

TOWN OF MILLINGTON
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2019

Present: Council Wayne Starkey
Council Kevin Hemstock
Council Eli Manning
Council Michelle Holland

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: Kent County Sheriff Sgt Stuart Lodge, Gary McGinnis

Call meeting to order: Mayor Morales called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of allegiance was recited

Minutes of previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes for the September 10, 2019 meeting was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Hemstock, a vote of 4-0-1 was entered.

Kent County Sheriff's Report – Sgt. Stuart Lodge provided the monthly report for coverage in Millington. The month of September was a very quiet month with no criminal complaints, 32 speed assignments which resulted in 24 warnings and 11 citations issued. There were also 10 non-criminal calls for service. There was one reported heroin overdose. The Sheriff's Department provided coverage for Millington Day which was funded by the Town's special fund. The Sheriff's Department is anticipating coverage for Halloween.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed. A discussion ensued regarding rental inspections. Administrator Manning stated that in the past if the tenant was a family member the Town would accept the relationship without supporting document and waive the fee and inspection. This was done on a courtesy basis; it is not part of the Rental code. Council members agreed this waiver will no longer be available, all rentals will be inspected every two years as enforced by the Town Code.

Maryland Environmental Services Report: Reviewed.

Town Mangers Report: Reviewed.

Engineer's Report: none provided

New Business:

Resolution 2019-07 – Amended Critical Area Map - per a request by Critical Area Commission, a revised map was reviewed by Council, a motion to accept the map as presented was entered by Hemstock, a second by Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Resolution 2019-08 – Quaker Cemetery Property Donation to Town – the Council reviewed and approved a resolution to take possession of the Quaker Cemetery Property located on Cypress Street and to maintain it as a type of serenity garden; Administrator Manning will research funding availability for signage, tree plantings, and a walkway; a motion to accept the donation of the property was made by Hemstock, a second by Holland, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Public Comments:

Gary McGinnis shared his concern and disapproval of the lowering of the usage minimum from 4,000 gallons per month to 3,000 gallons per month for water and sewer plus the raising of the rates; as well as the new trash pickup fee of \$10.00 per quarter. He stated he feels he gets nothing from the Town as a property owner except streetlights. He also feels that even though taxes are paid to the County by each property owner, there is nothing provided by the County. McGinnis asked why the Town people had to pay County property taxes. McGinnis is in fear that the Town will “dry up”. He stated he feels a sewer line from Millington to Sudlersville is a bad idea, we should keep our own plant, and once we spend money on the new line, we are committed to Sudlersville. He felt we should find other energy sources besides solar and electric to operate our utility plants. McGinnis stressed his thoughts of Millington Day saying, “the Fire House sucks at Millington Day”. They need to do something more than a car show and cornhole contest.

Morales explained the Council reviewed a possible property tax rate versus a trash pick up fee. It was determined if we raised property taxes it would affect each property owner with an increase of approximately \$250 per year versus the trash pick up fee which is \$40 per year.

Hemstock explained the Towns are trying to work with the County to implement a tax differential policy for duplicate services charged in property tax rates. The County Commissioners need more pressure from the public to consider this option.

Hemstock explained that our plant is in need of an upgrade as well as removal from the flood zone, which causes taxpayers funds to be used for flood repairs instead of upgrades or normal repairs. The Town’s choice is to either construct a new plant or pump to Sudlersville. Morales explained that due to the new regulations for sewer plants, the Town cannot continue to just repair problems at the plant, it has to be upgraded.

Council comments:

Morales asked that something be said to Dollar General regarding the trash that blows from their property to other properties in Town.

Appreciation Dinner – Council would like to schedule a dinner between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Administrator Manning will work on this annual event.

Closed Session:

A motion to close the public portion of the meeting was entered by Hemstock at 6:45 PM to discuss personnel, a second by Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered. Hemstock discussed a request by Administrator Manning to upgrade from part-time with 20 hours a week to full-time with 40 hours a week to serve Millington. The Town would then hire a Clerk for approximately 16 hours per week. A motion to hire Administrator Manning as a full-time employee to the Town was entered by Hemstock, a second by Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered. A motion to close the closed session was entered by Hemstock at 7:07 PM, a second by Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

A motion to return to the public portion of the Council meeting was entered by Starkey, a second by Manning, a vote of 5-0 was entered. Mayor Morales stated the Closed Session was to discuss staffing and Town hours in the future. The public portion of the meeting resumed.

Correspondence:

An email from the County was shared asking for volunteers on various boards and committees.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM was entered by Council Hemstock, seconded by Council Manning, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator