



Town Council Meeting Minutes Monday, March 20, 2023

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Schomisch, Vice Mayor Jeannette Ripley, Councilmembers Joe Williams, Mike Walker, Kathleen Walker, Glenda Johnson. Also in attendance were Town Manager Rommel Pazmino, Chief of Police Robert Liberati, Town Assistant Jackie Villela, Attorney Gary Elson, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Thompson, and Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar.

Excused Absence: Todd Over

Call to Order

Mayor Schomisch called the March 20, 2023, meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked all to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Schomisch requested to amend the agenda by adding 5.c “County Executive Meeting.” Seeing no further changes, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Walker moved to approve the March 20, 2023, agenda as amended and Councilman Williams seconded the motion. All present voted in favor (6-0).

Approval of the Consent Agenda

a. February 21, 2023, Town Council Meeting Minutes: Councilwoman Walker asked if the Town Treasurer’s name should be included in the meeting minutes. Mayor Schomisch suggested adding his name on the “present” section of the minutes. Vice Mayor Ripley noted that under *approval of the agenda*, “PGMA” should be corrected to “PGCMA.”

b. March 6, 2023, Town Council Workshop Minutes: No corrections or changes were made.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda with the corrections. Councilman Williams moved to approve the consent agenda and Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the February 21, 2023, and March 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved (6-0).

Correspondence and Announcements

a. PGCMA Report: Mayor Schomisch and Vice Mayor Ripley attended the PGCMA meeting. They briefly informed the rest of the Council on what was discussed during the meeting.

b. UMD ENSP Capstone: Town Manager Pazmino explained that the University of

Maryland students are partnering with the Town's Green Team to create a composting program. Additionally, Mr. Pazmino would like to work with the students to create a digital version of the Town map.

c. County Executive Meeting: Councilwoman Johnson briefed the rest of the Council on what was discussed during the county executive meeting, which she attended along with Councilman Williams.

Reports

a. Finance: Town Treasurer Fredy Aguilar explained the finance report. Mr. Aguilar stated that the Town is still waiting for one deposit to be made to the Bank of America account. Dana Williams from the Public asked "what is the strategy with having high balances in the investment accounts, is that money going to be invested in the community?" Mayor Schomisch answered that a big part of the invest balance is the ARPA funds, which will be going out soon, and the rest is money that needs to be kept in case of an emergency. Town Manager Pazmino explained that if the Town did not have ARPA funds, then the Town would be using money from the investment accounts. However, since there are ARPA funds, that money needs to be used first because there is a deadline.

b. Police Report: Chief Liberati explained the police report. There were no comments or questions.

c. Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Thompson explained the code enforcement report. Reported that he has a few court dates coming up in April. He also explained that Prince George's County is delaying the process for obtaining permits. He spoke with the lead inspector from the County's Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) , who stated that they are short staffed and backlogged.

d. Public Works Report: Town Manager Pazmino explained the Public Works Supervisor was not able to attend the meeting, but he would try his best to answer any questions from the Public Works reports.

Public

Sandie Kaplanis from 7100 block of Taylor Street: Ms. Kaplanis stated that the VMS signs had a message regarding big ton vehicles not being able to park on the street and asked why that was a law. Chief Liberati answered that it was made a law by Council a long time ago. Ms. Kaplanis then asked why it was put up on the VMS signs. Chief Liberati answered that he received complaints, so he decided to remind residents of that code. Ms. Kaplanis then brought up concerns about the Town playground, which were answered by Town Manger Pazmino, Mayor Schomisch, and Councilwoman Walker.

Dana Williams from 7000 block of Varnum Street: Ms. Williams asked what the estimated time of completion is for the Playground. Town Manager Pazmino answered that the earliest time something can be started is September of 2023. She then asked if the playground will be closed during construction. Mayor Schomisch answered that yes, the playground will have to be closed because the new one is going to be built on the same lot. Lastly, Ms. Williams asked if the Noise Ordinance has been passed. Mayor Schomisch answered yes. She then asked if there is any new language regarding dogs. Councilman Walker answered yes, language about dogs is included.

Unfinished Business

a. Meekins Inc: Town Manager Pazmino explained that Meekins Inc. is 80 percent done with the survey for the annexation. They informed him that they will be done with the survey by the end of March.

b. Town Code, Chapter 24 Code of Ethics: Mayor Schomisch stated that before the Council introduced the Ordinance, he wanted to bring two items to their attention. On page 5, under Complaints, letter D, it states that a complaint must be filed no later than six months from the earliest date of act. Mayor Schomisch asked the Council if they want to leave it at six months or extend it to one year. Councilman Williams suggests leaving it at six month and Vice Mayor Ripley agreed. The second item discussed was the Enforcement Provisions, which the Council requested at the previous meeting. Town Attorney Ruff provided three examples of Enforcement Provisions from the Town of Church Hill, the City of Bowie, and the City of Mt. Rainier. Mayor Schomisch suggested following the Church Hill example because they are similar in size to the Town.

After the discussion of the Enforcement Provisions concluded, Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance O-03-2023. Councilman Walker made the introduction and Councilman Williams seconded. All present voted aye and Ordinance O-03-2023 was introduced (6-0).

New Business

No new Business was discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Schomisch entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman Williams made the motion and Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion. All present voted aye and the March 20, 2023, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.