

**TOWN OF CECILTON**  
**Mayor and Council Regular Session Meeting**  
**Monday, November 20, 2023**

The Mayor and Council held a Regular Session Meeting in Town Hall on Monday, October 16, 2023. The following were in attendance:

Michael Cooper, Mayor

Jennie Brockell, Member

Sue Katzmire, Member

Danielle Zack, Member

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

**REVIEW AND ACT:**

**October 16, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Session Meeting Minutes:**

Member Brockell motioned to accept the October 16, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as written. Member Katzmire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**WWTP and Water Supply Report:** Jordan Smith reviewed the report. For the month of October, the waste water treatment and water plants were in full compliance. Started influent composite sampling for WWTP PER Study. Completed MDE inspection. Member Zack asked why there was such a large difference between the water and sewage usage. Smith indicated there was a water leak by the booster station and there are the homes outside of town that receive water only. The difference has been dropping down.

**New LED Snowflakes:** Administrator Cooper expressed the concern that the snowflakes that go on the poles each year are very old and showing their age. She received an estimate to replace them, \$20,000. With the support of Mayor and Council, Admin Cooper would like to start some kind of fundraiser to fund it. If Mayor and Council agrees, then she will start brainstorming ways to raise the money to buy 40 new snowflakes. We currently have 46, but can only use 40. The goal would be to start fundraising at the beginning of next year and possibly buy them in August. The current estimate is with a discount for November. It is not known what the discount would be at the time next year, so more than \$20,000 may need to be raised. Member Zack made a motion to fundraise for at least 40 silhouette snowflake LEDs for next year. Member Brockell seconded the motion. Motion passed. Member Zack also indicated for Cooper to let her know if she needs help with fundraising.

**Hometown Hero Banners:** Administrator Cooper expressed that her and her son attended the Hometown Hero Veteran's Day program at the elementary school. After the program, she was approached by Danielle Vinc about having Hometown Hero Banners. Images were provided to Mayor and Council. It would be no expense to the Town. The expense would be to whomever would like to honor or remember a loved one. They are two sided banners that would be attached

to the telephone poles. The average prices are between \$125 and \$184. Admin Cooper still needs to go Delmarva Power about attaching the banners, but wanted to get Mayor and Council's approval before going further. Member Katzmire asked who would put them up. The Town would put them up. Delmarva would not do that. Maintenance Supervisor Bubby Jackson is confident he could put them up. When they become worn, the family member or friend who purchased it would be responsible for providing a replacement. Member Zack indicated that the banners have a full year warranty. Member Brockell asked who would handle the advertising of this. Admin Cooper would be. Question was asked by a resident if someone could have a banner put up for someone other than a military, for example a high school graduate. Admin Cooper replied that this particular program would be for the military. Resident, also indicated that the policy needs to be set for the military. Some other may want to do other banners. Discussion was that the program indicated and will be for military, active and veteran. Resident, suggested that the banners stay up from spring through fall and taken down for the winter due to weather conditions. Member Brockell suggested that a motion be made to move forward, then Cooper can research and logistics can be handled later. Member Katzmire made a motion to move forward with the Hometown Heroes Banner. Member Zack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Chesapeake City's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Day 5K:** Town of Cecilton normally sponsors this event. Mayor and Council agreed to sponsor this event again. We want to encourage the Town of Chesapeake City to participate in our Bed Race. Business package is \$150.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Trunk or Treat:** Admin Cooper expressed that Trunk or Treat was very successful. Someone said they thought there was 700 treaters, others said over 1,000. She wanted to comment that the school hosts it and organizes all the meetings. The fire department donates the place, hot dogs, and hot chocolate. They also have their equipment there. The Lions Club did traffic control. The Ruritans pay for a DJ. Maintenance Supervisor Jackson cleaned up the carnival grounds in advance. Mr. Scheeler mowed it. Her son and Jackson got the light towers, manned them during the event and returned them. We got the portable bathroom and cleaned up the trash afterwards. It was great to see so many organizations work together to provide a safe event for 1000 children.

