



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2020

****Meeting minutes are transcribed in a summarized format. For full discussion and further detail of the meeting you can view the streamline video at the following link: <http://townhallstreams.com/locations/rock-hall-md>. There are also available at Town Office****

Mayor Jacobs called the Regular Workshop meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Andrews, Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Collyer, Councilmember Edwards, Town Manager Resele and Clerk-Treasurer Loller.

Agenda

Vice Mayor Andrews motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Tabled until next M & C Regular Business Meeting on June 11, 2020.

Special Commentary Statement from Mayor Jacobs

Mayor Jacobs stated that the Census is really important to pay attention to as there is still time file. April 1st was the official Census Day. Between August 11th and October 31st, the Census will interview homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census online or in some fashion. As of May 30th, the national self-response was at a 60% level. Maryland as a State was at 64% and Kent County was at 56%. It is

important to send in your form because it helps determine how much financial aid the Town will receive.

Mayor Jacobs said that tomorrow is Primary Day and voting is extremally important. If you received your ballot in the mail and have not mailed it back, there is a drop box at the Chestertown Library, or you can go to the Library to vote in person from 7 am to 8 pm. You can also drop of ballots at the Elections Office.

Consensus Vote Correction

Was tabled until next M & W Regular Business Meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

COVID-19

There is a new way of looking at our challenge is positively stats. It is the percentage of positive testing by each county in the State. It is something you can get on the main Maryland COVID-19 daily stats. The reason Mayor Jacobs wants to highlight this is that right now even though it's a meaningful statistic, Kent County has the 2nd highest rate in the State as our positivity rate of testing is only 15.8%. What that means is the number of people being tested, 15% are positive. If you look at this chart, you will see a big spike in the middle which was when a number of the labs caught up with their backlog. Mayor Jacobs talked to Bill Webb Director of the Kent County Health Department and asked why Kent County numbers were so high and he said they only allocated a limited number of test and we are still functioning in that manner. Most people being tested were systematic and had a Doctor's note. As a result, more of the people were testing positive. What he went on to explain was that the positivity in our case was primary occupational situations like the Nursing Homes and poultry industry. As more are tested, the rate should come down but with what's happening throughout the Country lately, it going to be interesting to see what will happens with the numbers because of the expanding group sizes. Once Chesapeake College stops testing, the Kent County Health Department will take over.

Just a side note. The tape has been removed from the benches, but the signs were left on. For the most part, people are respecting social distancing.

Ferry Park Beach

The beach was a very frustrating week in terms of enforcement and the Community back and forth about the beach. The Council, Police Department and Town Manager all have put their time in concerning weather to open the beach and there was community back and forth about the topic. So now it's open and there are other issues that people are pointing too. The signs are up. They are to protect the Town's liability to some extent but it's to again reinforce the responsibility to each person to worry about themselves. Social distancing is critical and gathering group sizes is the main important COVID related issue. It's up to each person to respect those issues. In order for the Police to be further involved, it would take 12 hours a day just sitting there and watching every move that was made. The Town does not have the financial resources to do that. Also, what's going on at the State level is different from the beach here in Rock Hall. The whole point of whatever definition was put together was just to say keep your distance and no more than ten (10) people. A small discussion followed, and Mayor Jacobs stated that people need to worry about themselves first and foremost. Are you doing what is in your best interest? The guidelines are no more than 10 people in a group and 6 feet distance. It's that simple.

Outdoor Dining

Most of the Restaurants here in Rock Hall figured out how to make it work over the weekend. The one Mayor Jacobs was working on with the Kent County Health Department was the situation at Harbor Shack because they have outdoor and semi-outdoor seating. They were not allowed to use that space because the garage door is dictating it to be a closed area. Mayor Jacobs said that would be a serious impact to that restaurants business financially and also to the number of outlets we have to serve visitors coming in. The Health Department will revisit that, and Bill Webb thinks there will be an adjustment to that policy.

Ordinance for Outdoor Dining

After talking to the Town Attorney and Bill Webb from the Kent County Health Department, while the Executive Order of May 7th is intact, this is liable to be use for an immediate ordinance to allow a restaurant to be able to dine outside. Bill Webb said the Town does not need their own because once the Health Department does the inspection, all the Council would have to do is sign the inspection saying yes what they said is right. It's not going to infringe on safety, sidewalks, or anything like that. Bill Webb and Legal stated the Town did not need their own application for the different Restaurants. The Town can just walk with the Health Department

and review it to make sure the laws and criteria indicate where they can sit so, they are not infringing on safety or property.

Mayor Jacobs read the Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-02 as follows:

An Emergency Ordinance for the purpose of authorizing the Town Manager or his designee to issue a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit temporarily relaxing or waiving certain provisions and requirements of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall regarding the service of food and beverages for consumption in outdoor seating areas by restaurants, bars, and other similar establishments that sell food or beverages for consumption on-premises in the Town and social and fraternal clubs with dining facilities, subject to certain conditions, to facilitate the safe reopening and operation of such establishments and clubs in the Town in accordance with standing Gubernatorial Executive Orders concerning the COVID-19 pandemic; providing that the title of this Emergency Ordinance shall be a fair summary, and generally relating to the issuance of a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit in the Town of Rock Hall.

Mayor Jacobs had a conversation with Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Jakubiak about this whole topic and agreed there is no zoning for this kind of situation. Chris felt that this exercise in the temporary period could flush out what some sort of permanent requirements might be. Mayor Jacobs questioned why Chris was not kept in this loop based on this. She also said that Chris was involved the whole time and it was the Town Manager and Chris working together on all of this. Mayor Jacobs wanted to know if the Council was going to solitaire some sort of plan document for the Business that want to do something. Town Manager Resele said the Kent County Health Department application needs to be filled out and the Health Department would come in and inspect everything.

Vice Mayor Andrews made a motion to pass Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-02 Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor with four voting yes and Councilmember Jones abstaining. Motion carried.

CARES Funding

Revised MOU estimate to \$48,000 from \$38,000. Will add electronic message board to the estimate.

Hazard pay for the Police Department is from March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.

Town Manager Resele requested to have approval to purchase two (2) street message signs at the cost of \$1,247.00.

Vice Mayor Andrews made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) street message signs at the cost of \$1,274.00. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Manager Resele ask for approval to purchase two (2) Panasonic Toughbook Laptops for the Rock Hall Police Department.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve the expenditure for two (2) Panasonic Toughbook Laptops in the amount of \$2,245.00. Vice Mayor Andrews seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Budget

Mayor Jacobs said today is just the introduction of the Budget. The Public Hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at which time we will go into more detail about the Budget. It will be available online for people to look at on the Town's website and it was also published in the paper for the last couple of weeks of May, informing the public of the scheduled Public Hearing on June 10, 2020. On Wednesday, June 20th the Council will be holding a hearing and hopefully passing the Budget so that it will be effective in time for the July 1st fiscal year. This is to let the public know the Budget is finished at this point and they have until June 10, 2020 to raise any questions, make comments, and participate in the meeting.

General Fund Budget

There is no tax increase to come from the efforts. There was a 20% reduction in the budget anticipated and income tax revenue was the most significant drop. It significantly impacted the revenue coming in. Last year's budget was \$1,200,000.00 and this year is \$1,830,000.00 so that will be a budget decrease of \$116,000.00 in revenue. Mayor Jacobs said State Income Tax dropped 16%, Highway Tax dropped 20% and Amusement Tax dropped 20%. The council did not budget for any rents from Head Start at the Town Hall which was \$22,000.00 and \$39,000.00 for Transportation. Revenues are down \$16,000.00 and the expenses will be the same amount. Mayor Jacobs stated the Council and Mayor have agreed to not take a salary for the next year in this budget. We have had to reduce the Fund Balance Reserve from 6% to 3% on this year's budget. The Council opted on to fund a Police car.

Will be picking up \$10,000.00 in cost of a new trash disposal contract that will be provided on July 1, 2020. New trash can's with lids and 96-gallon, 45 gallon and 35-gallon trash cans to choose from. The idea is to improve the efficiency of the operator as well as to manage the amount of trash. They will only pick up what is there can. If you are a part-timer that comes down on weekends and goes home Sunday night, if we can identify your trash can, the contractor will pull it back to your house, so the can won't sit out all week.

Utility Fund Budget

Mayor Jacobs said they were not expecting too much of a shift in revenue with this fund. \$12,000.00 down and that primarily from water connection fees from last year's budget that included a subnational one from Haven Harbour South. We still have a fund balance of 5%. Unfortunately, the Route 20 sewer line failure ended up on the fund balance for this year.

RFQ Projects

No change from the last meeting. Audit and Legal RFQ are closed.

Ditch Renovation Project

At this time, the Streets Employees did some work cleaning ditches on Sharp and Main Street.

Energy Audit

Town Manger Resele had a meeting set up with GMB today but they needed to reschedule.

Next Regular Workshop Meeting will be Monday, June 29, 2020.

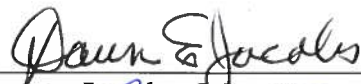
Councilmember Edwards made a motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 7:50 p.m. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

(*) See Town Manager's Report for further details.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl M. Butler


Approved by:



Dawn Jacobs, Mayor



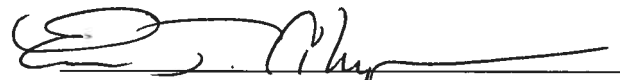
Beth Andrews, Vice Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Councilmember



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember