

February 10, 2016

Present

Commissioners Joanne Clark, Jaime Windon, Joyce Harrod, Ann Borders and Roy Myers, Jean Weisman, Town Clerk/Manager, Zoning Officer Sarah Abel, Jeff Richardson, Public Works Director, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and 19 members of the public.

Call to Order

President Clark called to order the meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Announcements

Town Manager Jean Weisman announced that Commissioners Ann Borders, Roy Myers and Joyce Harrod attended the Second Conversation on Race Symposium on January 31st at St. Michaels Middle School and lead by Chief Anthony Smith. Mrs. Weisman continued, noting that Commissioners Joanne Clark and Joyce Harrod attended the 95th Birthday celebration of Verma Lenora Nichols held at Union United Methodist Church on February 7th. Mrs. Weisman also announced that there will be an election for Commissioners this year and that Election Day will be Monday, May 2nd, 2016. Mrs. Weisman noted that the last day to file for candidacy is Friday, April 1st by 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Weisman then reminded everyone to keep sidewalks free of snow and ice, which should be removed within 12 hours after it has stopped snowing or by 10:00 a.m. the next day if the time limit has expired during the evening or night-time hours. Commissioner Harrod said she was participating in a St. Peter and Paul student project, where the students will be interviewing senior citizens for a class survey, and will present the results of their survey on March 1st. Commissioners Borders and Myers called everyone's attention to a Star Democrat article highlighting Aida Kahlil-Trissell's volunteer work in the Syrian refugee camps in Greece, where she has been serving as an interpreter.

Special Presentations

- Recognition of Public Works Department

President Clark said the Commissioners wanted to recognize the Public Works Department for their work during the recent snow storm. President Clark then presented each member with a commendation and a gift certificate.

- Richard Potter, President, local NAACP Chapter

President Clark said Mr. Potter was unable to attend this evening, and his presentation had been rescheduled for the next Commissioners' meeting in two weeks.

Bids and Contracts

President Clark said the Town had received sealed bids for the purchase of surplus property identified as 101 Conner Street and 113 Conner Street, which were opened on Tuesday, February 9th at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Weisman read the bids received into the record as follows:

• **113 Conner Street**

Bidder	Address	Total Base bid	Closing Date	Bid Deposit
Habitat for Humanity Choptank	PO Box 2366 Easton, MD 21601	\$25,000	3/24/2016	Yes \$1,000
Vincent DiGioia	4482 Willow Tree Dr. Middletown, MD 21769	\$79,001	3/31/2016	Yes \$1,000

Mrs. Weisman said she recommended that the Commissioners accept Mr. DeGioia's bid in the amount of \$79,001.

• **101 Conner Street**

Bidder	Address	Total Base bid	Closing Date	Bid Deposit
Thomas Bryne	1400 N 14th St. Arlington, VA 22209	\$81,000	60 days	Yes \$1,000
Vincent DiGioia	4482 Willow Tree Dr. Middletown, MD 21769	\$69,001	4/22/2016	Yes \$1,000
BRM, LLC	PO Box 1020 St. Michaels, MD 21663	\$15,001	2/17/2016	Yes \$1,000

Mrs. Weisman said she recommended not accepting the highest bid, but to list the property with a realtor to obtain alternative offers. Commissioners Borders, Myers and Clark agreed that listing with a realtor was practical. Mrs. Weisman said she would ask for a recommendation.

After some additional discussion, President Clark called for motion to accept the offer for 113 Conner Street from Vincent DiGioia in the amount of \$79,001.00. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

President Clark then called for a motion to reject the bids for 101 Conner Street and to list the property for sale with a realtor for 90 days. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Windon, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consent Agenda

President Clark announced that a vote to approve the items on the consent agenda would include approval of reports for month of January, 2016, approval of proclamations for the St. Michaels Critchlow Adkins Children's Center and for Diana Mautz and Family, approval of an application to operate a Farmers' Market in the Fremont municipal parking lot, and approval of an event permit from Carpenter Street Saloon for the annual Shopping Cart Races on St. Patrick's Day. President Clark noted that disbursements for the month of January 2016 totaled \$258 481.04 and included the following expenditures:

- \$ 15,500 to Lank, Johnson and Tull for the FY15 Audit
- \$ 22,860 to the St. Michaels Fire Department as final payment for annual donation
- \$ 40,08.47 to MDE-Water Quality Financing for Arsenic Debt Service Loan

President Clark asked if the Commissioners wished to remove any items from the consent agenda for discussion on the regular agenda. The commissioners asked to remove the Carpenter Street request and the Farmers' Market request from the consent agenda for questions. As there were no comments on the consent agenda from the public, President Clark called for a motion to approve the consent agenda minus the Farmers' Market and Carpenter Street permit requests. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Carol Bean of the Farmers' Market satisfied Commissioner Myers' questions regarding which municipal lot would be used on Fremont. Ms. Bean said that the market vendors would be taking all waste with them upon departure from the site. After some additional discussion, Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the Farmers' Market permit, contingent upon the submission of a written recycling plan and sign locations. Commissioner Harrod seconded it, and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

The Commissioners discussed the Carpenter Street permit and clarified the time period on St. Patrick's Day event. After some additional discussion, President Clark called for a motion to approve the permit, pending approval by the State Highway Administration, and noted the permit would be signed once the SHA approval was received. Commissioner Windon made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers, and which passed on a roll call vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Borders dissenting.

Resolutions Eligible for Vote

- Resolution 2016-01:Watermen's Heritage Park

President Clark said that the resolution was brought forward by the Waterway's Management Advisory Board and the interest from area watermen. Mrs. Weisman said the changes discussed at the Commissioners' last meeting had been incorporated into the new draft. Commissioner Myers added that the dock and pier would continue to be a watermen's dock and pier, available to them at all times. Commissioner Myers also said that the Department of Natural Resources said that the Town could give preference to the watermen for use of the dock and pier, and that there was enough interest among the watermen that leasing to others would not be necessary. Waterway's committee member Michael Vlahovich commended the Commissioners for moving ahead with this project, and had some suggestions for language changes. Commissioner Myers and the other commissioners agreed with the language changes as proposed by Mr. Vlahovich. President Clark asked if the Commissioners would like to vote on the resolution with the suggested changes tonight. The Commissioners said they would. President

Clark then made a motion to move into legislative session, which was seconded by Commissioner Borders, and which passed on a voice vote of 5-0 in favor. President Clark then called for a motion to approve the resolution with changes to line 35 (change “preserve” to “encourage and sustain”) and line 41 (delete “to the extent possible”). Commissioner Myers made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Borders. Mrs. Warnick then read the title of the resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION 2016-01, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO DECLARE LANDS HEREIN DESCRIBED AS “BACK CREEK PARK”; DESIGNATE A PORTION OF “BACK CREEK PARK” AND ADJACENT PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS OR USES OF LAND, HEREIN DESCRIBED, AS A “WATERMEN’S HERITAGE PARK” IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS; AND THE AREA DESIGNATED SHALL BE HEREBY NAMED “BACK CREEK PARK AND WATERMEN’S HERITAGE AREA” IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS

As there were no additional comments, Resolution 2016-01 passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

- Resolution 2016-02: Commissioners’ meeting times

President Clark said that the resolution was brought forward by the Commissioners due to concerns that some residents and business owners might be able to attend meetings if the meeting time was later in the day. President Clark said that the resolution would change the time of the regular Commissioners’ meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from a 5:00 p.m. start time to a 6:00 p.m. start time, beginning with the Commissioners’ meeting on February 24, 2016. President Clark called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the title of the resolution into the record as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RULES FOR THE CONDUCT FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS

President called for a motion. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Myers and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

The Commissioners then discussed the issue of Commissioners’ absence from meetings, and absentee voting, and changes proposed by Commissioner Borders. President Clark said that changing the language on the issue of attendance at meetings and absentee voting would require a change to the Town’s Charter. Commissioners Clark, Windon, Harrod, and Myers, did not want to change the charter, and the issue was declared dead.

Items for Discussion

- Burying Utility Lines

After a discussion of some length, three commissioners wanted to wait until the commissioned study was received before moving forward with an ordinance. Three members of the public also agreed that waiting for the study was best, and further discussion of the matter was deferred.

Mike Estrella of E. Chew Avenue said whether the project is a good idea or a bad one, the public’s priority is going to be what it’s going to cost.

Commissioners’ Calendar

The Commissioners discussed agenda items for their meetings in March and April 2016, including scheduling annual reports from Town boards and budget hearings.

The Commissioners of St. Michaels
February 10, 2016

Comments from the Public

Mike Vlahovich of Miles Avenue said he thought using the Skype technology to accommodate absent commissioners when necessary was a good idea, and he also again praised the Commission for supporting the changes in the Watermen's resolution.

Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Myers complimented Commissioner Windon for urging improvements in wayfaring signage and Commissioner Borders for the need to maximize existing parking. President Clark said that Kimberly Weller was working on wayfaring signage.

Announcement of Future Meetings/Events

- February 15, 2016 – Town Office closed for President's Day
- February 24, 2016 – 5:00 – Town Office – COSM Regular Legislative Session

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanna Warnick
Administrative Clerk

Public Handouts:

Agenda

Department Reports

Resolution 2016-01 : Watermen's Heritage Park

Resolution 2016-02 : COSM meetings

MD Land Use Code

Charter Language for absences