

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

**COSM Legislative Session - Virtual and In-Person
Wednesday, September 22, 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.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Bibb called to order a live and remote legislative 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, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present were Commissioners David Breimhurst, Joyce Harrod, and Tad duPont, Zoning Officer Kymberly Kudla, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Meeting Coordinator Kimberly Weller, and members of the public.

II. Agenda Amendments

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Dr. Maria Maguire, Health Officer, will give an up-date on the COVID virus in Talbot County
- Dr. Maguire gave an update on the Covid-19 virus in Talbot County. Dr. Maguire thanked Police Chief Anthony Smith for his able assistance with promoting vaccinations. Dr. Maguire said Talbot County had consistently seen lower infection rates than the neighboring counties due to a higher vaccination rate. She noted that infections are up for teens under 18, who are less than 50% vaccinated. Dr. Maguire added that booster shots are under discussion by the CDC, and also low dose vaccinations for children 12 and under. Dr. Maguire concluded by urging everyone to get vaccinated. She then took questions from the Commissioners.

III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

- PHASE II and COVID procedures
- Commissioner Breimhurst said that he and Commissioners Bibb and Harrod participated in the commemoration of the September 11, 2001 attacks held in Tilghman Island. Town Manager Jeff Rhodes said the Town offices are in Phase 2 of Covid restrictions, requiring visitors to be masked when entering town buildings and for staff to be masked when not at their desks. Commissioner Bibb outlined the rules for making public comment in person at tonight's meeting and Kim Weller instructed the public on how to make comments remotely.

IV. Comments from the Public

- President Bibb then invited public comments from public present at the meeting. Jennifer Stevens of 103 W. Marengo Street had comments concerning the proposed new trash policy, the Commissioners' "new direction" for the Town, and Town licensing of

businesses. Douglas Seward of W. Marengo asked Commissioner duPont to explain the reason for the licensing of Town businesses. Terry Knopp of Foxy's Grill, Mulberry Street, asked how the Commissioners measure success in light of their cutting of the marketing budget. Eric Bridges suggested utilizing a database or spreadsheet with contact information on the businesses. President Bibb then called for comments from public zoom participants. Casey Bridges said she was owner of the Preppy Redneck and the building housing that business, as well as other properties in St. Michaels. Mrs. Bridges urged the Commissioners to contact businesses to explain their policies. John Novak of W. Chestnut Street praised the Commissioners for hearing the issues and supported their work thus far. Joel Danick of Perry Cabin Drive provided a perspective of St. Michaels over 17 years as a resident. Mr. Danick said his concern was taxes that may have to go up to support outsourcing of services. He urged the Commissioners to be very clear on their intentions so that people can make the personal decisions they have to make. Mike Estrella of E. Chew Avenue asked specifically about the compensation for the Town Manager. There were no additional public comments.

V. Consent Agenda for Event Permits
Reclaimed Annual Tent Sale

- -- Application for Annual Fall Market Event from Reclaimed on October 6th - 12th, for a private store event in private parking lot behind store at 114 S. Talbot Street; hours from 9 am - 6 pm daily; paid \$100.00 for event fee (not a non-profit event) -- SEE PERMIT FOR MORE INFORMATION
- President Bibb said the Consent Agenda had one event for discussion - a reclaimed furniture tent sale event conducted by an in Town business on private property . Mrs. Warnick said the business has had this sale every year for the past eight years and has paid the Town fee required of a private business to hold this event. The Commissioners had a brief discussion, after which President Bibb called for a motion to approve the event permit. Commissioner Breimhurst made the motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Khalil seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VI. Items for Discussion

Business Association request for Fall Decorating in Town

- The Commissioners heard Debra Olms, Chairman of the Fall Into St. Michaels decorating committee. Ms. Olms requested permission to move forward with the group's plans to decorate the Town for the season. The Commissioners were in agreement that the plans should go ahead.
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- Patrolling at Festivals
- Chief will discuss using outside security at events
- Chief Smith outlined the Town's needs for security at special events. Chief Smith said that private security at events was good, but once the visitors leave the event venue, they are the security responsibility of the Town's police force. Chief Smith asked for additional manpower to support St. Michaels during major events. Chief Smith said

the department was currently short-handed due to an officer departure and that he was interviewing a possible replacement candidate hopefully by late October. Chief Smith noted that visitors to the town had increased dramatically throughout 2019 and the pandemic, especially daytrippers, and he expected this trend to continue.

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Business Licensing

- Commissioner Breimhurst explained the business licensing project in more detail and asked the Town manager and the Town's attorney to draw up a resolution outlining the licensing process.

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Brooks Lane Road Dedication

- President Bibb tabled the discussion of the Brooks Lane road dedication. Jeff Rhodes said as-built plans had not been received in time for this meeting.

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Water Department Lease

- Jeff Rhodes said the attorneys were working on the final draft of the water lease agreement and it would be ready for the next legislative session. Commissioner duPont explained the details of the water department lease agreement for the public. Commissioner duPont said the lease arrangement would allow the Town to pay down its debt after which it could accumulate profit that would go towards a new well.

VII. Commissioners Calendar

- The Commissioners answered some questions about the new trash pickup system and discussed agenda items for their upcoming meetings.

VIII. Comments from the Commissioners

IX. Announcement of Future Meetings

- Oct 11 2021 - Office closed for Columbus Day
Oct 13 2021 - 6:00 - COSM Reg Working Session
Oct 27 2021 - 6:00 - COSM Reg Legislative Session
- President Bibb made the announcement of future meetings.

X. Adjournment

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