

# Town of Upper Marlboro

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

March 27, 2018

Approved Minutes

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Tonga Turner, President of the Board of Town Commissioners;  
Wanda Leonard, Commissioner; Linda Pennoyer, Commissioner/Treasurer

Staff present: M. David Williams, Town Clerk/Administrator

Also present: UMPD Chief Washington; Gatso representatives: Andrew Noble (CEO), Ivan Lanier and Darrell Carrington; and various citizens and interested parties.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Consent to the Agenda

President Turner asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present.

### Business

Events Committee (Chair Introduction): Committee member Kai Bernal-LaClaire introduced Anita Washington as Chair of the new Town Events Committee. Ms. Washington said she and the committee are currently developing ideas and budgets for future events throughout the coming year.

Ordinance 2018-02: Automated Traffic Enforcement (Board vote): The President brought this line item up on the agenda to allow visiting vendor Gatso Inc. to deliver a presentation on the new speed-monitoring and red-light enforcement programs. CEO Andrew Noble gave an overview of the 60-year-old company, and the success stories of communities they service around the globe. The Town will be their second municipality in the State/County after the Town of Forest Heights. He emphasized their unique and advanced technology and superior customer service. He added that their company has never lost a dispute over the operation of their equipment, and take their reputation very seriously.

Retired PGC Police Officer Mr. "Vic" Lanier, currently developing markets for Gatso with an Annapolis Public Affairs Firm, explained his company's 5-year relationship and their "boots on the ground" services they provide for Gatso's programs and equipment. He acknowledged Mr. Darrell Carrington who will be overseeing the Town's program as part of his regional-area support (that includes Forest Heights.)

Chief Washington then delivered an overview of the Town's initiative to reduce speeding. Four locations for the enforcement were identified, and it was noted that there is flexibility to enable the relocation of the cameras. After the President acknowledged the ordinance's introduction, subsequent drafts and comment period for citizen input, Commissioner Leonard motioned to pass Ordinance 2018-02, at which time, Commissioner Pennoyer seconded the motion. Ordinance 2018-02 was unanimously passed.

Ordinance 2018-01: FY2018 Budget Amendment (Board vote): The President reviewed the history on the State's reduction of Real Property Tax Revenues to the Town and acknowledged the ordinance's introduction, subsequent drafts and comment period for citizen input, President Turner called for a motion to pass Ordinance 2018-01. Commissioner Pennoyer motioned to approve the ordinance as presented, and Commissioner Leonard seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

General/Administration issues: President Turner announced that the newly redesigned and printed newsletter will be reaching resident's mailboxes soon. Acknowledging its distribution date as later than usual, she added that she hopes residents are as pleased and excited with the product as much as the Board and Town Staff are.

Secondly, she asked that communications by Town Committee members with outside entities be delivered through the respective Chairs of those committees, in order to be more cohesive as a team and to avoid confusion and miscommunications.

Lastly, she cited recent "uncomfortable communications" with racial overtones that she has received since being elected, from unknown individual(s), aimed at herself, her family members and likely other Town Officials. She asked those in attendance to help out, should they here such despairing remarks, by asking those individuals to "reach out" to the President and Board and engage in a discussion to reach a mutual understanding. Chief Washington advised there is, and will continue to be, a stepped-up patrolling presence by the UMPD, as well as, assistance from other Public Safety agencies at the County and State level, in the areas concerning this issue. In closing, she stated she hopes this is just a "growing-pain" for those disgruntled community members, and that through communications, all concerned can grow from this issue and move-on with life.

**Public Comment**

Past President and past Chair of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, Steve Sonnett, acknowledged that the SCW did meet earlier today, and that a report should be coming from Chair Stephens at the next Town Meeting. In response to the President's report, Mr. Sonnett suggested that the Town might consider holding a Town Hall forum on race-relations in the near future.

**Adjournment**

President Turner motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Pennoyer seconded. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams  
Town Clerk/Administrator

