

TOWN OF CECILTON
Mayor and Council Regular Session Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2023

The Mayor and Council held a Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, May 15, 2023. The following were in attendance:

Michael Cooper, Mayor

Jennie Brockell, Member

Danielle Zack, Member

Sue Katzmire, Member

Introductions were made.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 BUDGET

Member Zack motioned to move to a Public Hearing to go over the 2024 Budget. Member Katzmire seconded the motion. The budget had been reviewed and the hearing advertised. There were no public questions or comments. Member Brockell motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing. Member Zack seconded the motion. Public Hearing was adjourned.

REVIEW AND ACT:

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget: Member Katzmire made a motion to pass the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget as written. Member Zack seconded the motion. Motion passed to accept Town of Cecilton Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

April 17, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

Member Zack motioned to accept the April 17, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Katzmire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

WWTP and Water Supply Report: Jordan Smith was not present and no report was provided. Town of Cecilton received the Maryland Rural Water 2023 Water System of the Year award.

Administrator Cooper brought up that in July in the State of Maryland you are allowed to possess a certain quantity of marijuana. Cooper's concern is that people could be smoking at our park and exposure to young children. She did not know whether or not we should consider banning it from the park. Jake Vanwingerden clarified that it is not legal to smoke it in public. Member Zack asked if we could amend that smoking of marijuana/cannabis, like alcohol, is not permitted at park. Discussion on whether or not to ban smoking in general at the park.

Chris Rogers discussed that a builder met with himself and Administrator Cooper about developing an active adult community on the end of Rickards Street. It would be a 55 and older community and would not use any Department of Housing dollars like the Cecilton Senior Village. By what they told us it would not be income driven. They would be attached two story townhouses. Their first concept was rough and did not show a connection from the Senior Village. It showed one loop road off of Rickards Street. It is a Planned Unit Development in the R1 District. All the information is based on the meeting the builder requested. They will come with their concept plan (not formal) to the June meeting. Member Katzmire asked about Mayor and Council's options with input towards this plan. Attorney Yeager stated that the Mayor and Council will have input for the rezoning as long it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance and the best interest for the Town. Member Katzmire asked if there are benefits with this plan. Administrator Cooper replied that the PUD plan was approved in 2006, but the company went bankrupt before building. Property taxes, water/sewer hookups are benefits to the Town. This is a preliminary concept.

OLD BUSINESS:

WTC Development Discussion: Jake Vanwingerden and David Strouss were present for review of his latest concept. Council Members expressed their concerns and questions with the current concept. There was discussion of ditches and planting of trees. Number of houses, placement, and soccer field locations were discussed. Vanwingerden reiterated that this is a long-term project, but plans need to be made to put the infrastructure in place to support it when the time comes. Discussion of open space within the housing area and who would maintain them. Administrator Cooper also expressed that facility upgrades, Waste Water Treatment Plant, will need upgrades. Capacity of the WWTP will need to be considered. Chris Rogers, discussed the allotted spaces and the infiltration and inflow in the past 3 years. Consideration needs to be made with the request of providing water and sewer for the greenhouse as well as the development. Next steps were discussed by Thomas Yeager concerning annexation proposal. Discussion continued on how to go about expanding the waste water treatment plant including Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Department of Environment. One of the next step is to know our capacity and whether we can expand the waste water treatment plant.


PUBLIC COMMENTS:

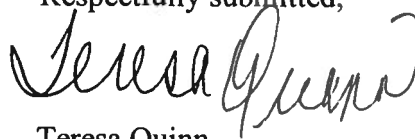
Resident Fredas Craig commented that he likes a small town and would like us to remain a small town. He does not want to become a Middletown. He commented that there is a climate change coming too (in reference to waste water treatment plant capacity). Council Members did express the importance of growth.

Resident Patricia Taylor expressed her concern about the excess speed problem coming in and out of town. She commented on how critical it is to try to deter that. Member Brockell expressed that the speed limit sign coming into town is missing. Administrator Cooper will notify State Highway. The Town is working on trying to get an electronic speed sign. We have to work through State Highway to identify the location and the size of the sign.

Mayor Cooper asked Chris Rogers his thoughts concerning the waste water treatment plant. Rogers commented we would be asked if we want to enter into the agreement with MDE to upgrade to ENR, Enhanced Nutrient Removal. The Town is doing a preliminary engineering report right now looking at the cost of installing denitrification filters. MDE will pay more or less 100% what is related to ENR. Discussion continued on how to go about upgrades and expansion. Rogers explained infiltration and inflow. Administrator Cooper explained that not all residents understand the need to grow to be able to bring in revenue to provide needed upgrades. To bring in more business, the Town needs to have more people.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:


Michael Cooper
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Quinn