 members of the public. Commissioner Jaime Windon was absent.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

President Boos made a brief announcement that the Acme Market would be closing on October 8, 2017. President Boos said that a local developer has the property under contract and is in the process of researching and performing due diligence. President Boos said that rumors that the Town is buying the property are not true, and the Town would never buy the property. President Boos said the Commissioners are concerned about the impact the closing will have on the community. The Town is working with local groups to find a solution to the interim problem of transportation for residents who must now get to other grocery stores in the area. President Boos stressed that the Town's only role in what is an issue of private property, is as a facilitator.

President Boos said the second issue of the evening was the Town's open container law, noting that, while the Town was making changes to the existing law to further clarify its language and meaning, enforcement of the ordinance remains the purview of the police and the liquor control board. President Boos then invited public comment.

IV. Comments from the Public

Ann Borders of Cherry Street said the Town should be working with the developer to bring in another grocery store. A North Street resident said the Town needs a grocery store and that it is the heart of the Town. Tad DuPont of Locust Street noted the Acme has been a primary source for boaters and short term renters for provisions, for wine and beer sales in the tourist season, and the store has handled the bulk of food stamp purchases. The Commissioners refuted unequivocally rumors in the Town that a parking lot was planned for the space. The Commissioners asserted that the developer is a responsible member of the community and the Town was supporting his efforts to find a positive solution to the problem. Delegate John Mautz noted that the Acme closing issue happened very quickly, and with the store closing on October 7th, he and the Town were working on the immediate problem of getting people to alternative grocery stores, regardless of what the final solution to the problem may be. Commissioner Boos then directed staff to send out an email to Town residents with all the information the Town has on the matter. Tad DuPont of Locust Street said he had concerns about allowing one more significant function to leave the Town. Mr. DuPont noted that over the past few years the Town has lost the public laundry, both banks, and now the grocery store and that such losses could greatly reduce the vibrancy of the community. Ms. Tyler of Maple Street said she was disabled with a seven-year old and would find trying to manage trips to the grocery store on public transportation very difficult. The Commissioners said they were committed to finding a solution to the problem and thanked everyone for their comments.

Mrs. Wiesman continued public announcements noting that she had attended the 9/11 ceremonies in Easton on Monday. Mrs. Weisman said the Town was joining in the events for Project Purple, including purple lights around Town, purple T-shirts for Town employees and participation in Project Purple activities.

V. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda items below were approved on a voice vote of 4-0 in favor.

- Approval of minutes from August 9 (closed session) and 23, 2017
- Approval of Department Reports
- Approval of following event permits:

- a. Event permit from Simpatico Columbus Day for annual Wine and Food Event to be held on Oct 14-15 at Simpatico on Railroad Ave, from 12-5pm
- b. Event permit from St. Michaels High School Alumni Association for 3rd Annual Halloween Fun Run on the St. Michaels Nature Trail on Oct 21 2017 from 7-11am
- c. Event permit from St. Michaels Business Association for Fall Into St. Michaels on Oct 21-22 2017, all day; to include Jack Russell Dog Races on Perry Cabin lawn - Pumpkin Carving and Pie Contest at SMCC - Scarecrow contest at SMCC

Choptank Electric has given approval for Jack Russell cut outs and scarecrows to be attached to utility poles
- d. Event permit from National MS Society for a 10 Mile Awareness Walk on Oct 29 2017, fro, 7am-4pm, along Nature Trail and various streets throughout Town

VI. Ordinance eligible for Vote

- Ordinance No. 484 - Open Container law

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHALES, CHAPTER 80, (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES), ARTICLE I, (CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC), §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

After some discussion, President Boos called upon Suzanna Warnick, who read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above. President Boos then called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 484 as presented. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Harrod, and which passed on a unanimous vote of 5-0, with an absentee vote of "yea" being read into the record by Town Manager Jean Weisman.

VII. Items for Discussion

- Ann Hymes letter of August 21 2017 with requests
 - St. Michaels Art Trail for next year
 - Rocks at restroom at Frederick Douglas Park
 - Painting of rocks and removal to Nature Trail
 -
- Draft RFP for Zoning Code update
- Sidewalks - update from committee

Ann Hymes said she had three requests as outlined in her letter to the Commissioners dated August 21, 2017. The first was whether the Commissioners would approve the art project on the Nature Trail for next year, but with six art pieces. Ms. Hymes said the project was very well received and she would like to continue it. After a brief discussion, President Boos made a motion to approve the project under the same conditions, but including six art pieces. Commissioner Myers seconded it, and after a brief discussion, the motion carried on a roll call vote of 4-0 in favor.

President Boos noted that Ms. Hymes' other request for moving rocks from the public restrooms to the Nature Trail to protect certain trees, to replace bad trees, and to paint the rocks was discussed. At the suggestion of Commissioner Myers, the Commissioners decided to direct the Parks and Recreation Committee to work on replacing the damaged trees, and to find a way to protecting them, and to organize or fix, or add to, the rocks at Frederick Douglas Park.

President Boos then called upon Sarah Abel, who provided an update on the proposed overhaul of the Town's Zoning Code. Ms. Abel said the Zoning Code committee had developed criteria and goals for a draft RFP and advised that a review of the code be done prior to drafting the RFP. Mr. Glackin of the St. Michaels Planning Commission said his commission would like the RFP to go out in November 2017, and that work on the Code would begin in March 2018 with a 25% payment of the total proposed \$75,000 - \$100,000 for the project. Commissioner Myers suggested joint meetings of the Commissioners and the Planning Commission to review suggested code changes. Ms. Abel suggested that the consultant could lead the coordination of the joint work and determine when meetings were necessary. After some additional discussion, the Commissioners were in agreement that the committee should continue with the direction they had indicated.

President Boos again called upon Ms. Abel, who provided an update from the Sidewalk Committee. Ms. Abel noted that the Committee had reviewed the current St. Michaels sidewalk ordinance and Easton's rules regarding sidewalks, making changes, simplifications and clarifications to the existing ordinance, including specifications for all types of public ways, and clarifying expenses and penalties. The Commissioners agreed to send their suggestions to Ms. Abel via e-mail, and that another draft, possibly in ordinance form, to be presented at a Commissioners' meeting in October.

VIII. Comments from the Commissioners

IX. Commissioners Calendar

- X. The Commissioners made changes and additions to the calendar of agenda items for meetings in October 2017. President Boos suggested that Police Chief Smith be consulted regarding traffic on New Lane when Talbot Street is

closed.

XI. Announcement of Future Meetings

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Total Meeting Time: 0h 33m

Public Participation: Members of the public may make comments and ask questions about items appearing on the "Consent Agenda" when they are presented. All other comments from the public will be taken during the period set aside for "Comments from the Public". To be recognized, a member of the public should raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the President. Comments and questions should be kept brief and to the point, and be directed to the President.