

TOWN OF CECILTON

**Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2020**

The Mayor and Council held a Work and Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, March 30, 2020. The following were in attendance:

Joseph A. Zang, III, Mayor

Mike Cooper, Member

Danielle Zack, Member

Charles Ringgold, Member

Craig DeVary, Member

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND ACT:

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

Member Cooper made a motion to accept the Monday, March 30, 2020 Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member DeVary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

February Final Financials and Account Balances:

February Final Financials and Account Balances were reviewed. Member Ringgold motioned to accept the February Final Financials and Account Balances as presented. Member Zack seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introducing Emergency Ordinance –Election Delay: Attorney Yeager indicated that originally there was going to be an Emergency Ordinance, but after guidance from the Governor’s office after the latest executive disorder, a Charter Amendment Resolution will be introduced. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2020-01 was presented. This resolution was for the purpose of amending the charter for the Town of Cecilton to provide the postponement of a Town Election. This amendment would allow town elections to be postponed due to a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency. Attorney Yeager then went on to explain that once the Charter Amendment Resolution is passed, then the Mayor and Council would then consider the resolution to change this year’s election and only this year’s from the first Monday in May to the first Monday in July. He also indicated that if the election is moved then the pre-election deadlines are also moved. Therefore, if the election is pushed back two months the deadline for candidacy registration and voter registration is also pushed back two months. The Mayor and Council would only be changing this election. Mayor Zang indicated that the election would then be moved from May 4th to July 6th. Should we still be in a state of emergency closer to this new date and the Town has passed the charter amendment, Mayor and Council would have the ability to pass another resolution to change the date again if so wished or needed. Mayor Zang asked if there were any questions and if all the members understood the charter. A question was presented from online audience, on what determines the date of the election. Mayor Zang answered that the Town’s charter determines the date of

because of COVID-19. Yeager reiterated that the resolution changes the date from the first Monday in May to the first Monday in July. Yeager read the changes that would occur in Section 609 and 610 of the charter. Further comment was made by audience that the new election date could coincide with many residents' vacation. In this case, absentee ballots would be available. Any qualified voter can vote by absentee ballot. Mayor Zang indicated the absentee ballots will be advertised more prominently. Administrator Cooper also commented that the election will need to be more heavily advertised since most people are used to it being in May. Motion made by Member Zack to accept Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2020-01. Member DeVary seconded the motion. Charter Amendment Resolution No 2020-01, A Resolution of the Town of Cecilton, Maryland for Purposes of Amending the Charter of the Town of Cecilton to provide for the Postponement of a Town Election was signed and passed.

Mayor Zang then reviewed Resolution 2020-03-30, A Resolution of the Town of Cecilton, Maryland for Purposed of Postponing the May 2020 Town Election. This resolution allows the changing of the date from Monday, May 4, 2020 to Monday, July 6, 2020. Member Zack made a motion to accept the Resolution 2020-03-30. Member Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried. Resolution 2020-03-30, A resolution of the Town of Cecilton, Maryland for Purposes of Postponing the May 202 Town Election was accepted and signed. The last step is to notify the governor. Attorney Yeager had a drafted a letter to the governor with the information. Yeager also indicated that other municipalities that have upcoming elections are also looking to postpone them.

Cecilton Activity Report: Deputy AJ Walmsley was present. Deputy Walmsley reviewed the report with Mayor and Council. He indicated that Monday and Tuesday from 9 -12 pm tends to be the busiest times for calls for service. Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday are secondary busiest days. The month of February, they had 11 calls for service in the Town of Cecilton. Moving forward due to protocols set by the Sheriff's Office and the State, the Sheriff's office and the Town have come up with a more directly line of communication for assistance here. That will be implemented April 1st. The Deputy will contact a Town Hall designee when they are on duty and when they go off, so that any pertinent information can be relayed. The designee will also receive a copy of the schedule. Over the last year, they have had two hour radar details, they are no more until further notice. Walmsley adjusted the schedule for April broken up in 4 hour blocks. Time vary between each day. Mayor Zang expressed that we understand the changes due to current circumstances and thanked the deputies for their service.

WWTP and Water Supply Report: Nothing out of the ordinary. Working closely with our operator to keep everything normal.

Questions came in via comment concerning Cecilton Activity Report. What about the speed through town? That was brought to Administrator Cooper's attention. When the officers report in, that is something that she would communicate with them to be mindful of. The complaint came from Main Street and the Parklands throughway. Member DeVary noticed that there is the same traffic speeding through Parklands and to the speed bump area in Frisbys. Cooper asked if there has been any improvement. The last few shifts have been diligent in patrolling that area specifically. DeVary noted it was the same vehicles but does not know specific times. Weekends are sporadic. The concern is that due to the state of emergency, people are speeding through town. Due to the state of emergency radar patrols have been removed. Mayor Zang stressed that if a resident sees someone speeding to call the Sheriff's Department. Another comment was made during the live feed that speeding was happening at that moment at the Frisbys speed bump and could be seen by that resident's camera. Everyone can report that issue to the Sheriff's Department. We are currently at the mercy of the Governor's declaration. The witness to the incident needs to be the one that calls. Another comment was concerning 18

wheelers flying down Main Street. Member Ringgold commented that again the witness needs to call it in. Next question was, "How often is there a deputy on the southern side of the canal?" We would have to call the Sheriff's Department. The Town pays to have additional service. The times are not announced because we do not want people to know when they are going to be here. However, they are at the southern end of the county more because the Town of Cecilton pays for that service. That allows them to get to places in Earleville and Warwick much faster if need. With the agreement with the Sheriff's Deptment, if they have an emergency they are allowed to leave this jurisdiction to take care of it. That is a plus for the area.

Water Tank Condition Assessment Report: This report is done every two years. This one is from December 2019. Interior, exterior and logo condition was reported. Next year we are slated for sandblasting and painting of the tower. This is an ongoing agreement ever since the day the tower went into use. Have noted items that will be addressed the next time they come out to do the painting. The color has been picked out. The tank is in good condition.

Another comment came in regarding speeding. Mayor Zang reiterated that the more calls that the Sheriff's Dept. call in the ore they will pay attention to it. The Town Council and Staff cannot be the only ones calling. Residents need to report also. Mayor Zang feels that the Sheriff's Dept has been attentive.

Another resident commented, that it seemed like this time last year there was more of a presence from the Sheriff's office. Wondering if what the town is paying for is actually happening. Mayor Zang remarked that as far as we are concerned it is happening. We have the records provided that shows the number of hours and what the hours equate to. As mentioned earlier, we have changed the way to communicate with the Sheriff's Dept. and them to us to be able to communicate about the problem areas quicker. Member DeVary commented that having that direct contact of when they are here will enable us to let them know where issues have been occurring and where to use their presenence.

COVID-19 Community Preparedness: Administrator Cooper and Mayor Zang on March 16th went to the Emergency Operations Center for a CDC update at that time along with the Emergency Operations Center of Cecil County and County Executive. Things have changed in the short period of time and another update is coming on April 2nd via telephone with the County Executive and all the mayors in the county in bringing them update and letting them know of any information if needed to inform their citizens. The health department will probably give an update on the number of cases and where they are. Mayor Zang reminded the use of social distancing and everyone doing their part, so that we can get rid of this virus and getting back to living our lives.

Comment: "A resident from the apartments told me that her car was broken into the other night. She called the Sheriff and they told her they would not come out because of COVID-19. I am just relaying what she told me." Mayor Zang replied that we can reach out to the Sheriff's Dept. to see what they are and are not working on based on the comment. The only thing that he is aware is that they are not doing is running radar. He continued in saying to continue to reach out to the Sheriff's Dept for they are our best line of defense.

Administrator Cooper commented that a lot of the comment during this live meeting were directed towards the Sheriff's Dept and maybe there could be the possibility of having a live meeting with Sheriff Adams or Deputy George Stanco where citizens could share their concerns.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Comments:

None (Comments were given throughout the meeting via comments on Facebook during live feed.)

Good of the Order:

Annual Easter Egg Hunt for March 29, 2020 has been cancelled. Cecilton Fire Company and the Town have come up with an alternative. There will be 30 paper eggs displayed throughout Cecilton. They are displayed in such a way that they do not require any interaction. There is an activity sheet to write in where you find the eggs. Participants are encouraged to continue using social distancing, do not do it in large groups and be mindful of traffic. Mr. Mike Scheeler made a donation for candy, so there will be a treat for this. Participants leave their activity sheet in the town hall night drop and then the Easter Bunny will leave a treat bag on their door step or stoop. Easter Bunny will not be interacting with the kids. Egg Hunt starts Tuesday the 31st and goes through April 8th.

Comment: With us being shut down, can I still run/walk around town?

Attorney Yeager commented that walking and running is definitely something you can do, but not in groups. Administrator Cooper said that the park is open but you are discouraged to use the playground and exercise equipment.

Admin. Cooper mentioned that at the last meeting she would like to see the council members out and about on foot. She spends a lot of time walking around the town. It is important for people in the town to see everyone out about where they can express questions and concerns, but also so that for the young people on the streets and for us to engage them as well. Member Zack has been walking to get her mail and walking to the elementary school and time in the park. Cooper would ask at this time to get out and about and engaging our young people (with social distancing).

Attorney Yeager added that a summary of the charter amendment has to be published in the paper. He will work with Admin Cooper to draft something that can be published.



Joseph A. Zang, III
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn