

TOWN OF MILLINGTON
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2020

Present: Mayor CJ Morales
Council Wayne Starkey
Council Michelle Holland
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, Briana Potts, and Peter Bourne of KCI Technologies

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 October 13, 2020 meeting was entered by Council Manning; a second by Council Starkey, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to approve the minutes of the closed session meeting held on October 13, 2020 was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Manning, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Kent County Sheriff's Report: Reviewed.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed.

Rental Property Report. Reviewed.

Maryland Environmental Services Report: Reviewed

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed. A resident has approached the Town regarding the purchase of property owned by the Town at 418 Cypress Street; after a brief discussion it was agreed to contact resident to further discuss purchasing interest. A letter was received from National Wash Authority to secure last year's estimate to clean the water tower if contracted this year; after a brief discussion it was agreed to commit to National Wash Authority for the cleaning of the outside of the water tower in the upcoming year. A notice was received from Maryland Public Works regarding utility shut off; the State's mandate to waive this practice during COVID has expired; Maryland Public Works sent procedures to be followed.

Engineer's Report: The water system PER (preliminary engineering report) and ER (environmental report) have been accepted by USDA. Peter Bourne discussed the findings of these reports with Council. The options presented were: #1 point repair, #2 line existing system, #3 replacement of distribution system, and #4 reactive repair. Bourne recommended option #3, replacement of distribution system due to cost, operation and maintenance savings, and future expansion of our system due to Town growth. After discussion these options, a motion was entered by Council Manning, a second by Council Holland to move forward with Option #3. Administrator Manning will work with Bourne to secure funding and development of this project.

Old Business:

Resolution 2020-16 – to adopt Queen Anne’s County’s Animal Ordinance was introduced.

Resolution 2020 – 15 – to adopt Kent County’s Animal Ordinance was introduced.

Resolution 2020 – 14 - Ordinance to establish a Planning Commission amendment. Mayor Morales opened the meeting for public comment to amendments made to requirements to be a member of the Planning Commission for the Town of Millington. Lauren Mench asked if the amendments allowed someone that lived within 1-mile radius of the Town to be a member. Administrator Manning explained the amendment states a person must have a vested interest in the Town by either owning property in Town, living in Town, or owning a business located in Town. No other comments were entered, a motion to close the Public Hearing was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to adopt Resolution 2020 – 14 amending the ordinance to establish a Planning Commission was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 to adopt was entered.

Resolution 2020 – 13 – Ordinance to inspect rental properties amendment. Mayor Morales opened the meeting for public comment to amendments made to rental property inspections in the Building Construction ordinance. There were no comments entered. A motion to close the Public Hearing was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Manning, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to adopt Resolution 2020 – 13 amending the ordinance establishing a rental inspection procedure was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Holland, a vote of 4-0 to adopt was entered.

New Business:

Mayor Morales asked the Council’s opinion of maintaining a membership with Kent County Chamber of Commerce. Council requested a letter be sent to the Chamber requesting information of what is provided to the Town through this membership.

A letter was received from Social Action Committee for Racial Justice requesting the Town Council sign the White Allies Pledge. “This pledge acknowledges the role that white people have played in creating racial injustice in our country, it recognizes that we have the power to right these injustices and it provides tools that we can use to make this happen.” Administrator Manning read an email response from Council Hemstock in his absence, “I believe it is inappropriate for a municipality to adopt something of this nature since we would be pledging all white town residents without their input. There also could be a legal issue in adopting this item.” Mayor Morales feels this pledge is a very broad statement for the Town to take a stance on. Council Manning does not think there is a prejudice problem in Millington. Council agreed not to support nor sign this pledge.

Council comments:

Council Starkey asked if the Town would consider donation of plastic recyclables to Eastern Shore Junior Academy. He will provide more information at the Council’s next meeting.

Council Manning asked if during future development and annexations a sports area/arena be considered as there are no fields close for the area’s youth. Administrator Manning reminded everyone of the recent Zoning Ordinance amendment which added text regarding sports area/arenas to be built in the future. She will also forward this request to the Planning Commission for future discussion as properties are annexed into Town and development is discussed.

Public Comments:

Lauren Mench asked what procedures are in place to notify the public if a meeting is cancelled. A recent Planning Commission was cancelled due to the inability to form a quorum; there was no notice posted on the website or Facebook.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to review.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM was entered by Council Starkey, seconded by Council Manning, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator