

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Work and Legislative Remote Session Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

President Bibb called to order a remote work and legislative session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Commissioners Tad duPont, Joyce Harrod, Jaime Windon, and David Breimhurst, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Public Works Director Jeff Richardson, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and several members of the public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Agenda Amendments

- Town Manager Jean Weisman said the Planning Commission had requested that Parking signage be removed from the agenda to make changes and asked to be rescheduled for an October agenda.

III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Mrs. Weisman said she had no new announcements, but that she and the Commissioners would be participating in the remote Fall Conference of the Maryland Municipal League and that there were no changes in the Covid-19 situation in Town.

IV. Comments from the Public

- There were no comments from the public.

V. Resolution Eligible for Vote

- Resolution 2020-07 - Amendment to Meeting Rules and Procedures
- RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RULES FOR THE CONDUCT FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS
- President Bibb said Resolution 2020-07 was eligible for a vote. Mrs. Weisman read the title of the resolution into the record as noted above.

President Bibb noted that the resolution made a change to the Commissioners' Rules of Procedure to return to two Commissioners' meetings per month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. There were no public comments. Commissioner duPont made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-07 as presented. Commissioner Breimhurst seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VI. Consent Agenda for Minutes

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- September 9 2020 - COSM Work and Legislative Session

President Bibb asked if there were any comments or changes to the minutes of September 9, 2020. Commissioner duPont made a change, noting that he had asked the Commissioners to read all three of the prior parking studies, including the Pratt report. There were no other changes. Commissioner Harrod made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Breimhurst seconded the motion and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VII. Items for Discussion

- Budget Review
- Budget FY 2021

Commissioner duPont opened the budget discussion with possible suggestions. Commissioner duPont said the first item was the safety of the Town and the jobs of the people in the town; he also recommended Commissioners vote on a capital spending freeze with a minimum of \$10,000.00; ask departments to look at ways to save money with a target of 10 percent to increase efficiency, including employees doing time logs; look into the leasing of Town vehicles to preserve capital.

Jeff Richardson outlined areas where money could be saved, noting that estimates for repair and replacement items were originally high and money could be saved by cutting the estimates back. Mr. Richardson responded to questions from the Commissioners regarding the cost of individual projects. There was general agreement that a minimal repair on Green Street would improve it at lower cost. The Commissioners discussed an additional streetlight for Mulberry Street at Talbot and Church Streets, and sidewalk issues. Mrs. Weisman said she would contact Choptank about an additional

light and would have Assistant Codes Enforcement Officer Bill Gilmore look at the sidewalk issues. Mr. Richardson said he was looking into alternative materials to replace the deck and railings on the Police Department building, but that the budgets for the other five projects he had could be reduced considerably. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Richardson for his report and the positive steps he was taking to reduce spending.

Commissioner duPont said he understood that Long and Foster may not renew its lease of 109 S. Talbot Street in 2021 and the Commissioners needed to be thinking about what to do with that property.

President Bibb then called for a motion to freeze capital spending. Commissioner Breimhurst made the motion to freeze capital spending at a \$10,000.00 limit per item, except for any items that might impact the public health and welfare. Commissioners Harrod and duPont seconded it.

After some additional discussion, Commissioner Breimhurst amended his motion to include a “re-evaluation of the freeze when the Town lifts its current State of Emergency.” Commissioner Bibb seconded it, and the amendment passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

The Commissioners then voted on the original motion on a roll call vote of 4-1 in favor, with Commissioner Windon voting “nay.”

- St Michaels Running Festival

President Bibb asked Peter Paris if the new owners of the Running Festival would be applying for a permit online with the Commissioners. Mr. Paris said yes and introduced himself, along with the new owners Josh Levinson and Will Murdoch of Charm City Run. Mr. Paris said the new owners were present to answer any questions the Commissioners may have. President Bibb said he was not interested in the transfer of a permit for an event this size and would expect the new owners to apply for a permit just as Mr. Paris did. Mrs. Weisman said the Commissioners needed to see the details. Commissioner Breimhurst said he supported a new permit for a new owner, and that a permit should not be a traded or transferred commodity. Mr. Paris said he and his wife would be overseeing and running the event for the first year as consultants.

President Bibb said he conceded that if the permit and all the insurance and legalities were in the new owner's name he would not have a problem with a transfer rather than a whole new permit.

Commissioner Windon made a motion to transfer the permit to Charm City Run, contingent upon the Town attorney's review and written opinion that the parameters of the permit were identical and that the Town has the legal ability to transfer a permit. Commissioner duPont seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. President Bibb seconded it. Mrs. Weisman said she would have the Town's attorney review the transfer letter before President Bibb signed it.

