

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

**COSM Working Session - Virtual and In-Person
Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building
300 Mill Street; PO Box 206
St. Michaels, MD 21601**

I.

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

President Bibb called to order a live and remote meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels 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, Interim Town Manager Jeff Rhodes, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Meeting Coordinator Kimberly Weller, and members of the public.

II. Agenda Amendments

There were no amendments.

III. Announcements from COSM and Staff

Commissioner Aida Khalil encouraged everyone to stop by the Community Center and meet the new coordinator and learn about the services the center provides. Commissioner Khalil also welcomed the new Restaurant Association and said she looked forward to working with them. President Bibb provided a Covid-19 update, noting that Town buildings remain at Phase I, requiring public visitors and unvaccinated employees to wear a mask when entering buildings. President Bibb added the Covid regulations are subject to change as conditions warrant. President Bibb said Town staff would be meeting again with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to discuss the timeline and progress of the SHA's ADA/crosswalk/sidewalk and curb reconstruction on Talbot Street. President Bibb said he and Commissioners Breimhurst and Harrod would participate in ceremonies commemorating the September 11, 2001 attacks to be held on Tilghman Island on September 11 at 8:30 a.m. President Bibb said deck replacement on Honeymoon Bridge began today and good progress had been made. He noted that the bridge is closed for safety reasons but will reopen on Thursday when work is concluded.

IV. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments.

V. Public Hearing Ordinance No. 527

- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS; CHAPTER 340 ZONING, TO AMEND ARTICLE XIV OFF-STREET PARKING, LOADING, AND UNLOADING, FOR PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE CODE IN REGARD TO REMOVAL OF EXISTING PARKING AND USE OF FEE-IN-LIEU FUND

Ordinance No. 527 was discussed on July 28, August 11 and 25; Introduced by Commissioners Breimhurst and duPont on July 28, 2021; Public Hearing held today on September 7, 2021 and is then eligible for Vote.

President Bibb opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 527 - the "Fee-in-Lieu" amendment. Mrs. Warnick read the title of the ordinance into the record as noted above, along with Exhibits 1- 4, which are incorporated and made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Breimhurst brought up the change suggested by Doug Rollow of Water Street. Jeff Knapp, Chairman of the Planning Commission, said the Planning Commission agrees with Mr. Rollow's suggestion to delete Paragraph D and the Planning Commission would like to add the wording "and payment is made into the St. Michaels business improvement fund" at the end of Paragraph B. Chairman Knapp said that this change still allows the use of the parking fund in rare instances, such as the Coffee Shop property, but clearly states that businesses cannot eliminate parking to expand. Chairman Knapp said that Peter Johnston, Planning Consultant, had reviewed and agreed with the changes. Commissioner Breimhurst made a motion that the suggested changes be made, and the ordinance approved as written. Commissioner Harrod seconded it. There were no further comments from the Commissioners and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor. Mrs. Warnick affirmed that the ordinance would become effective in 20 days.

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

Minutes

August 25, 2021

Department Reports for August 2021

Police
 Disbursements
 Year to Date
 Profit and Loss
 Planning and Zoning
 Public Works
 Administrative
 Marketing and Communication

Events

- Permit Application for Public Event Signs from Jay Hudson for Jack Russell Races, on October 24, 2021, approx. 24 signs to be placed along Talbot Street on Utility Poles from October 4 to October 26, 2021;

- Permit Application for Public Event and Town Use for Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, to be held on October 1-2, 2021 on grounds of Maritime Museum from 10 am - 5 pm, approx. 350 (daily) attendees;

- Permit Application for Public Event and Town Use for Annual OysterFest Celebration from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, to be held on October 30, 2021 on grounds of Maritime Museum from 10 am - 4 pm, approx 3500 attendees;

- Permit Application for Public Event and Town Use for Eastern Shore Sea Glass Festival from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, to be held on November 20 and 21, 2021 on grounds of Maritime Museum from 10 am - 5 pm (4 pm on Sunday), approx. 3500 (daily).

President Bibb said the Consent Agenda included approval of minutes for August 25, 2021, departmental reports for the month of August 2021, and event permits for the Jack Russell races and three 2021 events at the Maritime Museum, including their Small Craft Festival, Oysterfest and the Seaglass Festival. Commissioner Breimhurst made a correction to the minutes and Commissioner duPont had comments on the budget. President Bibb then called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with the amendment to the minutes of August 25th. Commissioner Harrod made the motion. Commissioner Khalil seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

VII. Items for Discussion

•Outsource Trash Pickup

Commissioner duPont opened the discussion of outsourcing the trash pickup. Commissioner duPont said the implementation of the trash outsourcing would begin on January 1, 2022 and would initially be paid for out of tax dollars. Commissioner duPont said then, beginning on July 1, 2022, the trash service would cost residents and small businesses \$65 dollars per quarter and commercial entities would pay \$130.00 per quarter. Commissioner duPont said the trash expenses would be included on the quarterly water bill. Commissioner duPont added that the trash pickup would continue to be one day per week, but on Friday's along with recycling, and the trash service would include a 90-gallon can supplied by the service company. Commissioner Breimhurst said the contracted service would free up the public works crew for other work.

Commissioner duPont said that public works would continue to pick up weekend trash and brush and bulk on Tuesdays. In response to a public question, Commissioner duPont said residents could choose not to use the trash service but would still have to pay for the provision of the service.

- Water Department Lease

President Bibb postponed discussion of the water lease issue so that the Commissioners could have a chance to review the material, which had arrived late.

- Business Licensing

Commissioner Breimhurst opened the discussion, noting that most towns require licensing of businesses. President Bibb said that a simple form would be created for the Commissioners to review at their next meeting.

Public comments included questions about fees and whether another license in addition to the County's business license was necessary. President Bibb said the Commissioners wanted to know what businesses were operating in Town in order to create a database of basic information. Commissioner Breimhurst said the information would be helpful from a safety perspective and the fee could be nominal.

VIII. Comments from the Public

The public debated the issue of licensing for some time. Other public comments questioned the Commissioners' plans for the Town, after which the Commissioners moved on to their next agenda items.

IX. Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner duPont suggested that the larger festivals be required to provide their own security and that it be a requirement for obtaining a Town permit. Mr. Byrnes of the Maritime Museum said the Museum already hires security for all of its events and it is a normal part of their planning, even for weddings.

X. Commissioners Calendar

The Commissioners discussed agenda items for their upcoming meetings, including the water lease and business licensing, which were placed on the agenda for the September 22nd meeting.

The Commissioners took additional public comments.

XI. Announcement of Future Meetings

Sept. 22 2021 - 6:00 - COSM Regular Legis Session
October 11 2021 - Office closed for Columbus Day

President Bibb announced the schedule of future meetings as noted above.

XII. Adjournment

- President Bibb adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.