

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
TRAPPE TOWN HALL
MARCH 1, 2017

Public Hearing – 6:45 pm: President Fegel opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2-2017 at 6:45 pm. President Fegel read Ordinance 2-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 7.10 of the Trappe Zoning Ordinance to permit the raising or keeping of livestock in the Agricultural (“A”) district for personal use and consumption only, and not for commercial sale, and to amend Section 8.10 to clarify that the agricultural uses permitted in the Industrial (“M”) district relate to raising and processing crops. With no public comment the public hearing was closed at 6:46 pm.

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Fegel called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Rose Potter, Tonya Pritchett, RD Diefenderfer and Don English were present. Other attendees for the Town: Administrator/Clerk Braband, Planner Shull and Attorney Booth. Public attendees: Walter Chase, Chris Polk – Star Democrat.

Amendments to the Agenda: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner English seconded the motion. All approved.

Presentation of Minutes: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the February 1, 2017 minutes as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

Clerk’s Report: Administrator/Clerk Braband presented the Clerk’s report, the general fund budget and the enterprise budget that are filed in the records. Administrator/Clerk Braband updated the Council on the progress of the Town’s various projects as follows:

1. Water Line replacement down portion of Main Street – MDE has been in contact with GMB with questions regarding the application and project. GMB has answered all their questions to this point.
2. Rt. 565 sidewalk – SHA held a PI meeting on February 8th and it appears that the Town will only have to raise 2 fire hydrants for this project.
3. USDA Loan refinance – The refinance application has been submitted and was certified by DHCD on February 21st so we are awaiting the next step.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Report: No report, Chief Ball is on vacation.

Public Works: President Fegel read Superintendent Callahan’s report that is filed in the records.

Planning & Zoning: Planner Shull stated that the Planning Commission met on February 21st. The EDC is holding a listening session in Trappe tomorrow at 8 am at the fire department. Board of Appeals will hold a meeting on March 2nd in regards to Talbot Smokehouse. The Trappe Community Outreach group is holding a dinner meeting on March 20th where Sheriff Gamble will do a presentation on drug addiction. Commissioner Pritchett stated that the community outreach group is working hard and their events are being partially funded by the Talbot County Smoking Cessation Program.

Parks and Recreation: As Commissioner of Parks, Commissioner Potter reported that the Nace's Park project is going along very well and that she is in the process of finding an electric source. Once electric is installed the landscaping will begin.

Commissioner Potter stated that at the December meeting she spoke about the possibility of adding crosswalks to certain sections of Town. On February 8th Commissioner Potter met with Greg Holsey from SHA and learned that because Maple Avenue and Main Street are owned by State Highway, State Highway will assume the financial responsibility of bringing the sidewalks up to the current ADA code. The other two locations – Main Street and Greenfield Avenue and the area down by Scott's Church are owned by the Town of Trappe. At this meeting Mr. Holsey also suggested material alternatives along with the brick suggestion for the crosswalks and he will prepare proposals for the Town to view.

Commissioner Potter stated that there were some missing bolts on the playground equipment at Lakeview Park but they have now been replaced.

Economic Development: Nothing new to report.

Communications: President Fegel read a Proclamation declaring the month of March 2017 Smoking and Nicotine Cessation Month in the Town of Trappe.

President Fegel also read a thank you card from Sheriff Gamble for Trappe's continued support for the Talbot County Drug Task Force.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Booth stated that on February 15th she went to Annapolis on Trappe's behalf to testify in support of two bills. The first is Bill SB397 which if passed would forgive the comptroller's overpayment issue. If this bill passes then Town's overpayment of \$283,941 would be forgiven. This bill has a lot of support and looks favorable to pass. The second is Bill HB384 which expands the use of the bay restoration funds to cover most of the expense of a BNR component upgrade to a wastewater plant. This bill also looks favorable to pass. At this time there is 50 million dollars in the BRF fund and the fund is still being paid into. There are grants in the amount of \$30,000 available annually to help with the operation cost increases associated with an ENR plant.

Executive Session: An executive session was held on February 1, 2017 for a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 2-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 7.10 of the Trappe Zoning Ordinance to permit the raising or keeping of livestock in the Agricultural ("A") district for personal use and consumption only, and not for commercial sale, and to amend Section 8.10 to clarify that the agricultural uses permitted in the Industrial ("M") district relate to raising and processing crops was read by President Fegel. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2-2017. Commissioner English seconded the motion. Commissioner Diefenderfer stated that he was opposed to this Ordinance because he feels that the Town is trying to dictate what a business can and cannot sell. Agriculture is the business of growing and selling crops, raising animals, etc and passing this Ordinance is just pushing them out into the County. Commissioner Diefenderfer stated that he feels the Council is trying to pick

and choose what comes to Trappe and Trappe can't afford to do that, we need any business that wants to come here. President Fegel stated that the Town doesn't want to waste their Industrial zoned properties for Agriculture. Planner Shull stated that the original basis for this Ordinance was to keep the only manufacturing district that the Town has for manufacturing and not raising livestock. There are 2 small properties that are zoned agricultural in Town – one of which is a small piece of Mr. Asmussen's property, the rest of his farm is out in the County. This farm provides the green belt around the Town which helps to define what the urban and rural areas of Town are. The second property is behind Pop's Market. The Planning Commission felt that both of these properties are not very large and having grain crops there is a good thing but didn't think having herds of livestock was appropriate. President Fegel stated that the Planning Commission didn't want livestock within the Town limits as it would decrease property values. The Planning Commission worked on this for several months and felt this was in the best interest of the Town. Planner Shull stated that as far as the Town is aware the Town's agricultural properties do not have any livestock, they are currently used to grow crops and can continue to do so.

VOTE:

Potter: Y Fegel: Y Pritchett: Y Diefenderfer – N English – Y

Motion approved with a vote of 4-1.

Ordinance 3-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled "Water and Sewer", table 1 titled "Fees and Charges" to increase the monthly water usage rate to \$3.84 per thousand gallons, and the monthly sewer usage rate to \$8.97 per thousand gallons and to increase the basic monthly water service charge for out-of-town properties to \$30.00 per month and the basic monthly sewer service charge for out-of-town properties to \$100.00 per month was read by President Fegel. Commissioner Potter made a motion to introduce Ordinance 3-2017. Commissioner English seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Potter: Y Fegel: Y Pritchett: Y Diefenderfer – Y English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

A public hearing will be held on April 5, 2017 at 6:45 pm.

Ordinance 4-2017 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe adopting a General Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, and establishing a tax rate of \$.33 per \$100 of assessed real property value and a tax rate of \$.54 per \$100 on all commercial or business personal property and public utilities; and establishing an annual fee of \$150 per residential household for trash collection services, and also adopting an Enterprise Budget for the Town's Water and Sewer operations was read by President Fegel. Commissioner Potter made a motion to introduce Ordinance 4-2017. Commissioner English seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Potter: Y Fegel: Y Pritchett: Y Diefenderfer – Y English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

A public hearing will be held on April 5, 2017 at 6:45 pm.

President Fegel read the announcements.

Chris Polk asked if Ordinance 3-2017 is a second layer of water and sewer rate increase. Attorney Booth stated the prior Ordinance increased the base water and sewer rates and this Ordinance increases the water and sewer usage rates. The proposed increase in the water and sewer usage rate is 7%. Ms. Polk asked if Ordinance 4-2017 has an increase in the Town's tax rate. President Fegel stated that yes there is a proposed increase of .02 per \$100.00. Administrator Braband stated that the Town is proposing to lower the yearly trash rate from \$167.00 to \$150.00 with this Ordinance as well.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner English made a motion at 7:36 pm to conclude the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Pritchett and unanimously approved.

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk

Norm Fegel, Council President