- Review of Ethics Procedures
- President Bibb opened the discussion of ethics procedures. Commissioner duPont said he had talked with Doug Rollow of Water Street who said he would like to review the ethics process in light of the District Court Judge's comments. It was agreed that Doug Rollow and John Hunnicutt would review the Judge's decision and bring their observations to the Commissioners, after which an Ad Hoc Committee would be formed to look into the matter more fully. President Bibb said the Committee would consist of two attorneys, two Commissioners, the members of the Ethics board and any other individuals who wished to participate. Commissioners Bibb and Windon volunteered for the Committee.
 - Parking Signage
- This topic was postponed and rescheduled for the Commissioners' October 2020 agenda.
 - Boy Scout Cabin
- Conditions of Use Agreement
- President Bibb opened the discussion of the Conditions of Use Agreement. Mrs. Weisman said that the Town's attorney was working on a draft and that she should have something in a few days. Commissioner Harrod asked how people could use the building for functions and would there be a

charge of using it. President Bibb said those details would be worked out and outlined in the Conditions of Use Agreement.

- Halloween
- Conditions for possible Trick or Treating on Saturday, October 31st

President Bibb said the Town could not cancel Halloween, but could issue guidelines for Trick-or-Treating within the Town limits and for the time limit of 6-8 p.m. Commissioners Windon and duPont said they had talked to a number of residents who said they would not be participating this year because of the Covid-19 threat. Mrs. Weisman said she had contacted the Towns of Oxford, Easton, and Trappe, which she said would not be making decisions on Halloween until October; it was therefore possible that St. Michaels' decision could influence or lead what the other towns decided. President Bibb, who was a devoted annual Halloween enthusiast, said he and his wife were looking at a drive-thru setup for this year, coordinating with Chief Smith on traffic flow and safety.

After some additional discussion, Mrs. Weisman said she had a motion on the table that the Commissioners were not sanctioning or preventing Trick-or-treating but were advocating following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and respecting residents' and parents' decisions to not participate; that the Commissioners were encouraging safe alternative ways to celebrate this year. David Breimhurst seconded the motion, as stated by Jean Weisman. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Mrs. Weisman said there was a request from Cora's Corner to have a Trunk-or-Treat in the Town parking lot at the top of Mill Street from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. on Halloween Day. Mrs. Artesan explained their proposal, noting that the 6-foot distance could be maintained by the positioning of the cars and it could be organized as a drive-by; the event could be organized to meet Town restrictions and would have a 2-hour time limit. Mrs. Artesan was asking for Commissioners' permission to go ahead. Commissioner Windon said she could not approve a Town parking lot being used for an event, however well intentioned. President Bibb said he agreed and suggested that a location on private property would work better.

Commissioner Breimhurst said if the event is on Town property and is on the CDC list of high-risk events, he could not approve it. Mrs. Weisman said if the event were on private property with limited people and does not impact traffic in town, the Town would not be involved. President Bibb suggested St. Luke's property may be a possibility.

VIII. Comments from the Public

- Michelle Jacoby of Mulberry Street commented on the lack of adherence to the mask regulations on sidewalks and docks. The Commissioners and Chief Smith said every effort was being made to enforce the requirement and the Town's goal is 100 percent compliance. Mrs. Jacoby said she was asking specifically for signs that say "wear a mask on sidewalks and docks." The Commissioners discussed specific "mask zones" for high-risk areas, such as the docks, where two people passing cannot maintain the required six feet of separation. President Bibb said the Commissioners would pursue additional signage.

Chief Smith raised the issue of speed limit signage, noting that the police had added 25 mph speed limit signs in key locations and will be encouraging a lower speed limit in some areas with "children at play" signs in addition to enforcement.

IX. Comments from the Commissioners

- Commissioner duPont said he had concerns about the sidewalk between Muskrat Park and the Foxy's parking lot being a safety hazard. He suggested squaring the corner off by the dock and the bulkhead and adding a handrail to improve the situation.

President Bibb said the gutters and lighting should be done on the Boy Scout Cabin by October.

Commissioner Windon said she had been walking the Nature Trail Extension lately and she encouraged everyone to do so because it was quite a beautiful spot.

X. Announcement of Future Meetings

October 12 2020 - Town Office closed for Columbus Day

October 14 2020 - COSM Virtual Working Session

October 28 2020 - COSM Virtual Legislative Session

XI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.