

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Special Remote Session

Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building

300 Mill Street; PO Box 206

St. Michaels, MD 21663

and

Remote Zoom hook-up

- I.

Call to Order

- President Boos called to order a remote meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 1:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Michael Bibb, Joyce Harrod, Dennis Glackin, and Jaime Windon, Town Manager Jean Weisman and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick and members of the public.

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- II.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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- III.

Emergency Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-01

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Emergency Charter Amendment Resolution 2020-01

AN EMERGENCY CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS, PASSED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, §§ 4-302(1) AND 4-304(a) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-03-30-02 OF THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF ST. MICHAELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO POSTPONE, BY RESOLUTION, ANY REGULAR OR SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION WHEN A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND/OR THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS PURSUANT TO MD. CODE ANN., PUBLIC SAFETY TITLE 14 AND UPON A

FINDING THAT SUCH POSTPONEMENT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE AND TO CONDUCT SUCH ELECTION IN A SAFE, ORDERLY, AND EFFICIENT MANNER; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS EMERGENCY CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS.

- Town Manager Jean Weisman contacted the Town Attorney's office at the request of President Boos to ask Attorney Chip MacLeod to join the call. Attorney MacLeod was able to join the audio call for discussion of the Resolution. Mrs. Warnick then read the title of Resolution No. 2020-01 as written above, an Emergency Charter Amendment to postpone any regular election. President Boos made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01 as written and called for a second. Commissioner Bibb seconded it. President Boos then called for discussion and asked Attorney MacLeod to explain the resolution. Attorney MacLeod said the resolution's purpose was to allow the Commissioners of St. Michaels to postpone the election schedule for May 4, 2020. Attorney MacLeod said such an action by the Commissioners is further supported by the Maryland Governor's recent Executive Order permitting such postponements, and the adjustment of dates, in the current State of Emergency. Commissioner Harrod had a question about the language regarding the proposed new election date in June. She also suggested adding the clarification that the next public meeting would be held remotely. The Commissioners agreed. Mrs. Weisman responded to a public question and noted that both draft resolutions had been posted on the Town's website in advance of this meeting.

As there were no additional questions, President Boos called for a vote. Mrs. Warnick called the roll, and the Commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of Resolution 2020-01.

Resolution No. 2020-05

A RESOLUTION TO POSTPONE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS FROM MAY 4, 2020 TO _____, 2020 AND EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO FILE A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR TOWN COMMISSIONER AND TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN TOWN ELECTIONS FROM APRIL 3, 2020 TO _____, 2020.

- President Boos said the next Resolution, No. 2020-05, was the Commissioners' action to postpone specifically the election on May 4, 2020. Mrs. Warnick read the title into the record as noted above. President Boos made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-05, including the proposed date of July 13th as the new date of the election. Mrs. Weisman said she thought that date would work, also in coordination with the State's registration deadlines. Commissioner Bibb seconded the resolution. The Commissioners agreed with the July 13th date for

the election, and the date of June 12th as the deadline for candidacy filing and voter registration. Mrs. Weisman said the Resolution and the new dates would be publicized via postings, the newspaper, constant contact e-mail and on the Town's website. Attorney MacLeod said if the dates should have to be changed, the Commissioners had the flexibility to make any changes via simple resolution. The Commissioners made minor corrections to the text of the resolution, filling in the new dates where necessary. The Commissioners dealt with some of the technical issues of the remote link up and paused to look at public comments and answer public questions. As there was no additional discussion, Mrs. Warnick then called the roll for Resolution 2020-05. Resolution No. 2020-05 passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

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IV. Items for Discussion COVID-19, and items related thereto

- Mrs. Weisman said the Police Chief wanted to close parts of the parks and she said she would like direction from the Commissioners. Chief Anthony Smith said his officers would be informing parents and would be closing those aspects of parks where people gather, such as play equipment, benches or other apparatus, but not open spaces for walking or exercise. Following discussion, the Commissioners and Chief Smith agreed that signage would be appropriate. Mrs. Weisman then read public comments. After some additional discussion, President Boos made a motion to instruct the public works department to put closure signage in all the parks. Commissioners Windon and Bibb seconded it. Mrs. Weisman said staff would work on the language and post the signage. Mrs. Warnick then called the roll and the motion passed on a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Mrs. Weisman raised the issue of the kayak lottery assignment of rack spaces in Back Creek Park. The Commissioners agreed the lottery should go forward. Mrs. Weisman added that the Governor's order stated that kayaking was exercise, and therefore allowable. The Commissioners also discussed second homeowners and agreed that education and messaging were the best way to address quarantining.. Commissioner Glackin added that the two major hotels in town were closed as were most of the B & B's so that visitors to the town were greatly reduced.

The Commissioners agreed that all of their meetings would be live-streamed, including upcoming budget meetings. Mrs. Weisman noted that all other meetings have been postponed but could be live streamed in the future. Mrs. Weisman said there were no agenda items for the legislative session planned for April 8th so it was cancelled, but that any business needing to be dealt with could be raised during the budget meetings.

Responding to a public question regarding the status of the town office project, President Boos said it is moving forward. Mrs. Weisman reiterated town staff contact information with the town office being officially closed. Mrs. Weisman added that public works is working on a regular schedule for trash, property and water system maintenance, and the police department is fully staffed, including the two new recruits.

Discuss future meetings and FY21 Budget sessions

- Budget work sessions are scheduled for the 7th and 9th of April, 2020 from 9am to 4pm. Next Working and Legislative session for the Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, the 8th of April, 2020 at 6pm.
- The Commissioners confirmed the budget meetings on April 7th and 9th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and that the meetings would be live streamed.
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V. Comments from the Public

- Some public commenters offered to volunteer for projects. Commissioner Windon provided information on volunteering through the County's project list and gave details of the food distribution event held in St. Michaels, which was coordinated by Chief Smith and local restaurateur Chris Agharabi. Commissioner Glackin reminded everyone to participate in the 2020 census.
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VI. Comments from the Commissioners

- The Commissioners discussed whether the Farmers' Market was authorized to hang their fundraising signs on the telephone poles. It was agreed that the market should go ahead with signage, as they were considered an essential service.

Chief Smith provided Mrs. Weisman with guidelines for drive-through religious services he had received. Commissioner Bibb said the tree donated for the Boy Scout Cabin had been planted.

Mrs. Weisman and the Commissioners thanked Chris Thomas for his assistance with setting up the live stream meeting.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.

