

# MINUTES

## COSM

### Commissioners

### COSM Working Remote Session

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

6:00 - Call to Order for Working Session - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Harrod called to order the regular working remote session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. in St. Michaels, Maryland and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Michael Bibb, David Breimhurst, Jaime Windon and Tad duPont, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Communications Manager Kimberly Weller, and over 40 members of the public.

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#### II. Agenda Amendments

- The Commissioners added a discussion of their emergency mask order at the end of this meeting.

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#### III. Announcement of Prior Closed Session

- Commissioners met in Closed Session on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Article, under the Open Meetings Act §3-305(b) 1 (i): The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and (ii): Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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- President Harrod referenced the Closed Session on May 4th as noted above.

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#### IV. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Commissioner Bibb said the Governor spoke this afternoon to lift restrictions on mask-wearing outside by this Saturday, and also indicated that all restrictions would be lifted by Memorial Day. Commissioner Windon wanted to discuss the opening up of the Town and the Governor's order. Commissioner Bibb said the Commissioners could discuss it later in the meeting.

Commissioner duPont said that the two most important issues for the Town - water and public safety. and he provided a synopsis of his recommendations for the proposed budget. He noted that advertising had not been de-funded, but had been reduced with an option to increase later if necessary. Commissioner duPont said everyone should think of the Town more comprehensively and he felt that the budget reflects and serves the needs of all the community. He thanked everyone for their part in the budget process.

Commissioner Breimhurst stated that the budget process had been thorough and painstaking, and the result of nine sessions of hard work by the Commissioners and Staff. He defended the decisions on advertising and the reduction in the tax rate and said the Commissioners were doing their best to support the community.

Police Chief Anthony Smith provided an update on the vaccine clinic over the weekend, and what the task force efforts would be going forward. He had praise for the volunteers and for those who came forward to be vaccinated. The Chief also referenced a fraud case he had been working on. He added that the department was planning a fraud seminar at the library and would be scheduling a "shred day" for the community. Chief Smith added that the police department would be holding a weekly "lunch with a cop" grill-out during the summer for the children in Town.

V. Comments from the Public

VI. Special Presentation and Discussion

FY21 Budget Review

- Commissioner duPont

Commissioner duPont spoke in support of the draft budget with the reduction in the tax rate.

Marketing and Advertising Review

- Kimberly Weller
- Kim Weller thanked everyone for their support and urged reconsideration of any further cuts in the advertising budget.

VII. Public Hearing and possible Vote

Ordinance No. 524 - FY22 Budget and Tax Rate

- AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO SET THE TAX RATE AND ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Introduced on May 9 2021 by Commissioners Bibb and Breimhurst

- President Harrod opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 524, the FY2022 Budget and Tax Rate. She read the title of the ordinance into the record as follows: "Ordinance No. 524, an ordinance of the Commissioners of St. Michaels to set the tax rate and adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2022." President Harrod said this ordinance had been introduced by Commissioners Breimhurst and Bibb on May 4, 2021.

Mrs. Weisman read the exhibits into the record as follows:

Exhibit 1 Draft Ordinance No. 524 dated May 12, 2021

Exhibit 2 Copy of the Tax Rate and Budget Notice of Public Hearing for the hearing to be held on May 12, 2021 which was posted on the bulletin board in the Town Office, Post Office, the Town's website, the Star Democrat newspaper and Chesapeake Internet on May 5, 2021

Exhibit 3 Affidavit of publication from the Star Democrat for the Notice of Public Hearing

Exhibit 4 Report from Kim Weller

Exhibit 5 Letter from Kristin Greenaway, President of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Exhibit 6 Letter from Cassandra Van Hooser, Director of the Talbot County Economic Development and Tourism Office

Exhibit 7 E-mail from John Garland and Steven Chesbro of 226 Dodson Avenue

President Harrod said those wishing to comment should provide name and address for the record and try to limit comments to three minutes to give as many people as possible an opportunity to speak. She added that those who are not able to comment are encouraged to submit comments in writing.

Mrs. Weisman provided highlights and an overview of this year's budget process. Commissioner duPont added details of the plans to convert to a digital meter system for the Water Department and other financial shifts within the budget.

Commissioner Windon thanked Kim Weller, Cassandra Van Hooser and Michael Morgan for their insightful letters on the vital importance of marketing/advertising and having a long term vision for the Town. Commissioner Windon also said she was generally not in favor of the FY2022 draft budget.

President Harrod then called for public comments. Several members of the public had verbal comments and Mrs. Weisman read several written comments into the record.

As there were no other public comments, President Harrod closed the Public Hearing and called for a motion. Commissioner Breimhurst made a motion to adopt the budget and tax rate as presented. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Windon voting nay.

There were no further comments from the Commissioners.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda for Minutes, Department Reports and Event Permits

Minutes

April 9 2021 - Budget

April 14 2021 - Working Session

April 16 2021 - Budget

Department Reports for April 2021

Police

Disbursements

Year to Date

Profit and Loss

Planning and Zoning

Public Works

Administrative

Marketing and Communication

Events

- Special Permit Application for Public Event held in Public Parks for St Michaels Annual Summer Concerts in the Park, every Thursday evening from 6-7:30 pm, in Muskrat Park beginning June 17 to September 9, 2021.

