

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2022

Public Hearing – 6:50 pm

President Newnam opened the public hearing for Ordinance 1-2022 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title III and Section 2 to add definitions of “Junk”, “Junkyard”, and “Storage Yard”; and to amend Title IV, Section 6 to permit storage yards by special exception in the C-2 Highway Commercial District. No public comment was received.

The public hearing was closed at 6:51 pm.

Council of Trappe Meeting: President Newnam called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council members Brian Schmidt, Tonya Pritchett and Walter Chase were present. Attendees for the Town: Town Administrator Erin Braband and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan.

Agenda: Commissioner Chase made a motion to approve the April 6, 2022 agenda as presented. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes: Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the March 2, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all 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. Administrator Braband stated that she received an email from Shore United Bank regarding the Town’s Insured Cash Sweep accounts and their interest rate. The Town had locked in a fixed .40% interest rate for 6 months and that rate is set to expire this month. Shore United is offering to extend the .40% interest for another 6 months or the Town can switch to a variable rate that is equal to Federal Funds. The current Federal Funds rate is .33%. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to lock in the fixed .40% interest for another 6 months. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved.

Public Works: President Newnam stated that the public works report is in the Council’s binders and filed with the records.

Planning and Zoning: Commissioner Schmidt stated that at the last Planning Commission meeting the Coffee Trappe presented plans to build a kitchen addition onto the building. The kitchen encroaches the setback requirements so they were referred to the Board of Appeals with a favorable recommendation. The Coffee Trappe is also requesting a parking waiver and were referred to the Board of Appeals with a favorable recommendation for this as well. Taylor Gilden presented a request to have zoning changed on a piece of property that he purchased on Main Street. The Planning Commission cannot do spot zoning changes so other ideas were discussed with Mr. Gilden for options that he could do with the property. The Planning Commission received advice from the Town Attorney regarding Wes Schuman’s townhouses and whether he needed a special exception for a setback variance or not and it was determined that he does. Mr. Schuman was advised and the Planning Commission is awaiting his response.

Communications: President Newnam read Commissioner Diefenderfer's resignation letter. Due to Commissioner Diefenderfer's resignation, a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, June 7th and the deadline to file for candidacy is Tuesday, May 10th.

Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to appoint Brian Schmidt as Vice-President of the Council due to Commissioner Diefenderfer's resignation. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved.

Attorney Updates: Attorney Ryan stated that Talbot County Council's Resolution 327 is up for a public hearing on Tuesday, April 12th. This Resolution is to require that treated effluent from Lakeside meet ENR standards before being sent to Trappe's existing plant and that the Trappe's existing plant not have any outstanding enforcement actions, consent order or violations. Attorney Ryan stated that she spoke with the Town's Engineers about accepting ENR effluent into our plant and there is concern that it could make operations more difficult for the Town because it is equivalent to I&I coming into the plant. Attorney Ryan requested the Council's permission to write a letter in opposition of Resolution 327. The Council gave Attorney Ryan permission to write a letter. The Talbot County Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on April 20th to discuss these Resolutions.

Executive Session: An executive session was held on March 2, 2022 to obtain legal advice and to discuss a personnel matter. An executive session was also held tonight to discuss a personnel matter.

ORDER OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Town Trash Bids and Contract – President Newnam read the bids that were received for the residential trash collection contract and they are as follows –

1. Bigg Tyme Trash submitted a bid for \$4.00 per week/per residence with a can provided to each residence, this would be a cost of \$208.00 a year for each residence. They also submitted a bid for \$3.50 per week/per residence to not include a can, this would be a cost of \$182.00 a year for each residence. Pickup day would remain on Friday.
2. Chesapeake Waste submitted a bid for \$3.62 per week/per residence with a can provided to each residence, this would be a cost of \$188.24 a year for each residence. They also submitted a bid for \$3.24 per week/per residence to not include a can, this would be a cost of \$168.48 a year for each residence. Chesapeake Waste is also asking for a fuel escalation charge to be added to the contract and pickup day would have to be changed to Wednesday.

After discussion Commissioner Chase made a motion to get rid of Chesapeake Waste's bid due to the fuel escalation charge and the uncertainty of the amount charged to the Town each month. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved. Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to go with Bigg Tyme Trash's bid without the can of \$3.50 per week/per residence. Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved. This contract will go into effect July 1, 2022.

Eastern Shore Environmental Fuel Surcharge Request - President Newnam stated that the Town's current trash collector, Eastern Shore Environmental, has submitted an invoice with a fuel surcharge of \$108.50 for the month of March. This is not an approved part of the contract. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to pay the fuel surcharge of \$108.50 for the month of March. Commissioner Pritchett seconded

the motion and all approved. Any future fuel surcharge requests must come back to the Council for review and approval before payment is sent.

ARPA Mini-Grants for Non-Profits – President Newnam stated that the Town set aside \$20,000 of the funds the Town is receiving from the American Rescue Plan Act to help local non-profits that experienced a financial impact due to COVID-19. The Town received 7 applications. After discussion Commissioner Pritchett made a motion to award the following:

1. Rural Life Museum - \$2,000
2. Neighborhood Service Center - \$3,500
3. St Paul’s Episcopal Church - \$3,500
4. Trappe Lions Club - \$3,500
5. Trappe Volunteer Fire Company - \$2,500
6. Easton Day Care Center (White Marsh site) - \$1,500
7. Scotts United Methodist Church - \$3,500

Commissioner Chase seconded the motion and all approved. The Non-Profits will be invited to the May 4th Council meeting to receive their checks.

Ordinance 1-2022 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe amending the Trappe Zoning Ordinance, Title III and Section 2 to add definitions of “Junk”, “Junkyard”, and “Storage Yard”; and to amend Title IV, Section 6 to permit storage yards by special exception in the C-2 Highway Commercial District was read by President Newnam. A public hearing was held tonight at 6:50 for this Ordinance and no public comment was received. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2022. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion.

VOTE:

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

Ordinance 2-2022 – An Ordinance of the Town of Trappe to amend Section 14 of the Trappe Town Code titled “Water and Sewer”, Table 1 titled “Fees and Charges” to increase the monthly water usage rate to \$5.03 per thousand gallons, and the monthly sewer usage rate to \$11.75 per thousand gallons was read by President Newnam. After discussion the Council decided to table Ordinance 2-2022 and hold another budget workshop on April 19th at 5 pm to further discuss this matter.

Ordinance 3-2022 – This Ordinance was tabled due to tabling Ordinance 2-2022.

Other Business – None

Public Questions/Comments –

Ryan Showalter stated that there is a provision in the DRRRA that contemplates the parties having an annual good faith compliance review and he is preparing a report for this. Mr. Showalter will send the report to Attorney Ryan to review in hopes that the Council can discuss the report at their May 4th meeting.

Ryan Showalter stated that the Council had previously discussed the Town adopting a portion of Piney Hill Road and Barber Road and gave Mr. Showalter permission to work with Attorney Ryan to put in place an agreement in which the developer would reimburse the Town for all costs involved in repair, maintenance, snow removal, etc, until the roads were upgraded to Town standards by the developer. This request would have to go to the County for approval and transfer of the in-town portions of those roads. There were some concerns about flooding issues at Barber Road and Rt. 50 but SHA has completed additional work to alleviate those issues. Mr. Showalter stated that the developer is ready to move forward with the request to the County and with the reimbursable agreement for the Town so he will begin working with Attorney Ryan on this matter.

Executive session – No executive session is requested.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion at 7:32 pm to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pritchett seconded the motion and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Braband, Town Administrator/Clerk