

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Work and Legislative Remote Session Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Note: Commissioner Bibb, as current Vice President, will preside over meeting until the election of Officers.

Elected Commissioners Bibb, Breimhurst, duPont and Harrod will be sworn in by Kathi Dulin-Duvall, Clerk of the Court for Talbot County at 5:00 pm outside at the Town Office.

Commissioner Bibb will preside over the election of President. Once completed, the new President will preside over the remainder of the elections and the meeting.

II. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- Vice President Michael Bibb called to order a remote meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Jaime Windon, Joyce Harrod, and newly elected Commissioners David Breimhurst and T. Coleman (Tad) duPont, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Meeting host Kimberley Weller, Police Chief Anthony Smith, and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Agenda Amendments

- There were no agenda amendments.
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IV. Election of Officers of The Commissioners of St. Michaels

- Commissioners Bibb - will be electing a President, Vice President and Treasurer.

Once the election of President is completed, the new President will preside over the remainder of the elections and the meeting.

- Vice President Bibb announced the Election of Officers. Commissioner Harrod nominated Commissioner Michael Bibb for President. There were no other

nominations. Mrs. Weisman called the roll and the Commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of Michael Bibb for president, with Commissioner Windon dissenting.

President Bibb then nominated Commissioner Joyce Harrod for Vice President. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Weisman called the roll and the Commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of Commissioner Harrod for Vice President.

President Bibb then nominated Tad DuPont for Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Commissioner duPont said he would accept the nomination as long as he was the only person to sign all checks, except when a designee was required, and that he would do so twice weekly at a regular time. Mrs. Weisman then called the roll and the Commissioners voted 5-0 for Commissioner duPont as Treasurer.

V. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- There were no comments from the Commissioners or the public. Mrs. Weisman said the swearing-in of the incumbent and newly elected Commissioners took place just prior to this meeting at 5:00 p.m. in a ceremony outside the Town Office meeting room at 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, with Covid-19 regulations observed. A Christmas in St. Michaels board member provided an update on the organization's plans for this year's celebration and the changes being made to accommodate Covid-19 regulations. Doug Rollow of Water Street requested that public comments be allowed following the discussion of the parking committee's presentation. Police Chief Anthony Smith congratulated the new Commissioners. Paulette Florio of Talbot Street thanked Chief Smith for his presentations to the public regarding the Town's Covid-19 regulations on masking. Kristin Greenaway, President of the Maritime Museum, congratulated the new Commissioners and announced that the Museum would be releasing its latest economic impact report in the coming week and would be sharing it with the Commissioners.

VI. Comments from the Public

There were no additional comments

VII. Ordinance for Consideration and Vote

Ordinance No. 516 - 5TH EXTENSION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING A FIFTH 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, 509, 511 AND 514; 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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- The Commissioners discussed Ordinance No. 516 - a fifth extension of the Emergency Ordinance - and whether Commissioners' and other board meetings could now be held indoors if masking and distancing regulations were observed. The Commissioners also discussed televising the meetings. Mrs. Weisman said she would investigate changing the extension to 30 days from 60 days in Ordinance No. 516 to mirror the State regulations and provide a report to the Commissioners' at their next meeting. Responding to a question from President Bibb, Mrs. Weisman said the Commissioners could vote on the extension tonight with the date changes pending. President Bibb made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 516 with the 30-day limit, rather than 60 days. Commissioner Breimhurst seconded the motion. Mrs. Weisman read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above. The motion then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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VIII. Consent Agenda for Minutes, Department Reports and Event Permits

- Minutes for July 2020

July 14, 2020 - COSM Regular Work & Leg Session

July 27, 2020 - COSM Special Work & Leg Session

- Department Reports for July 2020

Police

Finance - Disbursements

Year to Date

Profit and Loss

Administrative

Public Works

Planning and Zoning

Communications

- President Bibb said approval of the Consent Agenda would include approval of departmental reports and minutes for the month of July 2020. As there were no comments or changes, Commissioner duPont made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Harrod seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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IX. Public Events - None for approval at this time

