

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

**COSM Working Session - Virtual and In-Person
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building
300 Mill Street; PO Box 206
St. Michaels, MD 21663**

- I.

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

- President Michael Bibb convened the in-person and virtual working session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland. Also present were Commissioners Jaime Windon, David Breimhurst, Tad duPont and Joyce Harrod, Legislative Clerk Suzanne Warnick and meeting Coordinator Kimberley Weller. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Agenda Amendments

- Mrs. Warnick said there were no agenda amendments.

III. Announcement of Prior Closed Session

- The Commissioners met in closed session on July 7th and July 9th, 2021, pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b) 1: to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- President Bibb announced the Commissioners' prior Closed Sessions as noted above.

IV. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- Commissioner duPont thanked Chief Smith and his officers for their assistance with the Classic Car parade last weekend. In addition, Commissioner duPont said he had met with the State Highway Administration (SHA) concerning the upcoming sidewalk project in St. Michaels. He noted that SHA had informed him that the project would begin this Fall and extend into the Spring of 2023.

Commissioner duPont also said the change of direction for the Town is routed in the permanent changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, and a goal

would be to strike a balance between the needs of businesses and those of residents.

Chief Smith thanked Commissioner duPont for his comments and said July 4th was a challenge with over 7,000 people in Town, but his staff was able to keep things running smoothly. The Commissioners then took public comment.

Kristin Greenaway, President of the Maritime Museum, asked when the Commissioners might be able to share a more definitive direction for the Town. Ms. Greenaway said the Museum is currently in the middle of its re-envisioned master plan and strategic plan, which involve a great deal of capital investment. Ms. Greenaway said the Museum needs to know how the Town's new direction will impact those plans.

Aida Khalil of Cherry Street said she looked forward with excitement to see what the new Town direction would offer.

Terry Knopp of Mulberry Street said the details of the Town's new direction should be shared with the businesses and residents as soon as possible to avoid inaccurate information being passed around.

Other residents and business owners spoke in favor of more detailed plans on the proposed directional change for the Town.

Chief Smith said the Police Department held a seminar on how to avoid fraud led by Officer Jonelle and the Department is moving forward with other initiatives in support of the community.

V. Comments from the Public

VI. Special Presentations and Discussion

- FY21 Budget Review
- Commissioner duPont provided an update on the budget and said he believed that the Town would finish the year in the black.
- Marketing and Advertising Review
- There was no report.

VII. Consent Agenda for Minutes and Department Reports

- Minutes for June 2021

June 1 2021 - COSM and PC

June 1 2021 - Closed Executive Session

June 2 2021 - COSM Working
June 2 2021 - Closed Executive Session
June 4 2021 - Special Session
June 23 2021 - COSM Legislative
June 24 2021 - Closed Executive Session

- Departmental Reports for June 2021

Police

Disbursements

Year to Date

Profit and Loss

Planning and Zoning

Public Works

Administrative

Marketing and Communication

- President Bibb announced that the Consent Agenda included minutes and departmental reports for the month of June 2021 and, as there were no questions or changes, he called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Harrod made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Breimhurst. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VIII. Events for Discussion

- Application for Event Permit from The Galley Restaurant, for private event to be held on private property of The Galley on September 3, 2021 from 7-10pm
- President Bibb opened a discussion of a permit application from The Galley Restaurant on Talbot Street for a private event on The Galley's private property on September 3, 2021 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Jen Smith of The Galley Restaurant provided the details of the event. She explained that the event - a wedding cocktail function - was organized and agreed to under the Town's pandemic rules and she was asking for an extension to hold the event beyond the August 1st expiration of the Town's temporary regulations. Commissioner Harrod said she favored granting the permit given the time of day and the 2-hour limit, and the fact that the event would have no music outside. Ms. Smith responded to Commissioners' questions explaining that the tent would come down before the Labor Day weekend was over and that it would be a one-time event. Commissioner Windon said she favored granting the request to honor the event contracts and to acknowledge the event was an exception to the norm and unique to the aftermath of the pandemic.

After some discussion of concerns about setting precedent, President Bibb said that the special circumstances of this private event and the reasons for granting it would be written into the permit application. Commissioner Harrod made the motion to approve the permit application with the amendment noted by President Bibb. Commissioner Windon seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

IX. Resolution for Discussion, Introduction and possible Vote

- Resolution 2021-07

- **A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF NO PARKING SIGNS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MULBERRY STREET RESTRICTING PARKING FROM THE EAST SIDE OF WATER STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 186 FEET**

- President Bibb read the title of Resolution No. 2021-07 into the record as referenced above.

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- Commissioner Breimhurst pointed out that the signage was actually going to be on the South side and that the resolution's title should be corrected and the resolution re-presented to the public. The Commissioners agreed to make the correction and re-present the resolution to the public at the July 28th meeting.

X. Items for Discussion

- K-9 Max

- Chief Anthony Smith opened the discussion of K-9 Max. Chief Smith had comments in support of keeping Max, noting that he is an effective and cost-efficient tool in fighting crime in the community. Additionally, the Chief cited recent legislation passed into law obligating municipalities with K-9's to continue to pay veterinary bills up to \$10,000 after retirement. Chief Smith concluded that K-9 Max was an important asset for the police department and should not be retired. Officer Jason Adams recounted four recent drug-related incidents in which K-9 Max assisted officers.

After some additional discussion, Chief Smith summarized that Max does provide an important community service, and since the Town will have to pay his vet bills even in retirement, he recommended that Max continue to work the next three years until his mandatory retirement date.

President Bibb made a motion to have K-9 Max re-instated and put back on active duty. Commissioner Windon seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

XI. Comments from the Public

- There were two written comments read by Ms. Weller.

XII. Comments from the Commissioners

- President Bibb reminded everyone that the Town was hosting a shredding truck available at the Mill Street parking lot from 9-11 a.m. on July 20, 2021. He said the cost would be \$10.00 per box.

The Commissioners discussed allowing the public back into the Town meeting room for Town meetings and decided that their next meeting on July 28 would be an in-person meeting. Commissioner Windon explained that the room can probably accommodate about 15 people due to the additional audio-visual equipment being used to televise the meetings. Commissioner Windon added that the meetings would continue to be virtual as well.

President Bibb announced that the Town had hired an Interim Town Manager. He said that Jeffrey Rhodes would be starting the week of July 26th.

XIII. Commissioners Calendar

- Fremont Street parking lot - Planning Commis.
- Text Amendment to Off Street Parking - Planning Commis.
- GMB Contract - Proposal for Civil engineering Services for Climate Change / Sea Level Rise Commis.
- Talbot Co Hazard Mitigation Action - Myers
- Private Slip signs - Waterways
- Health Dept complaint investigation at San Domingo Creek
- Tax Abatement Properties

- The Commissioners discussed agenda items for their July 28, 2021 meeting, including presentations by the Planning Commission and the Waterways Advisory Board, and the issue of a parking lot on Fremont Street. The Commissioners agreed to discuss a public bathroom at Back Creek Park at one of their meetings in August, either the 11th or the 25th.

The Commissioners took additional public comments.

XIV. Announcement of Future Meetings

- July 28 2021 - Regular COSM Legis Session

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XV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.