

The Commissioners of St. Michaels

Public Working Session

July 8, 2009

Present:

Commissioners Joanne Clark, Michael Brady, Donna Hunt and Philip Dinkel, Town Manager Cheril Thomas, Town Attorney Karen Ruff, Administrative Clerk Sabrenia Yohn, Secretary Dorothy Olley, and approximately 15 members of the public. Commissioner Robert Snyder was absent.

President Clark said that the opening of the public meeting would be delayed for ten minutes in order that everyone present could go outside to see the Town's new fire truck. Members of the Fire Department were present to offer a tour of the vehicle and to answer questions.

Call To Order:

President Clark called to order the public working session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 5:10 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building (Town Office), 300 Mill Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consent Agenda:

President Clark announced that the Consent Agenda included departmental reports for the month of June 2009, as well as a request from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for an over-the-street banner for the Chesapeake Folk Festival on July 25, 2009. President Clark said the disbursements for the month of June 2009 were in the amount of \$361,255.34. There were no comments or questions from the Commissioners or the public. Commissioner Brady made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, including the Museum's banner request. Commissioner Dinkel seconded the motion which passed on a roll call vote of 4-0 in favor.

Items for Discussion:

- **Community Enhancement Events – Proposed text amendment for Chapter 340 (Zoning) of the Code of the Town of St. Michaels** - President Clark called upon Town Attorney Karen Ruff, who reviewed the proposed re-draft of the text language. The Commissioners suggested changes to the definition of a “Community Enhancement Event” along with other changes. President Clark then asked for comments from the public. Hans Gruenberg of Water Street commented on the reference to “government sponsored” events and asked if other parks besides Hollis and Muskrat had been considered for the farmers’ market. Helen Van Fleet of Chew Avenue asked about multiple applicants applying for permits for use of the parks and how far in advance applicants could apply for usage. President Clark instructed Town staff to make changes as proposed during the discussions and noted that a public hearing would not be scheduled until the Commissioners are all comfortable with the language.
- **Resolution 2009-18** - President Clark explained that Resolution 2009-18 was a housekeeping Resolution to amend the Charter of St. Michaels to comply with Maryland Code on voter registration. Mrs. Yohn read the title of Resolution 2009-18 into the record as follows:
RESOLUTION 2009-18 - A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND PASSED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E § 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND (2002 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2007 SUPPLEMENT) AND SECTION 13 OF ARTICLE 23A, OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2005

REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2007 SUPPLEMENT), TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: TO CONFORM ARTICLE IV, § C-22 "REGISTRATION OF VOTERS" WITH SUBTITLE 4 OF TITLE 1 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; TO PROVIDE THAT APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS EXERCISE THE SAME VOTING PRIVILEGES AS ELECTED COMMISSIONERS AND; TO PROVIDE THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHARTER AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY THIS RESOLUTION

The Commissioners had questions about certain sections of the text. Commissioner Brady suggested a change to Sub-Section C-35 A (1) (a) referencing vacancies on the Commission, to require a "ballot" vote for appointed Commissioners. After discussion, the Commissioners did not have a consensus on making this change. Commissioner Dinkel asked for clarification from Town staff regarding offices that could be held by appointed Commissioners who were filling vacancies created by a Commissioner leaving prior to their term ending. After some additional discussion, President Clark said there would be opportunity to discuss the draft Resolution at the public hearing scheduled for the Commissioners' August 12, 2009 meeting.

- **Sidewalks at the Gruenberg property on Water Street** - President Clark said the Commissioners had received Mr. Gruenberg's pictures and letter outlining his proposal and costs, as well as a Town staff memo on the subject. The Commissioners discussed the various aspects of the proposal. It was noted that the current sidewalks were constructed entirely in the Town right-of-way, and therefore on Town property. After some additional discussion, President Clark asked if there would be any objection if the Commissioners took some additional time to review costs for the project. There was no objection from the other Commissioners. President Clark said Mr. Gruenberg's sidewalks and drainage would be discussed and voted on at the Commissioners' meeting on July 22, 2009. Mr. Gruenberg extended an offer to tour the site and ask any additional questions prior to the next meeting.
- **Commissioners' Calendar** - The Commissioners discussed their calendar and agenda items for meetings through the end of August 2009. Commissioner Dinkel requested that his suggestion that St. Michaels develop its own tree farm on Town property near Railroad Avenue be placed on an upcoming agenda.

Comments from the Public:

Helen Van Fleet of Chew Avenue said that navigating on Water Street during major event weekends had become a hazard because of the side street parking. President Clark asked staff to look into the matter and discuss it with Police Chief Miguel Dennis and Director of Public Works, Jeff Richardson.

Comments from the Commissioners:

President Clark congratulated Commissioner Brady on his election as Board Member at Large for the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

Commissioner Brady thanked everyone who worked to make the St. Michaels booth at the MML Convention in Ocean City, Maryland a success. Commissioner Brady also said he would like to discuss traffic calming on E. Maple Avenue during the school year with Chief Dennis.

President Clark noted that the "Paint the Town Day" celebration was successful, despite the rain, and that all of the artwork was currently on display at the Library. She also noted that she had

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served as a judge for the "Commissioners' Award" which was given to the painting of Carpenter Street Saloon.

Police Chief Miguel Dennis announced that the Police Department had created a youth activities fund for young people in the town called S.M.Y.L.E. (St. Michaels Youth and Law Enforcement), and requested that an account be established to accept donations for youth activities. Chief Dennis said the first outing had been to take a group of 7 youth to a Bay Sox game which was also chaperoned by Commissioner Donna Hunt and Michael Estrella of Lincoln Avenue, Rio Vista, St. Michaels.

Announcement of Future Meetings:

President Clark noted the next meeting of the Commissioners on July 22, 2009 which includes a closed session at 5:00 pm., followed by a regular legislative session at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. There is also a special working session scheduled for July 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Michaels Library, 106 S. Fremont Street to discuss the draft Community Enhancement Events Resolution entitled "A Resolution of the Commissioners of St. Michaels to repeal and reenact the regulations for operations of all Town parks, including the regulations for Community Enhancement Events".

Adjournment:

President Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy C. Olley
Assistant Town Clerk

Attachments:

- Reports - Administrative, Public Works, Fire and Police Departments
- Draft Resolution 2009-18
- Draft legislation - Community Enhancement Events
- Banner Request - Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum