

TOWN OF CECILTON
Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2020

The Mayor and Council held a Work and Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The following were in attendance:

Mike Cooper, Member

Danielle Zack, Member

Charles Ringgold, Member

Craig DeVary, Member

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND ACT:

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

Member Ringgold made a motion to accept the Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Zack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

January Final Financials and Account Balances:

January Final Financials and Account Balances were reviewed. Member DeVary motioned to accept the January Final Financials and Account Balances as presented. Member Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brenda Ross: Brenda Ross thanked the Mayor and Council for giving her the opportunity to serve the Town of Cecilton as the member of the Board of Election Supervisors since 2001 and as a chairperson since 2008. She expressed her resignation of this position effective February 12th, due to her new job in the Cecil County Election Office.

Dianne Racine Heath, Cecil County Board Candidate: Mrs. Heath introduced herself and her candidacy for the Cecil County Board of Education. Mrs. Heath expressed that one other person is running against her. They will not be on the election ballot until November.

Bill Tidaback, Advanced Solar: Mr. Tidaback indicated that he wanted to stop in and start a conversation with the Town concerning electrical use. He asked if the Town has done any research about reducing our electrical cost. Administrator Cooper replied that also in attendance was a gentleman (Mr. Joe Tabelaing from CQI) that we contract annually to try and find the best rates. Mr. Tidaback expressed that he had a client interested in investing in solar. He understands that our annual electrical cost is running about \$75,000. He asked if that was an accurate number. Confirmation was not able to be made, due to Treasurer Roland was out on leave. Mr. Tabelaing indicated that he would look at his figures.

Mr. Tidaback continue by saying he has a local client with a farm that is looking at investing in solar power and selling the power. Basically the Town could go 100% green and not cost anything. He feels that whatever we are paying for the power now, could be bought under that price from the solar power system. Attorney Yeager asked if the solar system has already been built on the farm. The answer was no. Mr. Tabelaing, from CQI, indicated that the town is using 447,000 kilowatts which is roughly \$26,000 a year on the supply side, not including the distribution side. If you figure that is 70% is the supply side and the distribution side is 30% more. The investor is leaving the farm to her children. They are not interested in farming, but want to keep the farm. So they are interested in doing a utility scale solar system and selling the power. However, you can't just dump it on the grid. You have to sell it specifically to people. It is called an aggregated system. He has done one of those systems before for Artisan Water on the Route 1 tollgate. Basically the town would have a meter that would be dedicated to the town. The power being generated from the solar system would be used as 100% credit against the town services. Another way would be to do it on our property. The investor would want it done on her property. Mayor Zang inquired about how many acres it required. Mr. Tidaback answered that to generate 100%, probably 4 or 5 acres. It can't be built until they have someone to purchase the power. You can fix a price in your agreement. If the demand from the town would increase, then the owner would have first right of refusal to either add more to the facility or not provide the energy. Administrator Cooper asked what would prevent her from going to him, applying for a grant and building our own solar system to generate our own energy. She would like to talk to him again at another time to gather more information. She also indicated that today, the Town has to make a determination to sign a contract with CQI for the next year, so we are not in a position to explore and make a decision on this now. Attorney Yeager, summed up that the building of the system will not occur without having buyers for the energy. Admin Cooper reiterated that she would like to discuss that possibilities of the Town having their own system at a later time.

Cecilton Activity Report: Regarding last month's report, the gunfire report, was not actually gunfire. Someone had dropped something off a second story balcony. Question pertaining to this was report, was there was a traffic and domestic report in one incident. Administrator Cooper commented that there was an incidents with some younger people in town. She asked the Mayor and Council as the weather gets warmer, to make themselves more visible outdoors in the community. These are kids that Administrator Cooper is trying to engage and let them know there is a presence. Deputy Walmsley reiterated if there is a problem then call the Sheriff's Department.

Ernie Beck, resident, questioned on how the contract/schedule work with coverage in town. Mayor Zang expressed that off duty deputies fill out a schedule of 2 – 4 hour shifts and it is not a fixed specific time. The non-fixed time has been beneficial, so that it is not predictable. Concern that the traffic is bad where Ariel meets Center Street. People go through stop signs and race over speed bumps. Other than one particular officer they do not see a presence in Frisbys Meadows. Mayor Zang also commented that once the 301 bypass opened up, the town had more traffic, and people know they can bypass the traffic light by going that community. Beck would like to request to have some coverage in Frisbys Meadows.

WWTP and Water Supply Report: Operator John Neddo was not present and a written report was not provided. Mayor Zang shared the Department of the Environment paperwork.

OLD BUSINESS:

CQI Electric Supply Rates: Mr. Joe Tabelaing, CQI, thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to meet with them again to discuss electric rates. He also indicated that he and his company loves solar and they take a look at it. They are presenting working with several municipalities in analyzing their usage, solutions, education, and

guidance with solar. They could provide us with education and guidance if needed. One of the things he did want to point out is that we would never get off the grid, no matter how big of a system we would set up. It would be between 80 – 85% efficient, so 15% would be coming from Delmarva Power. The biggest challenge that most municipalities run into is not the timeline of getting the permits and getting it installed, but then getting Delmarva Power to flip the switch. That takes several months. CQI would be more than happy to help us with that if that is direction the Town would want to go. Mr. Tabeling continued to explain that last month he was present for the Mayor and Council with pricing for our electric supply, but there were not enough members of the council present to vote. The rates for the 12/24 month went up slightly. We are presently under a 30 month contract that started December 2017 and ends in May 2020. The contract is with Constellation Energy. We are presently paying .05733 cents per kilowatt. Our annual usage is 441,096, which is a cost of \$25,288 on the supply end. Distribution is regulated and nothing can be done about the price. There has been another increase from 3.5 to 3.8 per kilowatt on the distribution end. When paying with Delmarva Power you are paying a variable rate. It varies season to season, month to month, and due to any unforeseen circumstances. When dealing with a third party supplier, you are dealing with a fixed rate. When you compare a third party rate to a variable rate, you have to look at the weighted average. That is taking a look at the high summer, the low winter, added together and divided by 12. Presently the current weighted average for Delmarva Power is .07490. The same weighted average that was presented last month. It is going to remain the same until probably September. Under our present contract the Town is saving \$7,750 a year. Tabeling continued to review the prices available and factors. The winning supplier right now is Constellation (our current supplier) with a 36 month agreement at 568, which is less than what the Town is paying now. By going with Constellation, our savings will now increase from 7750 to 7962/year for the next 3 years. The recommendation is to go with Constellation. There is no minimum or maximum usage. Member Zack made a motion to accept Constellation New Energy Inc. Electric Supply Agreement –Fixed Price Solutions for 36 months. Member DeVary seconded the motion. Motion accepted. Agreement was signed by Mayor Zang.

Public Safety Initiative: Administrator Cooper reviewed the consideration for a Public Safety Initiative. She had reached out to other municipalities in Cecil County. There are some that offer incentives and others do not. Based on the information received and what would be enticing for people to volunteer, she would like come up with her own proposal. She would like it to set a standard within the county, so that it is know that Cecilton cares about its volunteers and we want to encourage them to do it. Cooper would like to present the proposal at the next meeting. She would like to make this incentive available for fire company volunteers, law enforcement, and try to include Warwick volunteers also.

Public Comments: None

Good of the Order:

Reviewed thank you note from CCEA.

MD5 Challenger Division Letter was discussed. Consensus was to donate what was donated last year.

Thank you note for donation in memory of former staff member Jay Paxson's grandfather, William Blittersdorf. Acknowledgement of our new resident, Member Charlie Ringgold's baby daughter.

Administrator Cooper updated that on the Faith in Action looking for a storage place. At this time, they have not found anything.



Joseph A. Zang, III
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn