

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 5, 2023

Public Hearing – 5:45 pm

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. No public comment.

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. Attorney Ryan read the public comment email from Lakia Harris-Pierce which is filed with the records. Commissioner Sullivan stated that the Town needs to look at other County's and Town's policies and get the Town caught up with other jurisdictions. No other public comment.

The public hearing was closed at 5:57 pm.

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Newnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members Michael Sullivan, Brian Schmidt, Rose Potter 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 Potter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 Council minutes as presented. Commissioner Chase 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.

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 was unable to attend the meeting tonight. The Council reviewed and discussed the information regarding a neighborhood watch as requested by a resident last month. The Council concluded that a neighborhood watch would need to be created by a small group of residents in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, not the Town but the Town could offer the Council meeting room as a meeting place if needed.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission was presented with a request to create a short term rental program and they will continue that discussion at their next meeting. The Planning Commission approved the building permit for a new house on Greenfield Avenue and gave final approval to the Lakeside Amenity Area in Phase 1A and preliminary approval for Phase 1C. The Planning Commission will be discussing a possible annexation of the remainder of Brian Hause’s property at their next meeting.

Communications: None

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that she and Administrator Braband attended a work session with the Talbot County Council to discuss a letter that MDE sent to the County regarding the County’s Water/Sewer Comprehensive Plan and the EDU’s at Lakeside. The County Council requested that the Town provide a map showing the S1 and S2 designations for Lakeside and the number of EDU’s in each phase. This was provided to the County Council on June 30th. Attorney Ryan stated that the Town will be meeting with MDE tomorrow to discuss possible funding options for the Town’s wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that an executive session was held on June 7, 2023 to obtain legal advice and discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

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. A public hearing was held this evening for this Ordinance. Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt Ordinance 3-2023. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved with 3-2 vote

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. A public hearing was held this evening for this Ordinance. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2023. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

Vote:

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

Motion approved

Trappe Park Use Request – A request was received via email from Jason Smith requesting the use of the new Trappe Park as a practice field for baseball and softball. At this time there is no location available for the Junior League, children 13 and older, to practice as they need a full size field and Home Run Baker does not offer that. No funding would be needed from the Town, just provide the location and continue to cut the grass. The Little League would handle all maintenance for the field and the location would not require fencing or dug outs, only a movable back stop which they would provide. The field would utilize the left side of the property. Attorney Ryan stated that the Town would require proof of insurance and indemnification for the Town prior to any use of the field. After discussion, Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the request to use the new Trappe Park as a practice field for the Junior League, after proof of insurance and the Town’s indemnification request has been received. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Culvert/ditch issue at 3759 Rumsey Drive – Mrs. Chester asked if anything had been decided with the drainage issue. Commissioner Chase stated that he will reach out to the Mid Shore Regional Council again to inquire about the GIS work that was to be done. The Council discussed with Mrs. Chester that part of the issue with the drainage is the ditches on Barber Road and that the County needs to have those cleaned out to improve flow. Mrs. Chester has contacted the County and they said they will do it sometime.

Public Questions/Comments -

Mr. Cornish from the Williamsburg Community requested help from the Town in providing playground equipment for the Church. The Council informed Mr. Cornish that this was not in Town limits but gave him the information on who to contact at Talbot County Parks and Rec for possible help.

Mrs. Chester stated that the Rural Life Museum was broken into again and would like for the police to increase patrols and for residents to keep their eyes open for anything going on around there.

Execution 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 6:56 pm. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 7:48 pm to reopen the public meeting and then adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk