

# MINUTES



**Commissioners of  
St Michaels  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
St. Michaels Branch of the Talbot Co. Library  
106 S. Fremont Street  
St. Michaels, MD 21663**

1. 6:00 - Call to Order for Legislative and Closed Session - Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Harrod, Vice President, called to order a live and remote Legislative and Closed Session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 6:00 pm in St. Michaels, Maryland and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Tad duPont, Katrina Whittington, Al Mercier and Commissioner David Breimhurst attended via Zoom. Other representatives include Town Administrator Rob Straebel, Town Planner Steve Ball, Special Projects/Code Compliance Officer Eric Knapp, Town Clerk Suzanna Warnick and incoming Town Clerk Vickie Sharp. Approximately 16 members of the public were present as well as remote attendees on Zoom.

2. Agenda Amendments

None

3. Announcement of Closed Session

The Commissioners voted to meet in closed session after adjournment of Open Session pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section 3-305 to discuss the following: (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; and (3) To consider the acquisition or disposition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

4. Announcements from COSM and Staff

Commissioner Katrina Whittington would like to remind everyone to pull over for Emergency vehicles when they are trying to get to the fire house.

Administrator Rob Straebel announced that there will be a Technical Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow at 10:00 am at the Boy Scout Building. This is in regard to the proposed Hotel. You can attend via Zoom or in person. There were concerns regarding public notification, those had been complied with, was listed on the Town of St. Michaels website, Constant Contact notices were sent out as well as posted at the post office and the Town Office. The Town Office will be sending out post cards that are requesting updated contact information and email. This was a small cost to the town and a great idea. These are going in the mail today so look out for them.

Steve Ball and Rob attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, talked about the playground equipment, our playgrounds really need updated equipment. Main look at Hollis Park as the ship is in need of repair. May be a possible grant in the future through the DNR Playgrounds and Community Parks and could possibility get up to \$200,000 for playground

equipment. First step is to contact playground equipment suppliers and salesman to show us what type of equipment is out there and to make sure it is ADA compliant.

Working with Talbot County Economic and Tourism regarding a business database. St. Michaels does not have a database so they will be sharing their database of St. Michaels and we will build on that.

Maryland Municipal League annual conference in Ocean City, MD, June 25-27. Contact Suzanna by February 3rd as hotels fill up quickly.

The joint meeting between the Talbot County Council and the municipalities is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 beginning at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the St. Michaels Library.

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. Special Presentations

Proclamation proclaiming March as Endometriosis Awareness Month was presented to Shannon Hannawald. March 10th is annual Yellow Day in an effort to bring awareness to Endometriosis.

7. Consent Agenda for Minutes and Events

The meeting minutes for January 11, 2023 were approved. The events permit for the St. Michaels Running Festival was approved pending payment and other items requested by Eric Knapp, Special Projects Manager/Code Compliance Officer. Commissioner Harrod motioned to accept the Consent Agenda and Events. Commissioner duPont seconded it and was passed on a roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

8. Old Business

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS DECLARING A MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS ON THE ISSUANCE OF ANY ZONING PERMIT, DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL, OR OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURE OR SALE OF MARIJUANA FOR RECREATIONAL USE, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO REVIEW REGULATIONS TO BE PROMULGATED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND WITH RESPECT TO THE LOCATION AND OPERATION OF SUCH BUSINESS TO ENSURE THAT THE TOWN'S IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCESSES NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A THOUGHTFUL AND LAWFUL MANNER. Commissioner duPont motioned to accept Cannabis Resolution 2023-03. Commissioner Mercier seconded it and was passed on a roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

Langley Shook from the St. Michaels Community Center presented a request for \$50,000 for the Center's capital campaign. Commissioner Breimhurst motioned to accept the pledge for \$50,000 to the Community Center for FY24. Commissioner Whittington seconded it and was passed on a roll call vote 5-0 in favor. A letter was issued to confirm the pledge.

9. New Business

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS DECLARING A MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS ON THE ISSUANCE OF ANY ZONING PERMIT, DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL, OR OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR FORMULA BUSINESSES TO ALLOW THE COMMISSIONERS TO GIVE THOROUGH AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO LEGISLATION THAT WOULD IMPLEMENT CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH BUSINESSES MAY LOCATE IN

THE TOWN. Commissioner duPont motioned to accept the Emergency Franchise Moratorium - Resolution 2023-04, with changes. Commissioner Whittington seconded the motion and was passed on roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

David Parkerson, homeowner at 219 Chew Avenue will be having his pilings and bulkhead replaced. Members of Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission have been in discussions about expanding the project to include the Town-owned slip on the alleyway (between East Chew and East Chestnut) adjacent to Mr. Parkerson's land. The cost would be \$9,260 for the replacement of piling and sheeting and \$1,000 estimate for the design costs. Commissioner Mercier motioned to approve the Bulkhead Work and Stormwater Improvements at the Town Slip. Commissioner duPont seconded and was passed on roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

10. Comments from the Public

None

11. Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Whittington received an email regarding a short-term rental on Brooks Lane, that has been illegally parking. Eric Knapp asked Commissioner Whittington to forward him the email and he would be looking into the matter.

12. Commissioners Calendar

Administrator Straebel stated that the following will be discussed at the meeting scheduled for February 8, 2023:

EOP - Emergency Operations Resolution 2023-02

Tree Mitigation

Dog Park Resolution 2023-05

13. Announcement of Future Meetings - to be held at the Library

February 8, 2023 - COSM Working Session

February 22, 2023 - COSM Legislative Session

March 8, 2023 - COSM Working Session

14. Adjournment of Open Session

Open session was Adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Commissioners voted to go into a Closed Session. Commissioner Breimhurst motioned to move from Open Session to Closed Session. Commissioner duPont seconded and passed on a roll call vote 5-0 in favor.

15. Adjournment

Both Open and Closed session was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Public Participation: All comments from the public will be taken during the period set aside for "Comments from the Public." The "Comments from the Public" portion of the Commission agenda shall have a limited time period as determined by the Commissioners, and shall be at the beginning and at the end of each agenda. To be recognized, a member of the public should raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the President. Comments and questions should be kept brief and to the point, and be directed to the President.