

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Council of Trappe Meeting: Vice-President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members Michael Sullivan, Rose Potter and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband, Superintendent Steve Callahan and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

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

Minutes: Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the January 3, 2024 minutes as presented. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Clerk's Report: Administrator Braband stated the Clerk's Report, the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund budgets are in the Council's binders and are filed with the records. Commissioner Chase stated that he would like to have the money (\$15,921.77) from the closure of the Town's rental account transferred into the Enterprise Fund and not the General Fund as it would be better used there. Administrator Braband stated that this account has been closed, and the money was transferred to the General Fund as directed by the Council at the last Council meeting. After discussion, Commissioner Chase made a motion to transfer the \$15,921.77 from the General Fund to the Enterprise Fund. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Public Works: Superintendent Callahan presented the Council with a quote from Mr. Rooter to install liners in some of the sewer mains on Harrison Court, near the Town's water tower and near the pumping station due to infiltration issues. The quote for this repair is \$29,200. Superintendent Callahan also presented another quote from Mr. Rooter to install 2 liners to repair a sewer main issue at 29255 Murray's Lane. This issue is causing a sink hole at this property. The quote for this repair is \$7,000. The Council discussed both of these issues and requested that Superintendent Callahan contact Mr. Rooter and a few other contractors to get prices to camera all the sewer mains in Town that have not been done recently and bring this information back to the Council at their March meeting. After this has been done the Council can use that information to form a plan on the best way to make the needed repairs and complete preventative maintenance.

Public Safety: Sgt. Dobson read his monthly report that is filed with the records.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that Rauch presented a revision to Lakeside's Phase 1D subdivision plat but they need to come back for a minor amendment to the PUD Plan before the revision can be approved. The Planning Commission gave the Dollar General project preliminary approval and continued to work on the Zoning Ordinance revision.

Communications: Commissioner Schmidt thanked Nick Newnam for all his years of service to the Town as Council President. Commissioner Schmidt announced that Bobby Quidas just received an award for his 60 years of service to the Fire Department and thanked him for his service. Administrator Braband stated that the Town will hold a Special Election on March 19th from 9 am to 6 pm to fill the remainder of Nick Newnam’s term which will expire in May 2025.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that the RFP for the water lead line inventory will be posted soon and bids will be presented to the Council once they are received. Attorney Ryan stated that some members of the Town Council attended a work session between the Talbot County Public Works Advisory Board and the Talbot County Planning Commission. This work session was to discuss Lakeside and the 3 pending Resolutions in front of the County Council. The boards will meet individually and then make a recommendation to the County Council. The County Council will hold a public hearing on the 3 Resolutions which is set for March 13th at this time.

Executive Session: Commissioner Schmidt stated that no executive session was held on January 3, 2024.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Dollar General – Sewer main relocation request and Public Works Agreement

Curtis Snyder stated that he is requesting approval to have a sewer main relocated, and a Public Works Agreement signed for the Dollar General project on Ocean Gateway. Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Town’s current sewer main runs underneath the old Auction House and will require the Dollar General developer to relocate it, at their expense, prior to receiving final approval for the project. Attorney Ryan stated that a Public Works Agreement is required for the entire project and the developer has reviewed the proposed agreement. After discussion, Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to approve the sewer main relocation contingent upon GMB’s review and approval and the Public Works Agreement signed by both parties. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to approve and sign the Public Works Agreement contingent upon letters of credit being received and Attorney Ryan’s approval. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Smart Site Plan – Rauch, Inc is unable to attend this evening.

Nikki Harrison – Drainage issue on Hirst Ave/Slaughter Lane

Ms. Harison presented the Council with pictures of her property that was flooded due to the rain event on January 9th. Ms. Harrison said that the water is not able to get to Main Street and drain appropriately. Ms. Harrison stated that she does have some grading issues with her property, and she is happy to have

them fixed, but the water needs to be able to go somewhere once that has been corrected. There is a ditch and small culvert by her property that have debris in them and the Town has gone out and cleaned out the ditch but has been unable to remove all the debris in the culvert. After discussion the Council decided to have a couple of contractors look at the drainage issues around Town and provide quotes to fix these issues. Attorney Ryan will research what the Town owns, what the County owns and what is private property. A suggestion was made to ask the fire department if they would be willing to flush some of the storm drains and possibly culverts.

Planning Commission Appointment –

Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Town has received 2 letters of interest for the 1 open position on the Planning Commission. Richard Allison and Jeremy Newnam have both expressed interest. After discussion, Commissioner Potter made a motion to appoint Richard Allison to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Motion approved

Council meeting schedule request –

Commissioner Sullivan stated that he would like the Council to consider meeting twice a month but be able to cancel the second meeting each month if it was not needed. Attorney Ryan stated that the Council has the authority to hold a special workshop/meeting as needed as long as it is properly advertised. The Council agreed that their ability to schedule a special workshop/meeting was sufficient at this time.

Public Questions/Comments:

Mr. Kane voiced his concern about the cost of the water bill again.

Mr. Richard Allison asked about the Town’s monthly newsletter and requested that it be put on the Town’s Facebook page.

Executive Session: No executive session is requested.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk