

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 7, 2023

**Public Hearing – 5:55 pm**

**Resolution 3-2023** – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to amend the Charter for the Town of Trappe by repealing the term limit provision set forth in Section 201 was read by President Newnam. Commissioner Chase stated that he asked to have this considered because the last Town Election was cancelled due to the lack of candidates and the existing term limits prohibit a seasoned member from running again. Commissioner Sullivan stated that he hoped this Resolution would resolve that issue but would also like the Town to do something to promote more public interest in the Council. No other public comment was received and the public hearing closed at 5:58 pm.

**Council of Trappe Meeting:** President Newnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members Michael Sullivan, Brian Schmidt and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

**Agenda:** Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the May 3, 2023 Council minutes as presented. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Introduction of two Commissioners elect:** President Newnam stated that Rosalee Potter and Michael Sullivan were elected for a 4-year term ending in 2027.

**Swearing in of two Commissioners:** Kathi Duvall, Clerk for Talbot County Circuit Court swore in Rosalee Potter and Michael Sullivan and they were seated.

**Motion for Appointments for Officers of the Council:**

**President** – Commissioner Chase made a motion to appoint Nicholas Newnam as Council President. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Vice-President** – Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to appoint Brian Schmidt as Vice-President. President Newnam seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Clerk's Report** – Administrator Braband stated that the Clerk's Report, the General Fund, and the Enterprise Fund Budgets are in the Council's binders and filed with the records. Administrator Braband stated that she graduated on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from the University of Baltimore, School of Public Policy as a Certified Public Manager and thanked the Council for the opportunity and their support.

**Public Works** – President Newnam stated that the public works report is in the Council's binders and filed with the records.

**Public Safety** – First Sergeant Dobson reviewed his report that is in the Council's binders and filed with the records.

**Planning & Zoning** – Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission discussed the new cannabis laws that go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup> and recommend Ordinance 4-2023 which is available for introduction tonight. The Planning Commission also briefly discussed a short-term rental program and the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance that the County Council has asked the Towns to consider adopting.

**Communications** – The Town received a letter from Talbot County asking if the Town would like to request that Commissioner Chase be reappointed to the Economic Development Commission or if there was another Council member they wished to recommend. President Newnam made a motion to request that Commissioner Chase be reappointed to the Economic Development Commission. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Schmidt stated that he received a request asking the Town to consider turning the newly acquired park property into a ballfield and he invited the requestor to the next Council meeting.

**Attorney Updates** – Attorney Ryan stated that the Town has sent letters to 2 property owners on Marvel Drive requesting an easement for the Town’s Pumping Station project. Attorney Ryan is also working the Board of Education to secure an easement for the existing pumping station at White Marsh Elementary.

**Executive Session** – President Newnam stated that an executive session was held on May 3, 2023 to obtain legal advice.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

**Resolution 3-2023** – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to amend the Charter for the Town of Trappe by repealing the term limit provision set forth in Section 201 was read by President Newnam. A public hearing was held on this Resolution this evening. Commissioner Chase made a motion to adopt Resolution 3-2023. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y      Newnam – Y      Schmidt – Y      Potter – Y      Chase – Y  
Motion approved.

**Ordinance 3-2023** – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to increase the annual salary paid to the Council of Trappe from \$2,000 annually to \$3,000 annually, to become effective for Council Members elected after the May 2023 Election, and to increase the salary paid to the Planning Commission members from \$1,000 annually to \$1,500 annually to become effective for members appointed on or after May 2024 was read by President Newnam. Commissioner Chase made a motion to introduce Ordinance 3-2023. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y      Newnam – N      Schmidt – N      Potter – Y      Chase – Y  
Motion approved 3-2  
Public hearing set for July 5, 2023 at 5:45 pm.

**Ordinance 4-2023** – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe establishing a temporary moratorium on applications, site plans, permits for, construction or operation, processing of, and approval of businesses engaged in the manufacture or sale of cannabis for recreational or medicinal use within the Town for a period of nine (9) months in order to allow the Town to consider and implement certain restrictions on where and under what circumstances such businesses may locate in Town to promote the public health, safety and welfare was read by President Newnam. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to introduce Ordinance 4-2023. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y      Newnam – Y      Schmidt – Y      Potter – Y      Chase – Y

Motion approved.

Public hearing set for July 5, 2023 at 5:45 pm.

**Lakeside Amenity Area** – Bob Rauch presented the Council with an approved plan for the amenity area of Phase 1A. The amenity area will have a swimming pool and pool house and will require water and sewer and Mr. Rauch is requesting the Council to determine how many EDU's this would require. The Town's Code does not specify a pool house, only public parks and country club is specified which is different from this area therefore this request is being brought to the Town Council to determine the number of EDU's needed. The amenity area will be serviced by the Lakeside treatment plant which is scheduled to be in operation in March of 2024 and the pool is scheduled to be opened Memorial Day weekend of 2024. After discussion, Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to assign 6 EDU's to the amenity area and to monitor the flows for 1 year and readjust if necessary. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y      Newnam – Y      Schmidt – Y      Potter – abstain      Chase – abstain

Motion approved.

**Pam Roberge – Community Concerns** – Ms. Roberge read a statement to the Council stating that she has lived here for over 6 years and has had many issues with neighbors and other criminal activity in Town. Ms. Roberge stated that she felt that the Town needed a police department again and to have a neighborhood watch started. President Newnam explained that the police department was fully funded by the Lakeside developer for more years than it was required to and after Chief Ball left the developer stopped paying. The Town has considered reinstating the police department but is unable to do so without drastically raising taxes. Sgt. Dobson stated that he has been dealing with Ms. Roberge for over a year and has explained to her how to file charges, obtain peace orders, etc and encourages residents to contact the Sheriff's Department if something is happening instead of posting it on Facebook. The Council agreed to look into what was required to start a neighborhood watch and would report back in July with the information.

**Culvert/Ditch issue at 3759 Rumsey Drive** – Commissioner Sullivan stated that he was at the property when Mr. Rooter was there attempting to jet out the culvert but the culvert has large tree roots running through it and they were just snapping as it was being jetted. Mrs. Chester stated that she is concerned about the entire street and all the culverts on that street, not just hers anymore. The issue remains as to whose responsibility it is to replace damaged culverts, especially if the damage is done by the

property owner. Commissioner Chase stated that the Mid Shore Regional Council may be able to do some GIS work for the Town for free to determine the property lines which would help the Council determine responsibility. Commissioner Chase will work to get this completed and report at the next meeting.

**Public Questions/Comments** – None

**Executive Session** – President Newnam stated that an executive session is requested to discuss a personnel matter and to obtain legal advice. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:34 pm. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 8:09 pm to reopen the public meeting and then adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk