

TOWN OF CECILTON
Mayor and Council Regular Session Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2023

The Mayor and Council held a Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, August 21, 2023. The following were in attendance:

Michael Cooper, Mayor

Jennie Brockell, Member

Craig DeVary, Member

Sue Katzmire, Member

Meeting was call to order at 7:00 pm.
All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND ACT:

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

Member Brockell motioned to accept the July 17, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member DeVary seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cecilton Activity Report: Deputy AJ Walmsley was present to review the report. Administrator Cooper indicated that speeding is still an issue. She met with State Highway to see about posting signs and what could be done is help with the issue. She also questioned if there were any funds available to revisit trying to have our own police department. Deputy Walmsley did not know. It is a very expensive endeavor. Question concerning a person who hangs out at the park during the day. Cooper checked in with the individual. He does not sleep in the park. A welfare check was done by the police. There were no concerns/questions with the report. Discussion of a couple of people that had been either sleeping in town and hanging around town. They were engaged by Administrator Cooper and moved on.

WWTP and Water Supply Report: Jordan Smith reviewed the report. He reported on the regular general maintenance and repairs.

Chesapeake Utilities Franchise Agreement and Project: Tiffany Giroux and Dean Holden were present to review and discuss project. Holden gave the background that they had provided a line from Warwick Mushroom to SunMed Growing facility. Recently, Tidal Creek Growers inquired about serving their new facility as well as a grain dryer in the area. They then looked about being able to run a line from SunMed through Cecilton to end at the elementary school. Currently they are working at Cecilton Elementary and out to Tidal Creek. He briefly discussed potential contracts. He provided a template agreement. They are interested in working with the Town with questions and any modification that might need to be discussed. Once a franchise is agreed upon and signed then it is sent to the Maryland Public Service Commission. They grant

the approval to exercise the franchise. At that time, then a franchise fee would be paid to the Town. The franchise fees are typically to cover the cost of the municipality to administer the franchise. Mayor and Council were provided with a draft agreement. Mayor Cooper asked if a resident north of town wanted to purchase natural gas, would it take a certain number of residents wanting to purchase to run a line that way? For residential it would. It is something they do often. They are open to work in the Town to explore that if needed. Member Katzmire asked if there is a hookup fee for a resident. There would be a fee.

Administrator Cooper expressed that she would like to see an opportunity for the public to meet and talk to Chesapeake Utilities to ask questions. As far as the franchise agreement Cooper has read it and provided it to the town attorney for review. Thom Yeager, attorney, did ask a question regarding it being an exclusive franchise. Holden responded that Maryland Public Service Commission does not allow two utility providers to serve the same footprint. Holden explained why they like the exclusive agreement and what goes into it. Discussion of the installation and the hook up. The line is currently running east to west and not north to south. Chesapeake Utilities is using grant money for this project. Brief discussion on how many homes would need to hookup to extend the line in other directions. Mayor Cooper expressed that he agrees that a public meeting is needed. Admin Cooper asked the Chesapeake Utilities provide her some dates that a public forum or meeting.

Susquehanna Operations Contract: Contracts for 2020 and 2023 available for comparison. Administration Cooper expressed the difference was an increase in their fee and a decrease in hours from 8 to 6 daily. Cooper said that with the Mayor and Council's permission, she is going to ask them to keep their hours of daily service at 8. She expressed how they do a good job and are easy to work with. Member DeVary asked if the operator is here every day for 8 hours. Admin Cooper says that not always, sometimes emergencies come up. Everyone agreed if the charge is increasing the hours should stay at 8.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update from State Highway: Administrator Cooper met with State Highway representative regarding the tree trimming and the crosswalks. They will be addressing the trees. The crosswalks have been repainted except for the one at Parklands and they will address that. She asked about speed limit signs and they are going to work on that. The electronic crosswalk is going to be revisited and put into the hands of a different group. Cooper asked for new data to make the determination. They looked at the drainage problems in the intersection. He said that he did not know why it floods. There is nothing obstructing the flow. He will have to look into that further. Someone had told the Mayor that it has been like that for 40 years even with trying different grading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Ranae Henry asked the with the natural gas coming into Town if it will affect all the residents in Cecilton. Mayor Cooper expressed that he is under the understanding that it would be up to the individual resident. He also reiterated that this is not the Town's project it is a grant that the State gave permission to run it through the town on state property.

Another concern of Henry's was the ditch behind her home. She found out last week that it was the county's responsibility. The county only trims it once a year. She also expressed that there was another ditch on Water Street and a concern about a tree that sits out across from Edna Gatewood's home. She also expressed that some residents don't know Mayor Cooper and see him ride around. He expressed he does ride around in 3 different vehicles. Member Katzmire thanked Henry for coming in. Member Brockell expressed the importance of coming to meetings to stay informed.

Henry asked about what would be on the town property on 213 that is for sale. The property is zoned commercial, so there could be a business there. Nothing has been proposed yet.

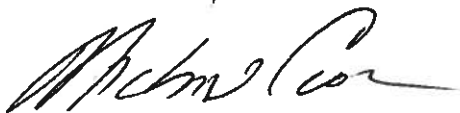
GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Crossroads to Freedom on September 10th at 1:00pm. A historical walk starting at Town Hall to the Union Bethel Church, Union Bethel Cemetery and back to Town Hall. Historian Mike Dixon will provide information about the underground railroad.

Union Bethel Yard Sale on Saturday, September 9th.

Megan McCray, Executive Director for Cecil County Chamber of Commerce, and her husband Morgan, Philanthropist for the Herrs Foundation, both residents of Cecilton were present. They were there as residents and to identify the needs of Cecilton that the Chamber of Commerce could help with. On January 11th, there will be a Cecil Night in Annapolis to lobby our legislators. There will be a daytime session and evening reception.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.



Michael Cooper
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Quinn