

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2023

Public hearing: President Newnam opened the public hearing at 5:55 pm for Ordinance 4-2022 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title IV, Section 6 to permit restaurants and food carry out establishments in the C-2 Highway Commercial District. Tom Mitchell asked if this Ordinance would include drive-thru restaurants. Attorney Ryan stated that it would as long as long as they qualified as a restaurant. Rose Potter stated that she had no objection to this Ordinance. With no additional 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 Brian Schmidt, Tonya Pritchett and Walter Chase were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Agenda: Commissioner Pritchett 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 December 7, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Clerk's Report: Administrator Braband stated that the Clerk's Report, General Fund and Enterprise Fund budgets are in the Council's binders and filed with the records.

Public Works Report: President Newnam stated that the public works report is in the Council's binders and is filed with the records. The Council requested prices for a new composite sampler and lead time for the unit at the next meeting.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission discussed a mini-storage building application request on Rt. 50 but it is not a permitted use in the C-2 zone. The owner was invited to the next Planning meeting to discuss possible options.

Communications: President Newnam stated that the fire department had a big fire outside of Town and PE Moore was a huge help with the fire at no cost to the fire department.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that the County Council wants to hold a joint work session with the Town Council on Jan. 10th at 3 pm to provide an overview of Lakeside. All Council members stated that they would attend the work session with the County.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Ordinance 4-2022 - An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title IV, Section 6 to permit restaurants and food carry out establishments in the C-2 Highway Commercial District was read by President Newnam. A public hearing was held this evening at 5:55 pm. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2022. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y Chase – Y
Motion approved

WHCP-FM radio: Mike Starling, President of the Mid-Shore Community Radio presented a flyer on the new 91.7 WHCP-FM radio station. There will be a mid-shore midday segment every day at noon and they will discuss the mid-shore and important news. They will be reaching out to the Town and Council for updates and information that can be shared on the radio station.

W. Maple Townhomes – Line of Credit letters: Wes Schuman is requesting permission from the Council to release the lines of credit for the W. Maple Townhomes. The street lights and landscape are complete and the Public Works Agreement states that the Town doesn't take over ownership of anything. GMB inspected the water and sewer portions of the project and provided a final inspection report with a punch list to be completed. GMB recommended that the Town withhold \$7,500 until the punch list has been completed. Attorney Ryan stated that the Public Works Agreement requires that the lines of credit be maintained for 1 year after final inspection but this project is different because everything is going to remain private and any issues would be repaired at Mr. Schuman's expense. After discussion the Council decided that Jesse from the Town's Public Works department could inspect the items on the punch list once they have been completed. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to release the lines of credit for the asphalt, streetlights and trees once the Town has confirmed completion and reduce the plumbing line of credit to \$7,500 based on GMB's recommendation. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

GMB – ENR wastewater plant upgrade: Jason Lytle stated that the Town has received the draft preliminary eligibility determination from MDE and they are offering 46.59% grant funding. GMB recommended removing some of the items that were ineligible for funding and it would increase the grant funding portion to 76.09%. After removing those ineligible items, GMB recommended that the Town look to apply for new grant/loan funding for the pump stations and the sludge system by the end of January.

GMB – Pump station upgrade project: Jason stated that Phase 1 which includes Rumsey pump station, Rt. 50 pump station and Lakeview pump station are getting ready to go out to bid. The current funding under USDA will cover Phase 1. Phase 2 which includes Marvel pump station, Greenfield pump station and White Marsh pump station will need additional funding due to increased costs.

Economic Development Grant: Attorney Ryan stated that the Town received official notification that the Town received the \$500,000 grant for sludge removal and the grant agreement has been provided for the Town's review and approval however the exhibits were not included. We have requested the exhibits but have not received them yet. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the grant agreement subject to Attorney Ryan's final review. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Sensus AMI Agreement: Attorney Ryan stated that the Town has received the software equipment agreement for the radio read meter upgrade and she is still negotiating the agreement but hasn't been able to finalize it yet. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the Sensus AMI agreement subject to Attorney Ryan's final review and approval. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Board of Education – Easement for S. Main pumping station: Attorney Ryan stated that as part of the USDA funding for the pump station project, USDA is requiring that the Town own the property that the S. Main (Rt. 50) pump station is on but the Board of Education owns it. The Town has requested to acquire

the land but the Board is not interested in selling the property to the Town, they will provide an easement to the pump station instead. Attorney Ryan has drafted the easement which will be for the construction of all the improvements, operation, continued maintenance and to continue to allow the Church to use the property as parking. The easement has to be approved by the County Council and we are awaiting approval.

Talbot County Water/Sewer Comp Plan Amendment: Attorney Ryan stated that drafts have been sent to the Town Council for the Town's water and sewer portions of the County's comp plan report of the review. These drafts have been reviewed and proposed amendments have been made by the Town Attorney and GMB. Commissioner Schmidt pointed out that the Lakeside treatment plant should say .54 million gallons per day, not .50 so that change will be made. Attorney Ryan stated that this is just a draft and the Town could update the draft again if needed. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the drafts as amended and send them to the County. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Public Questions/Comments:

Mr. Kane voiced his concerns about the water bill again and doesn't like the Town's disconnect policy. Mr. Kane would the Town to consider not disconnecting water for non-payment. Mr. Kane also voiced his concern for water that is laying on Kelly Drive and stated that children have to walk thru it to get to the bus. The Town will send someone out to look at it.

Valerie Russ stated that her water was disconnected last month due to nonpayment but she never received the disconnect notice until after it was disconnected. Ms. Russ is requesting that the Town Council waive the \$100 disconnect/reconnect fee. Commissioner Chase made a motion to waive the \$100 disconnect/reconnect fee for this one time only. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

After a discussion regarding the Town's disconnect notice policy, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to hang disconnect notices on all the delinquent properties for the next 6 months instead of mailing them to homeowners due to the Trappe Post office being closed. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that an executive session is requested for legal advice. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 7:21 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk