

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Special Session

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building

300 Mill Street; PO Box 206

St. Michaels, MD 21663

- I.

Call to Order

- A Special Session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels was held at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland. Present were Commissioners William Boos, Michael Bibb, Joyce Harrod, Dennis Glackin, and Jaime Windon, Town Manager Jean Weisman, and Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick. The meeting was closed to the public.

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- II.

Pledge of Allegiance

- III.

Item for Discussion, Introduction and possible Vote

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Ordinance No. 506

- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

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- Mrs. Weisman thanked everyone for coming. Mrs. Weisman said the County Council had issued an Emergency Declaration two days ago and that she had taken their declaration and modified it to fit St. Michaels and cleared it with the Town's attorney. Mrs. Weisman said she thought it was important that the Town issue its own State of Emergency so that it can make the decisions necessary going forward. Mrs. Weisman said she first needed a motion to declare the draft Ordinance No. 506 as an emergency ordinance by a 4/5ths vote, and then a vote to adopt it, effective immediately. She added that under the normal ordinance adoption process, the ordinance would not become effective before 20 days.

President Boos made a motion to waive the Commission's normal rules of ordinance adoption. Commissioners Bibb and Windon seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

President Boos then made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 506 as presented, amendable. Commissioner Windon seconded it.

Commissioner Glackin asked if this ordinance included any guidance on postponing the elections. Mrs. Weisman referred the Commissioners to Page 3, Number 7 of the ordinance, and said the Town's Attorney had recommended that the Commissioners should vote on a separate ordinance to postpone the election, based on the guidance under Number 7 of Ordinance No. 506. After some discussion, the Commissioners and Mrs. Weisman called Patrick Thomas, Town Attorney, for guidance on the matter of postponing the election. Mrs. Weisman asked if language needed to be added to Ordinance No. 506 to provide guidance on postponing the election. Commissioner Glackin said he thought Ordinance No. 506 might be unclear. Attorney Thomas said yes, additional language could be added to clarify, but he said a separate ordinance addressing the election was appropriate given the rapidly changing environment. Attorney Patrick suggested eliminating the reference to "registrations" on Pages 2-3 of Ordinance No. 506, and adding language related to the suspension of elections. Attorney Patrick said he would make the changes to the document as discussed and send them shortly.

The Commissioners discussed possible dates for postponement, but then decided to have another meeting in two weeks' time to discuss dates specific dates. President Boos suggested Wednesday, April 1st as a date for another meeting at 1:00 p.m., and that the meeting would be electronic. The Commissioners also agreed to publicize the electronic meeting.

The Commissioners then discussed upcoming budget meetings, and decided to have a conference call or a video conference for the first budget meeting on April 7th. Mrs. Weisman reviewed plans to cut back on office activity with people assigned to work from home or with reduced hours. Communications Manager Kimberly Weller provided an update on all planned communications to businesses and the public. Mrs. Weller said her communications to the public included information from the County's Covid 19 website regarding support activities available in and to the St. Michaels community. Commissioner Bibb provided an update on community programs for food distribution that are underway. President Boos said he also wanted to verify in the record that own's water supply was perfectly safe and was tested daily as usual.

Mrs. Weisman then dictated the changes that Attorney Patrick made to the draft Ordinance No. 506, after which President Boos made a motion to accept the

amendments to Ordinance No. 506. Commissioner Bibb seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

President Boos then made the motion to adopt Ordinance 506 as amended. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. Mrs. Weisman asked the Commissioners to sign the ordinance so that it could be posted with the audio recording of the meeting.

- IV.

Comments from the Commissioners

- V.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.