

TOWN OF MILLINGTON
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2020

Present: Vice Mayor Kevin Hemstock
Council Wayne Starkey
Council Michelle Holland, arrived late
Council Eli Manning

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: virtual meeting held through conference call due to coronavirus pandemic and State mandates; in attendance via phone were Lauren Mench, Patricia McGee of the Kent County News, Wanda Akers, Steven McClead, Nevin Steffy, and three unidentified telephone numbers. Also, in attendance for legal counsel was David Wright, Attorney.

Call meeting to order: Vice Mayor Hemstock 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 8, 2020 meeting was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Kent County Sheriff's Report: Reviewed. Council discussed the ongoing problem with golf carts, gators, 4-wheelers. Town Admin Manning will contact the Sheriff's Department to reemphasize this concern.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed.

Rental Property Report. Reviewed.

Maryland Environmental Services Report: Not received by meeting time.

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed. Laptops received through the CARES grant received by Kent County were distributed to each Council member. It was agreed to eliminate the printing of meeting documents in the future as they will be emailed to each Council member and available for review during the meetings on the laptops.

Engineer's Report: none provided

Old Business:

Resolution 2020-12 – contracting Peter Johnston's services to Russ Richardson – a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-12 was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Manning, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Chapter 29 Animals – a request was made to resend a copy of the County's ordinance regarding animals for discussion at the next meeting.

Chickens & Other Animals – this is part of the Zoning Ordinance and is being reviewed by the Planning Commission for potential future amendment.

DNR Property – MOU Agreement – Council asked for clarification of the fee to be charged for the utility easement or the calculation to determine the fee; once this is clarified a discussion will be held regarding the execution of the agreement

Resolution 2020 – 11 – Road Names and Address Displays – A motion was made by Council Starkey, a second by Council Manning to open the public hearing for Resolution 2020-11; there was no public comments, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-11 was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Resolution 2020 – 09 – Sewer Ordinance amendment – A motion was made by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland to open the public hearing for Resolution 2020-09, to amend the sewer ordinance with clarification of responsibility for repair and repair costs; Council Starkey excused himself due to his employment with MDOT; there was no public comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland, a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-09 amending the Sewer Ordinance was entered by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 3-0-1 was entered.

Resolution 2020 – 08 – Water Ordinance amendment – A motion was made by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland to open the public hearing for Resolution 2020-08, to amend the water ordinance with clarification of responsibility for repair and repair costs; Council Starkey excused himself due to his employment with MDOT; there was no public comment, Council Manning stated the Towns' responsibility should be to the meter not the curb as in the sewer ordinance; a motion to close the public hearing was made by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland, a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-08 with change as stated by Council Manning was made by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 3-0-1 was entered.

New Business:

Halloween hours – Council agreed hours for trick or treating on Halloween will be from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM and participation is at the parent's discretion. Vice-Mayor Hemstock voiced his concern with the barricades along the road for the Urban Reconstruction Project which may cause a safety issue by blocking the sidewalks; Administrator Manning will contact MDOT and Bramble Construction to discuss this issue.

Ordinance 2020 – 14 – Planning Commission – an amendment was introduced to Chapter 9 of the Town's Code with regards to eligibility requirements to be a member of the Planning Commission. A public hearing will be scheduled for the November meeting.

Ordinance 2020 – 13 – Building Construction – an amendment was introduced to Article III Occupancy Permits of the Town's Code to correct a spelling error and to clarify protocol for rental inspections. A public hearing will be scheduled for the November meeting.

Council comments:

Vice Mayor Hemstock stressed his concern with sidewalk blockage along the bridge due to construction barriers from the Urban Reconstruction project. The work seems to be completed but the barriers are still in place.

Vice Mayor Hemstock asked about the signage located at the B B & T corner; it requires a pedestrian to walk out into the street, it needs to be moved to allow for the free flow of pedestrian traffic.

Council Starkey informed Council the Fire Company would be burning the house at 234 Sassafra Street, Saturday, October 17th.

Public Comments:

Lauren Mench asked about the Animal Ordinance and what changes were to be made. Vice Mayor Hemstock explained no decisions and research is on-going.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to review.

Closed Session:

With no further general business to discuss, a motion was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland to close the public portion of the meeting and enter a closed session to seek legal advice from Attorney David Wright with regards to the water agreement and on-going potential litigation between the Town and Kent County Commissioners; a vote of 4-0 was entered.

At 7:45 PM, a motion to close the Closed Session was entered by Council Holland, a second by Council Starkey, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to re-enter the public portion of the meeting was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was entered by Council Holland, seconded by Council Starkey, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator