

TOWN OF MILLINGTON
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Present: Mayor CJ Morales
Council Wayne Starkey
Council Kevin Hemstock

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: Kent County Sheriff Sgt Stuart Lodge, Gary McGinnis, Jackie Morris, Elizabeth Beckley, Freeman Evans, Herbert & Kathy Cottrell

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 8, 2019 meeting was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Hemstock, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Kent County Sheriff's Report – Sgt. Stuart Lodge provided the monthly report for coverage in Millington. The month of October was a quiet month with one criminal complaints, 33 speed assignments which resulted in 21 warnings and 7 citations issued. The SHA Urban Revitalization project seems to be hampering the Sheriff's Department's efforts for traffic enforcement. There were also 6 non-criminal calls for service. The Sheriff's Department provided coverage for Halloween which was funded by the Town's special fund.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed.

Maryland Environmental Services Report: Reviewed.

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed. Administrator Manning reported discussions with DNR representative regarding the approval of a utility easement through their property north of Town for water and sewer connections to the Coleman Farm. DNR is also in agreement to connect their property to the public systems at a time in the future that would be agreeable to both the Town and the State. They have asked the Town to provide a letter of intent to allow the connection not to occur for 8 – 10 years. After a brief discussion it was agreed to issue the letter of intent for connection to be made one year after the water and sewer mains are installed to the Coleman Farm, this puts the main to that point across Sassafras Road from the main house on the DNR property; the letter is also to state there will be a review at the end of 10 years from the date of the letter if not connected.

Mayor Morales shared his thoughts of the annual appreciation dinner to be held as a social hour at Two Tree Restaurant instead of at the Fire House due to facility not being available until after the first of the new year. It was agreed to hold this gathering at Two Tree Restaurant between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Jo Manning will contact Two Tree Restaurant to set up this event.

Council members discussed the Clerk's position. It was agreed to offer a position to Carolyn Bowers. Hours will be Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; with extra hours available if need for office coverage.

Engineer's Report: none provided

New Business:

Resolution 2019-07 – Amendment to Critical Area Map – Administrator Manning explained the resolution adopted at the October meeting does not meet Critical Area Commission's approval. They have requested a new resolution be adopted as well as additional information be presented prior to approval. She will work on this issue for a future meeting.

Resolution 2019-09 – Amended Budget FY 2019 – the Council reviewed and approved a resolution to amend the budget for FY 2019. A motion to approve resolution 2019-09 was entered by Starkey, a second by Hemstock, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Resolution 2019-10 – Annexation Agreement of Freeman Evans – the Council reviewed and introduced Resolution 2019-10 and the annexation agreement of the Freeman Evans farm, located north of the current Town limits. Mr. Evans explained the preliminary plans for development are for single family residences and town houses. Because the current zoning by the County in phase 1 of the project is "Village", the development of this section can occur sooner than the other phases.

Resolution 2019-11 – Building Construction Ordinance Amendment – the Council reviewed and approved a resolution to amend the Building Construction Ordinance, changes were made to the rental inspection procedures. A motion to approve resolution 2019-11 was entered by Hemstock, a second by Starkey, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Public Comments:

Gary McGinnis asked about the future of the Millington Elementary School property, will it be annexed? Morales explained that at this time the County has made no decision on this property, meetings are on-going as well as there are plans for future annexations but until the Evans annexation is complete nothing has been confirmed.

McGinnis stated he does not think the Town should consider vacating the existing sewer plant and sending its waste to the Town of Sudlersville. The Town should retain its own plants. Morales attempted to explain the various options being reviewed by the Town's engineering firm and that the Federal Government would like to eliminate discharge points not move or increase these locations.

Kathy Cottrell asked if she could video the meeting to allow her to post on Facebook for others to view. Mrs. Cottrell expressed her concern with Resolution 2013-02 which adopted the storm water structure in Mill Village and a fee that was to expire in five years. Why are they still paying this tax and why is there now a charge for trash pickup? Morales explained a new resolution was adopted in 2018 renewing the fee for an undetermined length of time, he further explained the importance of the storm water management area and the maintenance and upkeep of this area. Morales further explained during the budget hearing last fiscal year it was decided to charge a trash pickup fee of \$10/quarter instead of raising property taxes. He further explained a great deal of reviewing and research was completed prior to setting rates or adjusting rates.

Elizabeth Beckley asked if the Town had considered paving the parking area at Robvanary Park. She also asked that instead of building a soccer park at Robvanary Park, she would like to see a doggie park. Hemstock explained that due to the State funding that was used for the skateboard park, we cannot remove the skateboard park until 20 years after the initial funding. Starkey recommended consideration to put a doggie park on some of the QAC mitigation property instead of at Robvanary Park. A doggie park would need stands for disposal bags, a watering system, a large enough area for dogs to run, etc.

Gary McGinnis shared that he spoke with an engineer from SHA about drainage problems along Cypress Street. He was told the problems are due to slope issues and that SHA promised to put in berms to help with drainage.

Council comments:

Morales discussed what seems to be a blockage in the tax ditch near Dollar General. Administrator Manning is meeting with a representative of Soil Conservation in the near future to inspect the ditch, discuss options to repair, and discuss concerns with future construction's effects on the ditch.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to review.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM was entered by Council Hemstock, seconded by Council Starkey, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator