

TOWN OF CECILTON

**Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2021**

The Mayor and Council held a Work and Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, April 19, 2021. The following were in attendance:

Joseph A. Zang, III, Mayor

Mike Cooper, Member

Charles Ringgold, Member

Craig DeVary, Member

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND ACT:

Election Judge Candidate: Candidate Adrian Bradley took Oath of Office for Election Judge.

March 15, 2021 Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

Member DeVary motioned to accept the Monday, March 15, 2021 Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

February Final Financials:

February Final Financials and Account Balances were reviewed. Member Cooper motioned to accept the February Final Financials and Account Balances as written. Member DeVary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

WTTP and Water Supply Report: George and Jordan Smith were present for report. A lot of flow had to be dealt with this month due to the rain water. The reed beds are not draining and filled to the top. They pulled out the six inch clean out cap and it was dry as a bone. They may try excavating the inside and outside limb. It is not getting to the filter. One pump went bad in the waste water plant. They are waiting to get a quote to repair it and one for a new one. Next month they will flush the hydrants with Maryland Rural Water and schedule with them later on to do smoke testing on the collection system.

Cecilton Activity Report: Deputy Walmsley was not present for questions. Mayor and Council reviewed report. Administrator Cooper expressed that the report is for the month before and we do not know what the specific information about the calls on the report. The reports usually come in the day of the meeting. Attorney Tom Yeager suggested that the reports be sent to town staff a few days before the meeting, so to give council time to review and ask questions. Administrator Cooper agreed, but does not know how soon the Sheriff's Department

puts the data together. Mayor Zang also suggested that if the council comes up with questions, they can always be emailed to Deputy Walmsley.

Annual Budget: Annual Budget for 2022 was presented to Mayor and Council for review. Mayor Zang asked if we had received any information from the state. Admin Cooper stated that we have had people connecting and asking us to consider giving them money. They say that we have been informed that we have received the money. The town has not be received formal notification of what we are receiving, let alone receive it. Mayor Zang indicated that according to the state we are supposed to get it, don't know when. It will be almost \$559,000. Is what is earmarked for Cecilton in the American Recovery Act. So that people are aware, there will be stipulations with the money. There are things that will have to be researched on how we can use it. People aren't understanding that we are not going to just be able to write out checks for donations. We are waiting for better information. Administrator Cooper also indicated that many people do not know that we (town staff) were essential employees and during the entire COVID experience we managed water and sewer utilities. Our guys worked overtime because more people were home and not working so our facilities were in overdrive. Some of the things in our facilities broke and need repair. There are some thing that the town is going to need the funds for. Once she has received formal information, she will share.

This is a review of the budget and it will be voted in May or the latest the middle of June. It has to be voted on and passed before county taxes go out. There were not questions at the time about the budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Comments:

Sue Katzmire questioned the set up for the Earth Day activity. All supplies and snacks will be in Town Hall and it will remain open during the cleanup. Town Staff will be there. People will be organized and sent in different directions. The maintenance guys will have the town truck to collect the bags of trash and take it back to the shop. Mr. Katzmire, works for Delaware Refinery and through him, they have donated supplies for the third time (two cemetery cleanups and this year's Earth Day Cleanup). They donated gloves, safety glasses, trash bags, and bottled water. Everyone participating will meet at Town Hall at 10, get organized, and start picking up trash. This is a community activity. Mrs. Katzmire indicated she would print up maps of the town to divide up the sections. Mrs. Katzmire had organized the Earth Day trash cleanup.

Attorney Yeager indicated that a couple years ago the state of Maryland passed a new requirement for charter amendments. If the town does a charter amendment, they have to give 3 weeks' notice of a public hearing. He continued to say that he did get a slot to go to the in person MML conference this year. He usually attends since he is a past president of the Municipal Attorney Association. In the past the towns that he represents have split the cost (1/5) of his attendance. He is requesting that the town contribute 1/5 of the cost for him to attend. (This is something that we did before.)

Town Election is May 3rd. Two council seats are up with 3 candidates and the mayoral seat is up with one candidate running unopposed. Councilmember Mike Cooper is running for the mayor seat and he is running unopposed. Sue Katzmire, Jeffrey West, and Jennie Brockell are running for the two council seats. Council Member Mike Cooper thanked Mayor Zang for all the work he has done.

Bob Meffley, Cecil County Council President, was present for comments. He said internally the county offices are moving around. The budget is going well. The biggest concern is the cutting of the library funds. Mayor Zang interjected that there is a new library (in the county) that is understaffed. Meffley continued in saying that we are the only county in the state of Maryland that has not superseded the library funding from last year. We declined it. It was part of the budget cuts that the new administration proposed. They are taking the bond for the library and charge it every year of what that bond costs us as your allotment for the library. He and others are fighting that with the new financial director in the county. The new library opens up, there is a walk through for County Council Members on Tuesday. It will be open up to the public on the 23rd or 24th (April). He wants people to know that there are parts of the library that will not be opened due to not enough money to hire staff. Mayor expressed in a perfect world, people should email the county executive wanting to know why that is the case. Meffley stated that he has had a lot of emails and there is a lot of people with this movement. He feels the pressure of the public will be enough to get it flat funded. Discussion continued about the importance of libraries to people. Part of the administration wants to cut out local libraries. Some feel it is a waste of tax payers' money. Administrator Cooper expressed that they need to see how a library works in a tiny little town like this and what is needed for. If he can get the funding fixed, he can proceed to get some money down here and Chesapeake City. Hopefully with grants, Chesapeake City's library will move from 213 to the old school building. It will be a community center for the Chesapeake City. They have been working with Frank Hodgetts on this project. The main thing that he is asking to send emails concerning the library to keep it intact. Administrator Cooper said she would write a letter of the importance of the library to this town.

It was mentioned that this is the last meeting for Mayor Zang and Councilmember Charles Ringgold. Attorney Yeager thanked them both for their service.

Councilmember Ringgold asked about the progress on the new school. Making progress daily. All the siding is on and the last window is installed. They are working pretty steadily on the interior. Admin Cooper spoke to Chris Brant, who manages the project for Willow Construction, he said that staff should be able to get in there by the end of May. It will be ready for students in the fall. There may be about 3 spots left with the senior housing. They are high quality apartments. It met a need for community development.

Good of the Order:

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn

Joseph A. Zang, III
Mayor

