

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2023

Public Hearing: President Newnam called the public hearing to order at 5:55 pm for Resolution 1-2023 – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to amend the Town Charter to add Section 422 titled “Cancellation of Election where seat is uncontested” to authorize the Trappe Administrator/Clerk to cancel the Election where the seat is uncontested. Mrs. Rose Potter stated that she is in full support of the Resolution. Commissioner Sullivan asked if the Town Charter already addressed this on page 17, Section 421. President Newnam stated that Section 421 dealt with a different circumstance. With no further public comment, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to close the public hearing at 5:58 pm. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Newnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members Michael Sullivan, Brian Schmidt and Tonya Pritchett were present. Other attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband, Sheriff Gamble and First Sargent J.R. Dobson from Talbot County Sheriff’s Office.

Agenda: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to table the Town Charter Section 201 Amendment until the April meeting. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the February 1, 2023 Council 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: President Newnam stated that the public works report is in the Council’s binders and is filed with the records. President Newnam stated that the Town has determined that they are responsible for the drainage ditches on Town owned roads and are in the process of setting up a schedule to perform regular maintenance.

Planning & Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Planning Commission did not meet in February so nothing to report.

Communications: President Newnam stated that the Town will hold an Election on May 9th for two Council seats and the deadline to file as a candidate is March 21st. President Newnam stated that Rauch, Inc. dedicated a plaque to the Town to be placed on Don English’s chair in his memory and thanked Rauch for the nice gesture.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that she did not have anything additional to add.

Executive Session: President Newnam stated that an executive session was held on February 1, 2023 to discuss a personnel matter.

Public Safety: First Sargent Dobson and Sheriff Gamble provided a status report on the Town and requested to be placed back on the agenda for monthly reports.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Resolution 1-2023 – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to amend the Town Charter to add Section 422 titled “Cancellation of Election where seat is uncontested” to authorize the Trappe Administrator/Clerk to cancel the Election where the seat is uncontested was read by President Newnam. A public hearing was held this evening. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to adopt Resolution 1-2023. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y
Motion approved.

Pamela Roberge: Ms. Roberge was not in attendance. The Council inquired about a neighborhood watch and everything that is entailed with that. First Sargent Dobson said he would send some information to the Town and suggested that the Council look at neighborhoodwatch.org for additional information.

Sludge Removal at Wastewater Treatment Plant: President Newnam stated that the Town had issued an RFP for the Town’s sludge removal project and the deadline for bids was yesterday at 2:00. The Town only received 1 bid from Snyagro who is proposing to remove 230 dry tons, plus handle the mobilization, permitting and demobilization for \$500,000. The bid was sent to GMB for review but a response has not been received. Attorney Ryan has reviewed the bid and recommended awarding the contract to Snyagro tonight given then time constraints with the grant and the fact that the Town only received one bid. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to accept the bid from Snyagro contingent upon concurrence from GMB and entering into a mutually acceptable contract. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y Newnam – Y Schmidt – Y Pritchett – Y
Motion approved.

Old Trappe Ballpark: Commissioner Schmidt submitted a letter to the Council requesting the Council to consider turning the Old Trappe Ballpark that the Town just acquired from Talbot County, into a flowering meadow until it is time to build a new town hall. Commissioner Pritchett expressed her concern over that area being used for various events, like Nace’s Day and how the meadow would affect these events. Commissioner Sullivan stated that he would like the Town to look into a long-term plan for the property that isn’t being used for the Town hall location. President Newnam suggested that the Council hold a workshop giving the public a chance to say what they would like to see before making any decisions. Commissioner Schmidt stated that the grant for this meadow opportunity is due March 8th. After additional discussion, Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to table this matter until a later time and schedule a meeting for the public to attend. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Sullivan – Y Newnam – Y Schmidt – N Pritchett – Y

Motion approved by 3-1 vote.

Public Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Schmidt stated that he had talked to Postmaster Tim at the Cambridge post office and was told that the RFP is out and they are in the process of getting bids. He was also told that the post office has not discussed shutting down Trappe's post office permanently.

Commissioner Schmidt stated that the Rural Life Museum is trying to raise money to fix up the building. A suggestion was made that the Town should become a Heritage Area and that designation would allow non-profits to apply for various grant funds. Cassandra from the Talbot County Economic Development office will be attending the March Planning Commission meeting to make a presentation and if the program receives a favorable recommendation, a presentation will be made to the Town Council at the April meeting.

Tyrone Wilson stated that he is having an issue with parking on Diamond Street and would like no parking signs to be put up. First Sargent Dobson asked Mr. Wilson to call the police department if the cars are blocking his driveway. The Town will look into options regarding parking permits and/or no parking signs and contact the Talbot County Parks department to inquire about the status of the additional parking for Home Run Baker Park.

Mr. Kane asked the Council to look at Kelly Drive and address the water that lays on the street where the school bus stop is.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 7:30 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk