



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 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>. They are also available at Town Office****

Mayor Jacobs called the Regular Workshop meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Andrews, Councilmember Collyer, Councilmember Edwards, and Town Manager Resele. Councilmember Jones was absent.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Vice Mayor Andrews motioned to approve the March 2, 2020 Regular Workshop Meeting minutes. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor's Remarks – COVID-19

Mayor Jacobs commented on how impressed she was by everybody's cooperation. It is very much appreciated. The issue on how to restart and when to restart the State is a whole other layer to think about. She encouraged people to stay calm and stay

kind to one another whether you are from here, a visitor or are coming to their property.

Right now, Kent County as of this morning has 95 cases. Having serious spikes not just from the Nursing Homes but from the Poultry Industry in the Wicomico area and further South. There were also cases around Galena in an egg production farm and the Ag industry. The Kent County Health Department has been involved in trying to get testing done.

For more information on the Maryland Strong Roadmap to Recovery, which is designed to get Maryland moving again, please go to the following webpage:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/recovery/>

Anniversary of 1 Year in Office

New members elected to the Council on May 4, 2019 were Mayor Dawn Jacobs, Councilmember Carolyn Jones, and Councilmember Eleanor Collyer.

Review of what was accomplished in this first year:

Mayor Jacobs stated they the Council inherited some really big problems:

Clarifier at water plant not working.

Water Plant and Sewer Plant had major operating issues.

Dealt with a major sewer line failure and repair on Route 20.

The Mayor said the following initiatives were taken or accomplished:

Brought SERCAP in and we continue to work with them. They helped get the 12 million dollars grant for the Sewer Plant.

Worked on finishing the budget for 2020.

Brought in a new Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Hired a new Town Manager.

RFP and contracted a new On-Call Engineer.

Started a Utility Rate Study with SERCAP.

Hired a Grant Writer for the Town.

Worked through the Trailer Park issues.

Investigated the Kent County Water Service Agreement.

Formed the Rock Hall Heritage Committee.

Formed the Transportation Taskforce
Started CDBG Income Survey.
Reinitiated the use of Code Red.

Vice Mayor Andrews stated that the group has worked together well, and we are starting to turn things around.

Mayor Jacobs – For the Record

Please see attached Addendum #1

Mayor Jacobs proposed a motion to be made to reverse the Legal RFQ decision for a moment and extend the RFQ process. Motion denied.

Various Topics – Mayor and Town Manager (*)

CARES Funding – Hazard Pay –

Hazard pay is from March to December with no guarantees of being paid back but by FEMA, COVID-19, and the CARES Package. No other County on the Eastern Shore is paying hazard Pay except for Caroline County in which all County employees receive it not just the Police Department.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to gather more information on the costs of providing hazard pay for Town Employees during the COVID-19 emergency. Vice Mayor Andrews seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

No Smoking Policy –

Tabled until Charter changes are addressed.

Status of Events –

No action taken. Will be addressed at next meeting.

Transportation Update –

Nothing has changed. Put on hold because of COVID-19.

RFQ Project –

Grass cutting received 1st quote of \$925.00 per week for 32 weeks.

Ditch Renovation –

Will look into it further.

Energy Audit –

Going to let GMB work on that.

Loan Schedule –

Town Manger will work on that and have it ready for the next meeting.

Organization Decisions –

Mayor Jacobs stated when she was acting as Town Manager, the Police Department reported to her. Mayor Jacobs now thinks it should continue to be a position that reports to the Mayor. Even though the Code states all Departments report to the Town Manager. Vice Mayor Andrews stated that all employees should report to the Town Manager. Mayor Jacobs stated that the Planning and Zoning Administrator should report to the Mayor & Council and not the Town Manager.

Vice Mayor Andrews made a motion stating that the Police Department and Planning and Zoning Administrator report to the Town Manager. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. Mayor Jacobs was a no and Councilmember Collyer abstained. Motion carried.

Water Leak at Town Hall –

There are 2 or more new leaks in the building. Mayor and Council request the Town Manager to get some quotes for repairs.

IT Operation –

Vice Mayor Andrews made a motion to approve the purchase of a new laptop, docking station and camera for staff to use for video conferences and to live stream the Council meeting. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Next Regular Workshop Meeting will be Monday, June 1, 2020.

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 8:58 p.m. Vice Mayor Andrews seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

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



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING**

ADDEMDUM #1

May 4, 2020

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This statement by the Mayor is not an official part of the minutes.

Mayor Jacobs – For the Record

Mayor Jacobs feels that at the April 16th meeting there was an orchestrated gang-up coup attempt on the Mayor that has seriously damaged the working relationship between herself and the Council. In her words, “The Council has done all this hard work for a year and the way the last Meeting and Closed Session played out was not good.”

For the record, she wants the public to be clear about the vote that was taken in respect to the RFQ for our Law Firm. 4 members of the Council were in favor and Mayor Jacobs was the opposing vote. The Mayor felt it was a flawed process that we did not execute in its entirety. In her words, “The Charter the Council has the ability to redirect the situation that involves a contract and the Council did not choose to do that. Everyone on the Council was not elected to walk away from that kind of situation.” She also thinks they need to revisit it during a Closed Session. She feels this is something that should not have been discussed in an open meeting and there is a need to expand the RFQ search and have a valid vetting of alternatives in a Closed Session.

Mayor Jacobs was also proposing in the meeting to form the Rock Hall Recovery Taskforce. Reaching out into the very sectors of our community for COVID-19 restriction being lifted. In that meeting, that proposal was voted out. Four members were in favor of not allowing the Mayor to form a Taskforce.

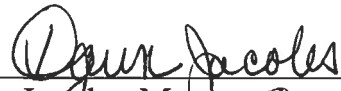
Mayor Jacobs said what was most concerning was a complete abandonment of consideration of Charter changes. In her words, "Our Charter needs to be looked at as there are many flaws in it. The current role as defined between that Mayor and Town Manager leave us working with one person reporting to five. So that means we now have five Councilmembers or five Mayors. The Chief Executive Officer is not defined in the Charter. The Mayor has one page in the Charter that says they preside over the meetings what needs to be addressed. The Administrative role of the Council is not in the Charter. What is in the Charter is that the Council is the Legislative chamber of our Government and there is a lengthy description of the responsibilities and duties of the Council. The Administrative arm of our Government is a combination of CEO and CAO. The Council hired a Town Manager which is the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) but that does not mean that is doesn't need to be addressed in the Charter that the Mayor just sits at this meeting and keeps track of the votes."

Going forward, Mayor Jacobs said she will be transferring work that she had been doing to the Town Manager. Work that includes grant research and coordination is one of the areas. Another area is resolution of the Kent County Edesville Water Agreement. There are things that she started when she was Acting Town Manager and for the sake of helping, she stayed involved. Other areas include transportation project leadership, review of meeting minutes and website leadership. Mayor Jacobs said that she is going to be much stricter about the practice on conducting these meetings and especially on motions that include authorizations for contract. She will be looking for not only approval of contract but who is specifically going to sign it. The Town Manager's signing authority only goes to \$1,000.00. The Mayor will also be looking to minimize consensus decisions in her review. She stated, "the Council has let two or three situations slide which should have had a vote on."

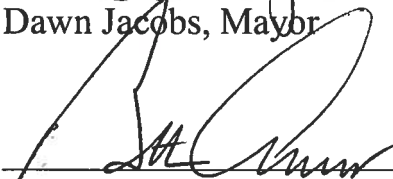
Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl M. Butler


Approved by:



Dawn Jacobs, Mayor



Beth Andrews, Vice Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Councilmember



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember