

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Legislative Remote Session

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Virtual Remote Meeting with Public and Commissioners in person at Town Office

- I.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Michael Bibb called to order the meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. in St. Michaels, Maryland, the first in-person meeting of the Commissioners since the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Also present were Commissioners David Breimhurst, Jaime Windon, Joyce Harrod and Tad duPont, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Communications Manager Kimberley Weller, and members of the public.

- II. Agenda Amendments

- Mrs. Weisman said she had an agenda amendment - a request from the Farmers' Market in the Consent Agenda to move their market day to Sunday from Saturday during the Running Festival. The Commissioners agreed to discuss the request as a Consent Agenda item.

- III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Commissioner duPont said he had received a request from Susan Thomas, who suggested that due to the number of children attending the two-hour concerts in Muskrat Park on Thursday evenings, that Town streets should be closed from Church Street to Locust Street to protect them. Chief Smith said he would contact Ms. Thomas to discuss the matter.

Commissioner duPont suggested that the contract bid proposal for trash should include Tuesdays only. Commissioner duPont also suggested that all businesses in Town should have a business license issued by the Town.

Commissioner Harrod invited Commissioners to attend the welcome ceremony for a new Habitat for Humanity homeowner on July 1st. Chief Smith said he would be attending.

Commissioner Breimhurst asked where the Honeymoon Bridge re-decking project stood. Mrs. Weisman said the lumber for the project had been ordered months ago and had only just been delivered.

IV. Comments from the Public

- Jeff Knapp of the Planning Commission noted that he was having difficulty hearing the Commissioners and suggested that they move closer to the microphones when speaking.
- FY21 Budget Review
- Commissioner duPont
- Commissioner duPont opened the budget discussion, noting that the FY 21 budget was positive going into the last days of the fiscal year and that the positive could be greater if the accommodations and amusement taxes, which have not come in yet, were factored in. He added that it looked to him like the Town finances would be in the black for the year. Commissioner duPont also noted that all departments had saved money and were under budget, except police overtime expenses, which were considerably over budget and should be analyzed.

V. Resolution for Discussion and Possible Vote Resolution 2021-06

- A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF 'NO PARKING ON PAVEMENT' SIGNS ON THE WEST SIDE OF WATER STREET RESTRICTING PARKING FROM MULBERRY STREET TO E. CHESTNUT STREET, AND TO ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION OF 'NO PARKING' SIGNS ON THE EAST SIDE OF CHURCH STREET FROM MULBERRY STREET TO THE PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, A DISTANCE OF 108 FEET
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- Town Manager Jean Weisman read the title of Resolution No. 2021-06 into the record as noted above. President Bibb invited discussion. The Commissioners discussed at length the continuing parking issues on Water Street. Commissioner duPont suggested that the ordinance be designated a temporary/emergency ordinance so it can be implemented immediately and could later be repealed or altered for workability within the larger context of parking issues in the Town. Commissioner Breimhurst suggested that signage should say "no parking this side, except for gravel." Commissioner Windon then read public comments, including comments from Chris Thomas of the Planning Commission who supported Commissioner Breimhurst's signage suggestion.

Based on the Commissioners' consensus, Mrs. Weisman then read the new title of Resolution No. 2021-06: "A resolution to allow the addition of temporary "no parking this side, except on gravel" signs on the West side of Water Street restricting parking from Mulberry Street to East Chestnut Street and to allow the installation of no parking signs on the East side of Church Street from Mulberry Street to the private driveway, a distance of 108 feet. This resolution will expire October 31, 2021."

Commissioner Breimhurst then made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-06 as amended and just read. Commissioners duPont and Harrod seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

- Resolution 2021-07

- No Parking on South side of Mulberry Street

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- VI. Consent Agenda for Department Reports, Minutes, and Event Permits

- Department Reports

- Police Dept.

- Disbursements

- Year to Date

- Profit and Loss

- Planning and Zoning

- Public Works

- Administrative

- Marketing and Communication

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- Minutes

- May 12 2021 - COSM Work Session

- May 17 2021 - Sp Session

- May 26 2021 - COSM Legislative

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- Events

- -- Revised Application from CBMM for viewing the Independence Day Fireworks display on July

- 3, 2021; museum to be open to public without entrance fee from approximately 5:00 to 10 pm;

- -- Permit Application for Public Event from St. Michaels Art League for an Art Show and Sale on

- Sept 4th and 5th, held on the grounds of St. Luke's, from 10 am to 5 pm.; approx. 200 attendees.

- President Bibb said approval of the Consent Agenda would include approval of minutes and

- departmental reports for the month of May 2021. and approval of the Museum's opening of the

- Museum grounds for viewing of the Fireworks, and the Farmers' Market request to move their

- market day from Saturday to Sunday on the weekend of the Running Festival. There were no

- changes to the agenda. Commissioner Windon 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.

- VII. Items for Discussion

- Sponsorship for ESAM dinner at MML Convention
- President Bibb said the sponsorship of this year's Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities dinner, which is part of the annual Maryland Municipalities Conference, would cost \$1,000.00. He noted that other member municipalities are also providing sponsorship of the dinner as well as other aspects of the conference. The Commissioners agreed to fund the dinner from the Commissioners' budget.

Lifting of Emergency Declaration for COVID-19

- President Bibb noted that the Governor was lifting his State of Emergency as of July 1st and the Town should follow suit. The Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Windon advocated a more generous "change back" period than 30 days for businesses with emergency tenting or parking lot usage, especially if the tenting or extended space in a parking lot was not causing undue hardship on the Town.

After some extensive discussion, the Commissioners decided businesses with tents should apply for permits, and those using parking lot space for social distancing during the pandemic would need to abide by the 30-day "change back" period. Mrs. Weisman said the Town would be in touch with every business who applied for relief.

• Drinking in Public

- Commissioner duPont opened the discussion on the sale of open containers. President Bibb said this allowance would need to go away by the July 1st in accordance with the rescinding of the State Emergency Order.

Chief Smith had comments on overtime costs. He noted that his department does everything possible to minimize overtime use in police shift schedules. Chief Smith then invited Commissioners' questions. Chief Smith also had a positive report on the resident vaccination project. Chief Smith said the police have stepped up street patrols especially in early morning and at night in addition to regular patrols and the department is working diligently to keep the town safe. A resident on Green Street thanked the Chief and the department for their quick and professional response to a break-in they had at their home.

Mrs. Weisman asked the Commissioners if they had a chance to review the rules pamphlet that includes the Town's open container regulations and if staff should go ahead and have it produced.

The Commissioners agreed that staff should pursue it.

Repair and Replacement Fund

- Commissioner duPont opened the discussion and outlined his thoughts on how various funds should be organized and suggested that an employer liability reserve fund should be created to cover obligations to employees, such as comp time, vacation time, holiday time, etc.

VIII. Commissioners Calendar

- Mrs. Weisman said she had Resolution No. 2021-07, which would eliminate parking on the South side of Mulberry Street, and would place it on the July 14, 2021 agenda. Mrs. Weisman and the Commissioners reviewed other agenda items for their meetings in July 2021.

IX. Comments from the Public

- There were no public comments.

X. Comments from the Commissioners

- Commissioner Breimhurst said he thought business licenses should be issued by the Town. Mrs. Weisman said she would obtain advice from the Town's attorney on how to proceed.

Mrs. Weisman confirmed with the Commissioners that they had scheduled a Closed Session for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24th. Mrs. Weisman added that since she had been told she would not need to be present at the meeting, how did the Commissioners want the meeting to get started. President Bibb said he would talk to Mrs. Weisman about that after this meeting.

XI. Announcement of Future Meetings

- July 5 2021 - Office closed for 4th of July
July 14 2021 - COSM Work Session
July 28 2021 - COSM Legislative Session

XII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.