

Town of Millington

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

Presents: Mayor Kevin Hemstock
Council Michelle Holland
Council Zita Seals
Council Wayne Starkey

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: Lt. Scott Duhamel of Kent County Sheriff's Office and Melissa Ireland

Call Meeting to Order: Council Kevin Hemstock called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Minutes of previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023 meeting, was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Seals, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Susquehanna Operational Services Report: Reviewed

Kent County Sheriff's Report: Lt. Scott Duhamell reviewed the monthly report.

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed. Manning asked for Council approval to purchase reflective tape for fire hydrants with the color of the tape to coordinate with the water pressure; Council agreed.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed

Rental Property Report: Reviewed

Public Hearing: A motion was made to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing by Council Starkey and a second by Council Seals, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to open the public hearing was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Seals; a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Mayor Hemstock read into record Resolution 2023-13 Chapter 2 Ordinance Fines. There was no public comment. A motion to adopt was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Seals; a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Mayor Hemstock read into record Resolution 2023-14 Chapter 9 Planning Committee. There was no public comment. A motion to adopt was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Seals; a vote of 4-0 was entered.

A motion to close the public hearing was entered by Council Starkey and a second by Council Seals, a vote of 4-0 was entered. A motion to open the regular meeting was entered by Council Starkey and a second by Council Seals; a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Old Business: Admin Manning asked Council if they have any thoughts or comments regarding the Emergency Services Plan, she will continue to work on the plan. Admin Manning asked Council for ideas to support Economic Development- future incentives or partnerships. The Council discussed waiving business licenses fees, waiving trash collection fees, a possible property tax discount over a maximum of 3 years or as long as business remains open on the particular property of 1st year discount = 50%, 2nd year discount = 25% and 3rd year discount = 10%, staff to research business owner grants, and waiving the master sign plan fee. Council agreed these incentives would only be available in the TC zoning district.

Admin Manning asked Council for comments on Chapter 11- Recreation Committee. The Council discussed whether there is a need for such a committee. Consensus is there is not a need for a Recreation Committee; Council requested Manning discuss with Town's Attorney the cancellation of this ordinance.

New Business: Admin Manning asked Council if there were to be any changes to Chapter 18- Alcoholic Consumption, the ordinance will remain as written.

Admin Manning asked Council for comments of the revised Public Information Act Ordinance. Council Seals shared her thoughts regarding the acceptance of a flash drive from the requestor for security reasons, Council agreed with Seals' concerns. Admin Manning will research the price of the Town providing flash drives to requestors. Mayor Hemstock would like to see the Town Administrator as the "keeper of records". Admin Manning explained the Town has always considered the Town Clerk as the "keeper of records" and will review the Town Charter and State law to assure this change can be made without issues.

Public Comments: There was no comment.

Council Comments: Council Seals inquired into Town apparel, Clerk Starkey explained she had looked into pricing and found this to be expensive. Mayor Hemstock stated he would ask the Millington Lions Club who their vendor was and pricing.

Council Holland asked for a status of being allowed to piggyback on the County's health insurance, Clerk Starkey stated per Commissioner Price this cannot be done.

Mayor Hemstock shared his thought the Town should consider hosting a cultural festival in the future. One was held recently in Chestertown and seemed to be very successful.

Council Starkey asked how 172 Sassafras St project is going, Admin Manning stated, "we are at a standstill", we need two million dollars to install a new roof and fire suppression. Admin Manning explained we can request a loan from a local bank until grant money becomes available. She explained that with the roof leaking we are creating a bigger problem and increased expenses as we wait. Also, once we get this portion of the project completed, we could move some tenants into the building and begin collecting rent. A motion was made by Council Starkey to start looking for a loan, a second by Council Holland, a vote 4-0 was entered.

Correspondence: There was no comment.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was entered by Council Starkey, seconded by Council Seals, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Starkey, Town Clerk