

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Special Session

Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order

- A virtual remote meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels began at 4:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners William Boos, Jaime Windon, Dennis Glackin, Joyce Harrod, and Michael Bibb, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Reverend Wallace of Union United Church, Town Manager Jean Weisman, and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick.

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- II.

Pledge of Allegiance

- III.

Introduction and Announcements

- Chief Smith

Rev. Wallace - Union United Methodist

- Commissioner Windon opened the discussion of Town policies in light of the recent racial protests in cities around the country. President Boos called upon Police Chief Anthony Smith, who provided an overview of the Town's police force and its policies. Chief Smith said he was encouraged that the Town's police force was well equipped compared to other small towns, was engaged in constant training for police officers, and relies on community policing policy to maintain good relationships with residents and young people in the current political environment. Chief Smith said his officers using tact, common sense and de-escalation tactics make all the difference in diffusing volatile situations.

The Commissioners praised Chief Smith and his officers for their work in the community and said they supported and have every confidence in them. Chief Smith reiterated that he felt the Town was in a good place and the Town's support of its police officers was the key to its current and future success. Chief Smith said he, in partnership with Reverend Wallace, would be conducting virtual sessions for the public every two weeks going forward to educate residents on

how the police do their job in the community. Reverend Wallace said the first session would be July 1st, perhaps located in Muskrat Park.

There were no other public questions. President Boos thanked everyone for the input, and read the last line in the Commissioners' statement published previously and made a part of these minutes.

- IV.

Ordinance for Introduction

- Ordinance No. 513 - FY20 Budget Amendment

- AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020, AS ADOPTED ON APRIL 22, 2019, AND EFFECTIVE MAY 12, 2019

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- President Boos said Ordinance No. 513 - an FY20 budget amendment - was eligible for discussion and introduction and he read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above. Commissioners Boos and Bibb introduced Ordinance No. 513.

Mrs. Weisman provided an update on budget revenue and costs and highlighted the adjustments she had made accordingly. Mrs. Weisman said the budget is again balanced without having to raise taxes. Mrs. Weisman confirmed for Commissioner Glackin that most of the increased revenue was from grants and most of the increased expenditures were on infrastructure improvements using the grant funds. Mrs. Weisman added she had been concerned about a shortfall resulting from the current economic situation, but the budget was not affected by a shortfall. There were no additional comments. President Boos said the ordinance was introduced, and Mrs. Weisman said it would be eligible for a vote at the next meeting.

- V.

Events for Approval

- - Summer Concerts in the Park -- St Michaels Community Center request
- Marengo Street Block Party for the 4th of July

President Boos said the Community Center had withdrawn its request for Concerts in the Park for this season.

The Commissioners had a discussion of the when and what happens if the State of Emergency is lifted, and Commissioner Windon said there was confusion between the County's pronouncements and the State's positions. President Boos said that the wearing of masks in the State of Maryland was still in force. Regarding fireworks in St. Michaels for July 4th, President Boos said the Yacht Club would be having fireworks on the Fourth but it would be a private event. The Commissioners agreed that public questions should be directed to the Yacht Club.

Commissioner Bibb asked about his Marengo Street block party. Mrs. Weisman said the Chief of Police had signed off on the street closing permit for the event.

- VI.

Items for Discussion

- Discuss, identify and/or address policies and procedures of the town and its agencies as they relate to issues of systemic racism

Notes of discussion on page one.

- VII.

Comments from the Public

- President Boos called for any public comments. There were no questions or comments from the public.

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- VIII.

Comments from the Commissioners

- There were no questions from the Commissioners. Mrs. Weisman reviewed the election details and the League of Women Voters' Forum. Mrs. Weisman said she had her judges and would possibly use a tent outside or use the meeting room with precautions if there was inclement weather.

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- IX.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.