- President Harrod called for a vote on the Consent Agenda, which included departmental reports and minutes for the month of April 2021 and an event permit application for the Concerts in the Park. There were no questions or comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Harrod made the motion to

accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

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IX. Ordinances or Resolutions for Discussion, Introduction or Possible Vote  
Ordinance No. 523 - Climate Change / Sea Level Rise Commission

- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS, CHAPTER 98 (BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS) TO INCLUDE §98.9 CLIMATE CHANGE/SEA LEVEL RISE COMMISSION SETTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COMMISSION AND THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS

This Ordinance was discussed on April 27, 2021 and Introduced by Commissioners Bibb and duPont

- President Harrod opened the discussion of Ordinance No. 523 on the Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission proposed by Roy Myers, President of the St. Michaels Waterways Commission. Mrs. Weisman read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above. Mr. Myers suggested that those interested should submit letters of interest to Mrs. Weisman, but also that the Town put out a Constant Contact email for awareness and further nominations. There were no other comments or questions. Commission Harrod called for a motion to form the Commission. Commissioner duPont made the motion. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.
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Ordinance No. 525 - Amend Chapter 285 Streets Sidewalks Alleys

- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS, CHAPTER 285 (STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND ALLEYS) TO AMEND §285-2 OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO PIERS AND BULKHEADS PROHIBITED; TO ALLOW FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO PUBLIC WAYS IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS.

Ordinance No. 525 was discussed on April 27 2021 and can now be Introduced.

- President Harrod opened the discussion on Ordinance No. 525, an ordinance to amend Chapter 285-2 - Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys, noting that it was eligible for introduction. Mrs. Weisman read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above. She added that the amendment was put forward as clarification for the police department because they have found it difficult to enforce as it is currently written. Mrs. Weisman said she had added an exception to the amended language per the Commissioners suggestions at their last meeting. Commissioners Bibb and Breimhurst had introduced Ordinance No. 525.

Resolution 2021-04 - No Parking on West side St Mary's Square

- A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF 'NO PARKING' SIGNS ON THE WEST SIDE OF ST. MARY'S SQUARE RESTRICTING PARKING A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF MULBERRY STREET

Resolution was discussed on April 27, 2021 and is eligible for a Vote.

- President Harrod opened discussion of Resolution 2021-04, a resolution prohibiting parking on the West Side of St. Mary's Square at Mulberry Street. Mrs. Weisman said that after the last Commissioners' meeting, three Commissioners, Jeff Richardson, Captain Oswald and the Fire Department conducted a walk-through of Water Street and put up no parking signs to enhance public safety on the Mulberry Street and Chestnut Street sides of Water Street. The group also noticed there needed to be no parking signage on the west side of St. Mary's Square at Mulberry Street. Mrs. Weisman continued that since the no parking area to be marked was more than a 30-foot distance (a total of 126 feet), the Commissioners needed to designate it by resolution. Commissioner Bibb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-04 and Commissioner Breimhurst seconded it.

President Harrod then took public comment. Mr. Spiegel of Mulberry Street urged the Commissioners to study the issuance of parking permits to residents for busy weekends and said the parking signs were unattractive. Chris Thomas of the Planning Commission said the commission was working to add a net gain of parking spaces in the Town.

The Commissioners then voted to adopt Resolution 2021-04 on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

#### X. Comments from the Public

- Mrs. Weisman read written comments from two other residents on the budget and the reduced tax rate. President Harrod encouraged any other general comments from the public.

Doug Rollow of Water Street urged the Commissioners to calendar the issue of the "in lieu of parking fund."

#### XI. Comments from the Commissioners

- Mrs. Weisman read other written comments from two other residents on the budget and the tax rate. Commissioner Breimhurst said he agreed with Mr. Rollow that the parking in lieu of payments should be put on hold until the Governor's next move on opening the State was known. Mrs. Weisman said the Town attorney had prepared a resolution with a 90-day timeframe for the Commissioners' next agenda so that the issue could be publicly discussed. Mrs. Weisman asked if the Commissioners wanted to first send the draft resolution to the Planning Commission for comment. The Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Bibb made a motion to send the draft to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Breimhurst seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Commissioner Bibb opened a discussion of the Town's mandatory mask order. The Commissioners agreed to leave the emergency order in place another two weeks until their meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> and took public comment.

- XII.

#### Commissioners Calendar

- Business Improvement Fund Ordinance - DB

- Parking Request - DB

- Lighting at Boy Scout Cabin – Gilmore

Discussion of the Boy Scout Cabin was postponed to the next meeting as Mr. Gilmore was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

- Mrs. Weisman said she would put the parking resolution on the Commissioners' agenda for review at their May 26, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Weisman also noted that the Parking Committee wanted the Commissioners to discuss their parking recommendations as they had received guidance on next steps from them. Commissioner Bibb agreed the matter should be calendared and that the Planning Commission should bring a list of must haves. Mrs. Weisman said she would set up a zoom meeting with the residents of Water Street and calendar it for the Commissioners' first meeting in June 2021.

Mrs. Weisman then went on to calendar other agenda items.

#### XIII. Announcement of Future Meetings

- May 26 2021 - 6:00- COSM remote Legislative Session
- June 9 2021 - 6:00 - COSM remote Working Session

#### XIV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.