X. Items for Discussion

- Habitat for Humanity request for Abatement of Town Taxes for FY21

- President Bibb had a question about the Conner Street property, noting that the Conner Street property had sold and that the Town need not provide tax

abatement for it. Mrs. Weisman agreed that Conner Street should not be approved for abatement. Commissioner duPont made a motion to exempt six of the Habitat for Humanity properties from taxes, but not to exempt W. Conner Street. Commissioner Harrod seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. All the Commissioners agreed that the Habitat organization was doing great work in St. Michaels, and Commissioner Windon made a bid for volunteer workers for the house-building projects.

President Bibb wanted to freeze all capital expenditures in the Town. Commissioner Windon said it should have been part of the agenda. Mrs. Weisman said she did not have any capital projects out for bid at present. President Bibb asked that the subject be added to a Commissioners' agenda.

- Recommendations on Parking from the Parking Committee
- Planning Commission Chairman Jefferson Knapp said that the Planning Commission had created a parking committee to research and address parking problems in St. Michaels, and to make recommendations to the Commissioners. Planning Commission Member Helen Herman said the parking committee was composed of herself, Member Chris Thomas, and residents Brad McDermott of Talbot Street, Chris Agharabi of Talbot Street, and Janet Shilling of Cherry Street. Member Thomas then presented the Parking Committee's findings and suggestions. His overview included ways to convert three currently under-used Town properties into temporary parking areas, using some of the money in the parking fund to maximize and direct the parking spots on those temporary lots. Mr. Thomas said the committee was also recommending geo-tagging the temporary lots to identify them online for potential visitors, and making physical signage uniform for all the lots. In addition, Mr. Thomas said the committee was recommending a study of areas in Town, such as Water Street, where emergency access was difficult to determine what improvements should be made.

The Commissioners thanked the committee for the time and effort it had put into the project, and then discussed the project and potential costs. The Commissioners agreed that geo-tagging the temporary parking locations could be done immediately. The Commissioners then took public comment.

In response to Mrs. Weisman, who noted that the Code did not allow the parking funds to be used for studies, Doug Rollow of Water Street suggested that the Code could be changed. Marion Brown of Water Street said the parking committee suggestions were much needed, but there were other issues on Water Street and on Mulberry Street as well.

President Bibb suggested another discussion of the parking project for the Commissioners' next meeting. The Commissioners asked the committee to move ahead on geo-tagging and to look at other streets with parking problems.

Mrs. Weisman had said there is some money left from the telephone pole study that could be used for the parking study and President Bibb suggested that Peter Johnston, the consultant for the zoning code re-write, be tapped to help with the study. Mrs. Weisman said she would follow up on that suggestion.

There were no additional comments.

XI. Commissioners Calendar

- Mrs. Weisman said calendar items should include the annual review of meeting rules. The Commissioners agreed that Wednesday, September 9th would be their next meeting, and that a permanent change in the meeting date could be discussed in the rules review. The Commissioners agreed to put rules of procedure, capital projects, the parking committee, resuming meetings in the meeting room, changing the Code to allow parking funds to be used for studies, and an update on State Highway Administration (SHA) projects in St. Michaels on the September 9, 2020 agenda.

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XII. Comments from the Commissioners

- Responding to comments from residents she had received, Commissioner Windon said there is a new legitimate stop sign on E. Chew installed for reasons of safety, and noted that the Commissioners have not been involved in the church bell issue, but that the church turned down the volume of the bells on their own and both the Chief and Town Manager had addressed the temporary resident's request. There were no additional public comments.

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XIII. Announcement of Future Meetings

September 7, 2020 - Town Office closed for Labor Day

September 8/9, 2020 - 6:00pm - COSM Working & Legislative Session DATE TO BE DETERMINED

XIV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.