

TOWN OF CECILTON
Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2021

The Mayor and Council held a Work and Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, August 23, 2021. The following were in attendance:

Michael Cooper, Mayor

Jeffrey West, Member

Sue Katzmire, Member

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND ACT:

July 19, 2021 Mayor and Council Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

Member Katzmire motioned to accept the Monday, July 19, 2021 Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

July Final Financials:

July Final Financials and Account Balances were reviewed. Member West motioned to accept the July Final Financials and Account Balances as written. Member Katzmire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cecilton Activity Report: Deputy Walmsley was present to review the activity report. Member Katzmire asked what the "hours scheduled not covered" means. Those are the hours that weren't filled. Mayor Cooper mentioned that he noticed that the Sheriff's Department has been running a lot of radar by the cemetery. He asked if there are more issues there. It is no different than anywhere else in town. Next month there will be a little bit more of a presence around the school. Rocklyn Benson, resident, commented how traffic comes in flying. She also asked how the crime is in Cecilton. It is the usual of responding when someone calls and the alarms. Mayor Cooper expressed that it has actually went down over the years. Having the presence of the deputies here has helped. There were no further questions concerning the report. Administrator Cooper emphasized that it is important to stay diligent. When you see things call the police. Our community just like any other community, it is not immuned to society, so things will happen. When you see things happen it is important to call and it helps the police to know what is happening. Admin Cooper communicates with the deputies what problems may be occurring at the time. Mayor Cooper expressed that it is good seeing them around and not in just one place.

WTTP and Water Supply Report: Jordan Smith was present to review report. The system was pretty tight. There was nothing major done just routine maintenance and couple small repairs. Once the COVID Rescue Funds come in then some of the major improvements can be tackled. He also discussed having a five year plan for improvements, so they can be budgeted over the years. Smith reviewed previous repairs on the pumps. When

money comes in he would like to get the water plant backwash blower installed. There is one blower, one pump, and the reed beds to fix. They will try to save as many of the reeds as possible when doing repairs, which will save a lot of money. No questions were asked about the report.

Administrator Cooper touched upon the emergency funding. The Town did receive some funding last Friday. In preparation for receiving it, Cooper and Treasurer Roland sat through a brief training that was offered through the Maryland Municipal League. They are going to also sit through a training that is more extensive. She will be forwarding Chief Jason Reamy's funding request to the Mayor and Council for them to review and consider. The funds do have to be spent in a certain manner. It is also important to take in consideration for what needs to be spent to keep our operations running. Member Katzmire asked if the training is something that the council members could view, so they could get the idea of how the money is to be spent. The first training was offered to Roland and Cooper asked if she could participate. The next one if it is offered for council members, Cooper would love to have anyone available to participate.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Public Comments:

Barbara Winn, resident in Cecilton Senior Village, had a concern about her cell service. She has T-Mobile service and her phone has been out for a week. She has been told that there were problems getting to the tower to make adjustments. The tower is the one located in the Cecil County yard. Winn said they told her they need permission, she thought from Cecilton. Mayor Cooper clarified that they need permission from Cecil County to enter the property. Her connection has been terrible and she has had quite a few people tell her they are having the same problem. Mayor Cooper stated that we cannot do anything with it because it is the county.

Administrator Cooper said it would be through her provider. She has talked to them several times. Mayor Cooper suggested there should be a 1-800 number and tell them you are being billed for a service she is not getting. Admin Cooper said that if she would choose to change providers to AT&T or Verizon, she will have better service. Administrator Cooper stated that we could not assist to fix, but if she wanted to come in and call from Town Hall and have someone in the office can sit in on the call as a second pair of ears.

Hester Wise, resident, asked about the bricks from the old school and behind the shop. Wise went back there and saw them. Some are broken.

Ranae Henry, resident, asked when the open house for the new school would be. Wise replied that the dedication would be September 24th. She thinks the time is 1pm, but will have to confirm. There is going to be a luncheon. Henry asked if that is when everything will be on the wall. Wise replied that nothing has been done with the wall. There is a company that is coming out to see what they can do with the wall. Wise continued to say what do you want on the wall, it is only so big? Rocklyn Benson, resident, commented that they won't be able to get the mural on the wall. She would like to have pictures of the principal and the teachers there. There was continued discussion concerning the size of the plaque and the wall. Discussion continued on what was wanted on the wall. Some were saying pictures. There was a discussion of a mural and who would pay for a mural. There is \$5000 left for the Levi J Coppin Memorial wall. Those present would like to ask Frank Hodgetts, Home Partnership, about how the money could be used. Discussion continued on what the \$5000 is supposed to be used for. Administrator Cooper was under the understanding that it was to be used to memorialize the old school. Wise suggested getting Hodgetts on the phone to get clarification. Hodgetts was contacted by phone. The question was asked on whether the \$5000 left from after all the AECOM invoices was

left for the memorial wall. Hodgetts began discussing figures related to the AECOM account. The AECOM invoices should have tapped out at about 78,000. Cooper corrected him in saying she was talking about the Memorandum of Understanding. He replied that per the email he sent, that was correct. Chris Rogers agreed to cap his fees at about 78,000, so in the CBDG account, you have the AECOM and he think it was \$16,000 which would leave 4. Cooper said it was just shy of 15,000 according to Cooper and Roland's math today. So that would leave a little more than 5,000. Hodgetts replied with okay, very good. So that 5,000 is what can be put towards the memorial wall and any other stuff related to the development of the Levi Coppin memorial that you would like to use it towards. So tomorrow Roland and Cooper will go through the invoices. As of right now, they think that it comes to \$ 14,969.30, which would leave us a little over 5 grand. Hodgetts thought that sounded about right. He remembers that/ he thought, he had never saw the final executed agreement with AECOM for the historical part but in his mind he was thinking 15 all along including soft costs estimated. He thinks we are very close to what she was saying. Cooper asked Hodgetts when we could meet collectively all of us to discuss how the 5000 can be spent so that the memorial appears as it should or what we are visualizing. Hodgetts replied that he had sent a copy of the approved plaque. Cooper shared that proof at the last meeting. However, it would not cost 5 grand. He sent it to a foundry to get an estimate. He does not know what it would cost, but once he receives the estimate he was going to come back to Cooper. He actually sent it to 2 foundries. Cooper asked about what the plaque measurements were. Hodgetts did not have that on hand. He was thinking it was probably was what AECOM sent to him. Discussion of the size continued and suggestion of looking at the wall and what size would be wanted. Cooper asked what they (foundries) are getting a price on if they do not know the size. Hodgetts said they were getting the cost of putting into a set type print. Looking at the cost to produce something like that. He referred to a copy of what sent to them. It has be less than a week that he sent it to the foundry. Cooper stressed that it is important that we (town and the committee) have as much feedback as possible as what should the wall look like, what should appear on it, and how to best memorialize Levi Coppin and the school. He replied that that was accurate and his thought was to at least get this part started as there is still the whole programming piece that Chris Benzig and his group are responsible for as well as the public interpretation part. The public interpretation piece, he saw was the display and AECOM was responsible for along with getting the testimonies. So there would the public display, the testimonies, and the third piece which Chris Benzig and the MRDC staff have already come up with. Hodgetts continued to say that he has gone only as far finding a foundry that could make a plaque. If Cooper wishes him to stop, Cooper indicated she did not wish him stop. Moving forward, she wants everyone involved in the conversation and everyone to have an idea to what our expectations are collectively. Hodgetts agreed. He is willing to circle back to Cooper to let her know what he found out from the foundries and either set up another meeting or start to get some input about what they would like the wall to look like. So far, what he has done was have the wall built into the Early Childhood Learning Center as per the direction of the CDBG. That was the direction they were told they had to go. They had to incorporate the structure into the entire building itself. The memorial wall had to be an integral part of the construction scope of work. He also put in the capability to have some lights put in that would shine on the wall. That is as far as we are right now. Cooper asked if the wall will be completed by the dedication. Hodgetts replied no and continued to say that the ribbon cutting could be put off until the wall is finished. Cooper commented then that needs to be discussed further. The second question was, will we be able to schedule a meeting with you tonight so that those present could put that on their calendar. Hodgetts replied with yes. Hodgetts clarified that the September 24th date was to be a ribbon cutting for the school and not a dedication of the wall. Ranae Henry expressed that the Levi J Coppin committee should have some input for when the dedication should be, so they can invite several people and all partake in that. Hodgetts agreed and said that they were two separate things (ribbon cutting and wall dedication) in his mind given the time that it would take to get things ready for the dedication. The dedication and ribbon cutting are different. The ribbon

cutting was for the occupancy and the construction of the learning center and the apartments. If people would like the dedication at the same time, it can be done. Continued discussion of whether the ribbon cutting and dedication should be the same date. Henry expressed how she wants the dedication to be special and be able to invite people out of town. Benson expressed that if they did them both together then more people would be in attendance. Mayor Cooper suggested that the ribbon cutting should be held off until late fall and there should be a couple meetings with folks to discuss what should be on the wall. That discussion should happen sooner than later. He also agreed that the ribbon cutting and dedication should be one event that way more people will attend. After discussion, it was agreed to have a meeting on Thursday, September 9th at 6:30pm at the school. Hodgetts reiterated that to no longer do the ribbon cutting on the 24th and work to have the combined event of the ribbon cutting and wall dedication. Administrator Cooper added that in the email there were measurements of 36 x 24 and asked if it would be possible to get a print out so it could be physically taped to the brick wall and get a visual of the size and how it would appear on the wall? Hodgetts replied absolutely. Administrator Cooper thanked Wise for calling Hodgetts to answer questions. Cooper provided a copy of plaque proposed. Henry will put the date for the meeting on their church site to get the word out for those who want to attend.

Good of the Order:

Thank you note from the Schelts family was read. Admin Cooper asked if the town would want to make a \$100 donation to the family. Member West motioned to make a donation of \$100. Member Katzmire seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Member Katzmire said that she would like to plan another town cleanup for the week after Halloween. Resident Susan Huff has said she would help organize it. Admin Cooper asked Member Katzmire to pick a time and let her know so we can advertise. Member West asked for it to be midday.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn



Michael Cooper
Mayor