

COUNCIL OF TRAPPE
TRAPPE TOWN HALL
APRIL 6, 2016

Council of Trappe Meeting:

President Fegel called the meeting of the Council of Trappe to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Rose Potter, Tonya Pritchett and Don English were present.

Other attendees: Bobby & Shirley Quidas, Charles & Mary Rae Adams, Vickie Wilson, Gladys Giddens, Doran Getsuger, Milton Wingate, Maurice Evans, Richard Potter, Claudine Black, Walter Black, Marieca Harris, Brian & Cathy Schmidt, Chris Polk, Attorney Booth, Superintendent Callahan, Planner Shull and Clerk Braband.

Amendments to Agenda:

Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. All approved.

Presentation of Minutes:

Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner English seconded the motion. All approved.

Clerk's Report:

Clerk Braband presented the Clerk's report that is filed in the records. Clerk Braband also presented the current budgets for both the general and the enterprise funds.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Safety – Chief Ball is not in attendance tonight as he is at another meeting in St. Michaels. Commissioner English read Chief Ball's monthly report that is filed in the records.

President Fegel presented Chief Ball's award that he received for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. President Fegel also read a congratulations note from a resident to Chief Ball. President Fegel stated that this award is well earned and deserved as Chief Ball does a lot for the Town.

Public Works – Superintendent Callahan read his monthly report that is filed in the records. President Fegel stated that there is only 1 well working for the Town right now however Superintendent Callahan said 1 well is sufficient right now to keep up with capacity. President Fegel stated that the 2 water meters at the school are not functioning therefore they are not reading properly for billing. New meters have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible.

Planning & Zoning – Planner Shull stated that the Planning Commission met in March and reviewed the 2 sidewalk proposals for Rt. 565 from State Highway. After reviewing both options the Planning Commission recommends that the Council choose the closed concept plan as to continue the continuity of the existing sidewalks and to minimize the impact on the affected residents. The Planning Commission also elected to put the Town's comp plan on a 10 year review cycle.

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Planner Shull stated that the Trappe Community Outreach team held an Easter bonnet parade and it was very well attended. Planner Shull thanked Margaret English for organizing the Easter parade as well as the Trappe Family Restaurant, Talbot Smokehouse, Dairy Queen and Tri Crown Inn and Pets for supplying prizes. The team will meet again on April 7th at 4:30 to continue planning new events.

Parks & Recreation – As Commissioner of Parks, Commissioner Potter stated that she had nothing to report.

Economic Development – Commissioner Pritchett stated that she did not have anything to report. Paige Tilghman, Director of Talbot County Economic Development Office stated that a meeting was held on April 5th with the Trappe business owners at Town Hall. Mrs. Tilghman stated that in attendance along with herself were 8 business owners, 3 Council members, Planner Shull and Clerk Braband. A discussion was held regarding getting more support behind the Town events and resource partners were introduced to the business owners.

Communications – President Fegel read a letter from the Department of Agriculture stating that they will conduct an aerial suppression program for gypsy moths the end of April and into the beginning of May.

Attorney Updates – Attorney Booth stated that on March 2nd an executive session was held to obtain legal advice as well as an executive session tonight from 6:34 to 6:51 pm, prior to the Council meeting, to obtain legal advice concerning the rental license inspection program, legal advice on a water rate adoption issue and to discuss a personnel matter.

Executive Session – President Fegel stated that an executive session was held on March 2nd to obtain legal advice and that was finished up tonight in executive session as stated by Attorney Booth.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Resolution 2-2016 – A Resolution of the Council of Trappe to adopt a fee schedule for residential rental licenses and inspections was read by President Fegel. Attorney Booth stated at the last Council meeting the Council talked about reinstating the residential rental license program that is already in the Town Code as it hasn't been implemented in the last couple of years. Attorney Booth stated that it was discovered that no license fee was set so a resolution was prepared to set the fee. This resolution would set an annual residential rental license fee of \$25.00 per year, per unit and a residential rental inspection fee of \$10.00 to cover the Town's administrative fee plus Middle Department Inspection Agency's fee which is currently \$42.50 per inspection. Commissioner Potter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2-2016. Commissioner English seconded the motion. No discussion held.

VOTE:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – absent English – Y

All approved, motion carried.

Attorney Booth stated that she has been working with Planner Shull on how to implement this program and her suggestion is to send a letter to the property owners giving them 60 days to apply for the license

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and to complete the inspection unless they have recently been inspected. Planner Shull has recently inspected several rentals and Attorney Booth suggests that those properties be grandfathered in and allowed to receive their license and place those properties on the second year inspection rotation. Planner Shull suggested that a letter go out to every property owner in Trappe because there may be rentals in Town that the Town is unaware of. The Council agreed with this procedure.

Other Business -

Route 565 sidewalk – Planner Shull updated the Council and the audience on the progress of the Route 565 sidewalk project. Planner Shull stated that State Highway met with the Town Council and presented 2 concept plans – the first was an open concept plan and the second was a closed concept plan. State Highway will be funding the project 100% with the only expense to the Town being the purchase of right of ways if they are needed. The open concept includes an open swale section which could be 7-10 feet wide and then the 5 foot sidewalk; the sidewalk would not be on the road. The closed concept would place the sidewalk right next to the road like the rest of the Town sidewalks are. The closed concept is the most expensive option for State Highway but it also does not encroach as far on the property owners as the open concept. Talbot County is also working with the Town as part of the sidewalk will actually be placed in the County. President Fegel stated that the Planning Commission discussed the 2 options at their last planning meeting and they recommend that the Town Council choose the closed concept. The Planning Commission recommended the closed concept because it will continue what is already in Town, is less invasive on the property owners and would eliminate the mowing of the open swale issue. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to approve the closed concept plan as presented by State Highway. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. No discussion held.

VOTE:

Potter – Y Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – absent English – Y
All approved, motion carried.

FitFest – Maurice Evans from Piggy Payback Productions. Mr. Evans stated that he is looking to hold an event in Trappe on September 24th from 9 am to 9 pm. The name of the event has been changed to BestFest as it is going to be about trying to be the best person that you can be. This event will be created by kids for kids and is aimed for kids 12-20 years old. Mr. Evans stated that he has partnered with Talbot Partnership and is in discussion with the local schools and Dr. Griffith from Talbot County Board of Education. Mr. Evans would like to hold the event at the old ballpark (behind Veteran’s park) and has received permission to do so from Mr. Pepper from Talbot County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Evans stated that he has reviewed the Town’s noise ordinance and other regulations and will comply with all of them. Mr. Evans stated that he is looking to make this an annual event and will be a primary fundraiser for Talbot Partnership. Mr. Evans stated that he is here tonight asking for the Council’s support and blessing. President Fegel asked the Council if they would like to give Mr. Evans and BestFest their blessing. The Council all agreed to give their blessing and would be willing to help in any way that they can. Clerk Braband will send a letter of support and have Chief Ball contact Mr. Evans in regards to traffic control.

Talbot County NAACP support request – President Fegel stated that Mr. Potter from the Talbot County NAACP branch made a presentation and request at the last Council meeting and President Fegel stated that he recommends that the Council remain neutral on this issue and not support it at this time. President Fegel stated that any commissioner that feels strongly about this issue can personally support this effort but as a whole the Council should not get involved. President Fegel opened for additional comments. Commissioner Potter stated that she feels very strongly that the statue be relocated to another area and that she does support NAACP’s efforts. Commissioner English stated that because the statue is on County property the Town of Trappe has no control over it; however, Commissioner English stated that he encourages anyone to support this effort if they wish to do so but does not believe that the Town can try to control something that has no bearing on their authority. Commissioner English made a motion for the Town of Trappe to stay neutral as a Council. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion. No discussion held.

VOTE:

Potter – N Fegel – Y Pritchett – Y Diefenderfer – absent English – Y

Motion carried with 3-1 vote.

Announcements – President Fegel read the announcements.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Erin Braband, Town Clerk

Norm Fegel, President