

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

July 14, 2015

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Stephen F. Sonnett, President of the Board of Town Commissioners
James Storey, Commissioner / Treasurer
Larissa A. Ferrer, Commissioner

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk

Also present: Various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Sonnett asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from June 9, 2015 and the Work Session minutes from June 24, 2015 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. A few punctuation edits were noted. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve both sets of minutes; Commissioner Storey seconded. All minutes from June's Town Meeting and Work Session were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Storey reviewed highlights of the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2015. He noted that the report shows totals representing the end of fiscal year 2015, with total operational revenues coming in at 144.6 per cent, and General Government expenses totaling 88.8 per cent of the adopted FY2015 budget. He noted that taxes represented 82.6 percent of the Town's total revenues received. President Sonnett added that line item 6230 (Income Taxes) was especially high this year due to a final payment just received that exceeded \$274K. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report; President Sonnett seconded. The Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2015 was unanimously approved.

Reports

Staff/Committees: Mr. Williams reported that the Town had successfully fulfilled all the requirements necessary to earn the "Banner Town" designation from the Maryland Municipal League for a third year in a row. He then affixed the 2015 placard to the Banner Town Plaque on the wall of the Conference Room. Historical Committee Chair, Patti Skews, announced that the next TUMHC Archiving Session would be held on Saturday, July 18 at Town Hall. She added that they would also be finalizing plans for the "Memories & Morsels on Main Street" event scheduled for Saturday July 25.

Commissioner Ferrer: Had no report at this time.

Commissioner Storey: Reported on his attendance at the MML Convention in Ocean City, stating that the information provided was insightful and that the networking opportunities there were also very valuable.

President Sonnett: President Sonnett reported that the Town was still working with the WSSC to obtain a permit to establish a water connection to the Public Works Facility, noting that additional prerequisites seem to crop up after each step of the process. He also announced that the Town has received back from the State, its signed Community Legacy grant contract for FY2015. He added that the funding under this grant would be available to the Town for a period of 2 years after signage.

On another note, the President recapped a recent news item from Channel 4 News that claimed that the County Administration was planning to move the County Seat of Government to Largo. He said he contacted the County Executive's Office and the Council Chairman who said that was not, in fact, what was said to the reporter. He noted the story was taken offline shortly thereafter. The President then explained that the first article of the County Charter states that a referendum is required in order to move the existing County Seat of Government.

Business

Resolution 2015-01: Community Legacy Project Financing: The President said that the Town will be applying for a second year of grant funding for its Community Legacy/Façade Improvement Program. The application that is due tomorrow, requires a Town Resolution to authorize the project's funding through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) or other State agency(s). After the President reviewed the resolution aloud, Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the resolution as presented; Commissioner Storey seconded the motion. With no one opposed, Resolution 2015-01: Community Legacy Project Financing, was unanimously passed.

Purchase Contracts: The President asked the Board for authorization to procure the following budgeted items: 1.) Police cruiser (2016 Ford 4WD SUV \$33,664.00 everything installed)–Commissioner Storey motioned to approve the purchase; Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved; 2.) Speed control sign (portable/mountable, w/3 brackets) and a Handheld Speed Monitoring Laser (total for both items \$3,971.00)–Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the purchase; Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved; 3.) Pitney-Bowes contract renewal (3-year lease at \$26.46/month)–Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the contract; Commissioner Storey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved; 4.) Elm Street project: (sidewalk repair and pavement milling \$60K)–The Board unanimously agreed to proceed with the project.

Special Event Application: An application for the 10th Annual Cruzin' Main Street was reviewed and discussed. The President added that he urged the sponsors to help assure that downtown businesses were made aware of the new evening timeslot and that their customers would not be unduly hindered from patronizing their establishments. Commissioner Ferrer motioned to approve the application; Commissioner Storey seconded. The special event application was unanimously approved.

Public Hearing on Residential Street Parking: The President opened the floor for discussion concerning restricting parking in certain areas in Town where snow event operations and emergency access situations have, or may, become problematic. Twenty or so citizens in attendance expressed a varying array of views either for or against restrictions suggested, but were basically in agreement that some form of community compliance was needed. SOLUTIONS suggested included: 1.) Restrict parking to only one side of street; 2.) Special permits for overflow vehicles (more than two); 3.) Driveway parking only for wide vehicles (SUVs, etc.); 4.) Widen existing street (or only problem stretches); 5.) Snow event restrictions only; 6.) Make street one-way traffic only; 7.) More frequent Town police patrol to cite cars parked more than 12" from curb. PROBLEMS with one-side-of-street-only parking restrictions included: 1.) Inequitable for residents (i.e., trash pick-up and postal deliveries become difficult for one side); 2.) Some households have 3 or more vehicles–more than one family; 3.) Special permit enforcement not feasible during major holiday visitations, or with rental homes/units.

The President then acknowledged the discussion as an "opener" and then closed the session suggesting that the Fire Department be asked to contribute their views on the subject at another meeting.

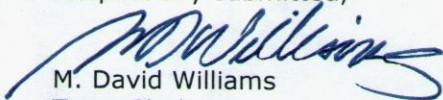
Transportation Network Services Fee: The Board discussed the recently enacted Senate Bill 868, which authorizes municipalities to impose an assessment on services such as Uber, Lyft and Sidecar. With all members of the Board agreeable to establishing the service fee, the President said he would continue to pursue drafting an ordinance.

Town Hall Addition: The President stated that he and the Board have been researching the feasibility of successfully completing the addition and renovation project under \$700K. Though confident it can be done, he noted many unknowns will need to be resolved first before final estimates are possible. For instance, variables, such as, the existing underground pool structure, and/or, exceeding 5,000 square feet of ground disturbance, can greatly increase costs for Stormwater Management requirements.

Adjournment

As no more public concerns were presented at this time, Commissioner Storey made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Ferrer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


M. David Williams
Town Clerk

