

Town of Upper Marlboro

REGULAR TOWN MEETING

October 9, 2018

Approved Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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; Paula Rojas/Executive Officer; UMPD Chief Henderson; William Morgan/Accountant; SCW Chair Evelyn Stephens; TUMHC Chair Patti Skews; EC Chair Jeremy Gunnoe; TUMHC Archivist Brian Callicott

Also present: Write-in Candidate Tamara Brown; MVFD Chief Robert Beavers; MVFD Vice-President Jeffrey Beavers; Kendall Wallace/ MVFD, and various citizens and interested parties.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Financial Reports

President Turner asked for consent to the Agenda. Approval was granted by all Commissioners present. The Town Meeting minutes from September 11, 2018, the Work Session minutes from September 25, 2018 and the Draft Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2018 were acknowledged by the Board as reviewed. President Turner motioned to approve both sets of minutes and the monthly Treasurer's Report as presented, Commissioner Pennoyer seconded. All minutes from September's Town Meeting and Work Session, and the Treasurers Report as of September 30, 2018 were unanimously approved.

Special Guest Presentation

Tamara Brown, a Washington Post endorsed District 9 Write-in Candidate for County Council, delivered a summary of her campaigning platform, highlighting her goals and objectives she will focus upon as a member of the County Council. Acknowledging District 9 as an "eclectic community", she noted its deficiency of resources and would work to capture development dollars to put back in to infrastructure. As a believer in "transparency", she also plans to engage citizens along the way, by weekly email communications and "community coffees" discussions. She added she would actively challenge current measures to deplete existing community resources, such as, the Volunteer Fire Department programs.

Reports

Staff/Committees: MVFD Chief Beavers reported that the MVFD has sent a letter to the County asking for a meeting, before any further changes are conducted that will adversely affect their ability to provide ALS service.

UMPD Officer Gerald Henderson reported they received 40 calls for service in the month of September, and that there were no violent crimes to report. He said they have increased patrol along Rte. 725 and Old Crain Hwy as well, in efforts to decrease speeding. He added that there will be a "Coffee with the Chief" Saturday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m., and reminded citizens to keep porch lights on and to lock vehicles. President Turner noted that October is "Domestic Violence Awareness" Month, and that the Town has free Purple Light Bulbs for citizens (2 per family) available at the Town Hall. On behalf of the Family Justice Center on Main Street, the Town will be accepting donations of personal care items to help aide victims of abuse. Unused, packaged toiletry items such as toothpaste and soap, can be deposited in the purple box inside the lobby, throughout the month of October. She added that a Self-Defense class will be featured at the next "Coffee with the Chief" event at the Town Hall.

TUMHC Chair Patti Skews announced the TUMHC will hold their next meeting on October 20 at 10 a.m. She noted they will be helping with the Jack O' Lantern Campfire at Darnall's Chance House Museum again this year, adding that the October 13th PGC Historical Society Bus Tour has been canceled. Archivist Brian Callicott noted that about 78 people participated in the Happy Wanderers Special Touring Event on October 6, 2018. The President noted that they have been working with Aaron Marcavitch of Maryland Milestones (ATHA) and will be providing support with his efforts to seek funding in order to expand the Maryland Heritage Areas, and possibly rehabilitate the Old Stone Building to become a staffed Tourism Welcome Center by means of grant funding available to ATHA.

SCW Chair Evelyn Stephens delivered an update on the Workgroup's renewal application to the DHCD for the Town's re-designation as a Sustainable Community, stating they will meet with DHCD personnel on October 11th here at Town Hall. She added that the SCW is planning on completing a first draft application to be ready for the Board's review at their October Work Session. Sometime in November (*date to be determined*) the SCW and the PGC Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Forum at Town Hall for area business and property owners, to promote the Façade Improvement Program (FIP).

Events Committee Chair Jeremy Gunnoe reported that the flyers for the Trick or Treat on Main Street event have been distributed, and according to Facebook and Eventbrite, 100 people indicate they are coming, with another 900 interested. He added Main Street will be closed 4–9 p.m. and the businesses are being encouraged to participate with candy hand-outs and window decorations. The PGC District V Police and the Sheriff's Office are to assist. The Chair added that a separate "Marlborough Day" sub-committee meetings will begin in November, and the Annual Town Hall-iday Party will probably be scheduled for the first week in December. Trunk or Treat parking issues, possible Veterans' Day plans and coordinating Santa's visit with the MVFD were also discussed.