**Trick or Treat:** Last year there were about 4 trick or treaters to where this year Cooper stopped counting after 70 children. It was a huge success. Painless Title and Tag also came over to town hall to hand out candy as well. This year was a diverse group coming to town hall from infants to teenagers.

**Chesapeake Utilities Meeting:** Chesapeake Utilities Meeting was held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. They provided information on tying into the natural gas line system. Mayor Cooper provided a summary of the information. Business cards are available in Town Hall for anyone who wants further information.

**Network to Freedom Application:** Administrator Cooper expressed that the National Park Service declined our Network to Freedom Application. The feedback provided was to encourage us to reapply by January 15<sup>th</sup>. They suggested that we expand with the Coppin family story, even though Levy Coppin and his mother were free. Mr. Mike Dixon, Cecil County Historian, has

been working hard on this and will continue. Hopefully, we will be successful this time. Admin Cooper was able to find some more information online. She brought this to attention of Resident Ranae Henry. Henry works closely with Dixon and hopefully that will help too. The application will be resubmitted by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Scenic Byway Sign:** Pat Pleasanton and his staff as well as Bubby Jackson were able to remove the sign. The sign was concreted in the ground. Pleasanton did this as a courtesy. Still no funding available for a replacement sign. Reason the sign was removed, was the bad condition.

**Electronic Crosswalk:** This was Admin Cooper's third attempt at an electronic crosswalk. Cooper read the response from Maryland State Highway indicating the denial based on data collected on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Pedestrian movements were too low. Cooper indicated that there is a lot of foot traffic in the intersection. Member Katzmire inquired if the data collection could be for a longer period than one day. Admin Cooper responded that the prior attempts data was collected for a week. Town of Galena has one and their foot traffic is less than ours. Cooper feels she needs to go to the legislative level. There are two families who regularly walk to school and if it just keeps one person safe, then it is worth it. If Mayor and Council think Cooper should continue to work to this, then she is going to investigate how to take it to the next level. Member Zack agrees that the effort should not be abandoned and there are too many children in this town to abandon it. Mayor and Council agrees that the work to get an electronic crosswalk should continue. Admin Cooper requested to start it again after the New Year. Everyone agreed.

**Electronic Speed Sign:** Admin Cooper expressed that it is one year later, but we are getting our speed sign. Cooper and Jackson met with a gentleman last week and we think we have a location. We will be able to have a speed sign that will have data, so when our deputies sign up for shifts, we know when the best shifts are to catch people speeding. One of the things is having them do shifts, we need them to concentrate on speed. If we get data back with a time when the most cars are speeding. We are going to order the sign, but it is not 100% yet. A resident asked where will the location be. The only location that is permitted by State Highway is on 213 100 yards past the 30-mph sign. The sign is one that can be moved but we can't move it. It is in an easement with State Highway. A resident asked if you are a landowner and you give permission to put on your land, can that happen. Cooper indicated that she would ask. We will have the ability to move it, but right now that is only location, they are permitting it. They (State Highway) had other issues with municipalities purchasing signs, not meeting specifications and permission. We have been working really hard to do it the right way. Resident, expressed how they are work in Galena and with the Sheriff's Department and people tend to not slow down since they know that their tag is pictured. She also expressed that we need more enforcement. Conversation about white pickup truck speeding and deputies was injected by Resident. Cooper redirected conversation towards collected data and how to direct need of deputies. Injected discussions between residents of what the deputies are not doing. Cooper expressed that sometimes when deputies are in town, they are not always being paid by the town. When they are on shift, they contact Cooper and she tells them about how speeding is still our most concern. Member Zack provided information from the October Cecilton Sheriff's Activity Report. Report was not on the agenda in that the report was sent right before the meeting. Explanation of trying to get a speeding camera put in the past and the expense that it entailed with the Sheriff's

Department. Resident, questioned whether the sign would encourage youth to see how fast they can go. Attorney Yeager, with his knowledge from other towns, that the sign will read "too fast." Jackson expressed that he has found the sign that meets the State Highway's specification and now waiting on approval. The application has been submitted and we have gotten farther than before.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Resident, asked for an explanation for the switching of trash companies. Admin Cooper explained that the Town had a contract with the previous company for 5 years and in that time the company switched ownership 4 times. Over a period of time, you waste price base (270/annually, 22.50/month) had stayed the same but the rate of pickup increased so the Town was paying for the difference. Some people had extra cans and still paying for the same as those with one, so the Town was paying for the extra cans. We worked with the company in trying to correct the situation. We tried to collect the extra cans and that caused issues with those that were losing the extra cans. Then trying to figure out rate increases but the switched companies several times, so according to our records they increased their rates by 2.25 and 2.5%. We recognized that they did and they couldn't due to transitions. We as a town should not be paying anything toward refuse. The contract was expiring in June. Cooper had meetings to resolve this and asked them to bid again to have the price to what the residents are paying. They bid again and two other companies were asked to bid. Corey Sanitation was one that was asked to bid. A local company was considered but after reference from a current customer and previous customer, it was determined to go with Corey. He was willing to provide the service for what the residents were already paying and double the services. He was willing to do the 270/year but pickup trash twice a week and still continue recycling and yard waste. Resident, indicated that he reads the notes from each council meeting. He believes a lot of angst of the residents not knowing the background before September and issues started to be discussed through social media. Feelings were if the whole town would have known the background, then there might not as much fuss among residents. Admin Cooper expressed that she respects the comments and will do what she can to improve the communication. She also expressed that the Mayor and Council will come in and out of Town Hall individually and a lot of conversations happen on those days. Resident, expressed when there is a big decision to be made there should be a public hearing. Admin Cooper replied that a decision like this does not require a public hearing. It is expensive to do that because a public hearing requires a notice in the newspaper. Attorney Yeager said that we could try to flag the agenda. All meetings are open to the public. Resident, also asked how is it determined what buildings get how many cans. Cooper explained that refuse is in your taxes and that cost provides you with one trash can. There was a concern that an apartment building now has a dumpster. Corey addressed that concern in that the dumpster is a transaction between the building owner and him. Resident, expressed that she was concern that a dumpster attracts vermin and smell. Resident, asked why the town does not have a rule that they have to pay 270/year per apartment and that they should be forced to have a can per apartment. Jackson expressed that he believes one dumpster causes less mess than 11 cans. Yeager interjected that it may be that if you have some many apartments that you must get a dumpster because it is too many for cans. That would be something Mayor and Council would have to considered as far as having each apartment charged for a can.

Corey explained that every resident will be getting brand new cans. His current problem is that his manufacturer is running behind and being a smaller company he is at the back of the line. The cans are in transit. If there is an issue with a can, contact the town and he will get it taken care of it. A couple of residents commented that they are happy with the service. Mayor Cooper expressed that he likes the dumpster for several apartments rather than a row of trash cans. Resident, also asked for yard waste to be explained. Admin Cooper explained that the residents can provide own yard waste can, brown bags, or tarps. Mondays and Thursdays are trash. Yard waste is Tuesdays. Recycling is Wednesdays. Yard waste will end on December 19<sup>th</sup> and resume sometime in March. Corey will get back to us on the day Christmas trees will be picked up. Cans are labeled as trash and recycling.

Member Zack reminded people that when there is an issue to come to meetings rather than posting on social media.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Certificate of Appreciation from Relay for Life was shared.

Admin Cooper commented that in the past 2 weeks we have had 2 families that needed emergency fuel services and 1 that needed food. If anyone, is interested in helping families in need a donation to Faith in Action is a good to help others with food. If you want to help someone with fuel, Grace Community Baptist helps with fuel so a donation can go to them with a memo fuel donation.

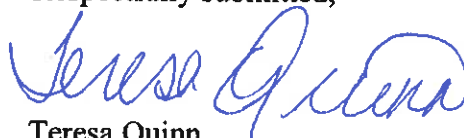
Resident, brought up the Thanksgiving Eve service at the fire department.

Cecilton's Annual Holiday Open House – Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Greenlight Home Improvements, Painless Title and Tags, and Hammer's are sponsoring a Santa House. Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> after the Open House the Santa House will be lit and then Santa will be at the house on two occasions for pictures.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

  
Michael Cooper  
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Teresa Quinn