Commissioner Leonard: Reported that CERT will sponsor another Pond Clean-Up on October 20th and Middle and High School students will assist to earn community volunteer points towards graduation.

Commissioner Pennoyer: Reported that the Day-To-Serve Pond Clean-Up Event did not go as well as previous years, probably because of the conflict with the Douglass HS Homecoming Parade. A discussion ensued concerning who is responsible for the depositing the litter, and who is safeguarding against it. Commissioner Pennoyer also reported that the Crain Monument repair by the SHA is going very well, and that the Monument will be 200 years old in 2020.

President Turner: Delivered updates on the following topics: 1.) Dog Waste Stations have been installed around Town; 2.) Had visit from State officials to discuss upgrading pedestrian crosswalks and the Water Street bridge; 3.) A sample of the Town's new "code-compliant" Street-Name signs has been erected at School Lane & Old Crain Hwy; 4.) The PGC Chamber of Commerce is interested in creating an insular office in Upper Marlboro—Chamber to attend and discuss at next SCW "Forum"; 5.) Downtown Development RFQ was posted on September 1st—have received 24 proposals to date; and, 6.) Town Accounting operational procedures to be updated—Mr. William Morgan was introduced as the new Town Accountant, who will also conduct oversight for upgrades to current in-house HR policies and practices.

Business

Ordinance 2018-07: Business Licenses (Board vote): It was noted that public comment had been requested by September 25 and the ordinance was now up for a vote. President Turner asked for any additional input from the Board, and citing none, she conducted a final reading of the ordinance introduction. Commissioner Leonard then motioned to approve Ordinance 2018-07, to which Commissioner Pennoyer seconded the motion. Ordinance 2018-07 was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2018-05: Business License Fees (Board vote): The resolution establishing fees in conjunction with Ordinance 2018-07 was made available for review. The President noted the fee schedule was in line with what other municipalities have enacted. With no other questions by, or put forth to, the Board, Commissioner Pennoyer motioned to approve Resolution 2018-05 as presented. Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2018-08: Classify Real Property (introduction): The President stated that this ordinance had been brought before the Board for discussion at their last Work Session in September, and then proceeded to officially introduce the second draft of the ordinance. She reviewed the ordinance's scope and purpose, noting the final reading and vote is scheduled for November 13, 2018. The President replied to a citizen's concern of the impact of raising taxes to existing and potential businesses in Town stating the new rates will now be in-line with other municipality's rates. She added, there have been, and are many other, barriers that have thwarted economic development and that a tax adjustment should not be a major concern. She asked citizens to please submit any questions, comments or concerns during the resident input time-frame listed at the end of the draft ordinance.

General/Administration issues: A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) to utilize their facility, should the Town's base of operations (Town Hall) become compromised during emergency circumstances, was reviewed by the Board. With no objections from Board, the President and the MVFD signed the MOA.

Chief Beavers announced they will be holding their Annual Public Safety/Community Service Day at Montpellier Farm on October 27th. Letter invitations have just been sent out.

TUMHC Chair Skews announced that the Bowie "CLAW" program, which addresses the area's feral cat population problem with a Tag and Release program, has expanded.

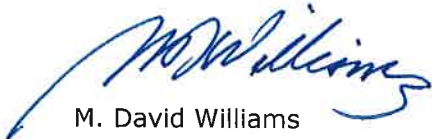
Public Comment

A resident objected to the current practice of using the term "Mayor" instead of the title "President" as the Charter indicates, then adding concerns about the President's critique of the Town's last Accountant. President Turner replied that the Town's Legal Counsel has advised that it is not improper, by way of tradition, for her to be referred to as Mayor. She added that when signing official documents and letters, the title of President/Board of Commissioners is purposely used, but feels more comfortable using the title of Mayor to better communicate to the general public the position she was elected to. To the second concern about the Accountant, she referenced the Town's Charter authorization of the President's powers to hire and fire at will, and her assessment was the employee was not up to the standard.

Adjournment

Commissioner Leonard motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Pennoyer seconded the motion. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M. David Williams
Town Clerk/Administrator

