

Town of Millington

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

Presents: Mayor Kevin Hemstock
Council Mark Linton
Council Shelly Holland
Council Zita Seals
Council Wayne Starkey

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: Community Volunteer Fire Company Vice President Amanda Crossley, Deborah Gates, and Thomas Logullo

Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Kevin Hemstock called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Minutes of previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes for the February 13, 2024 meeting was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Linton, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Donation Presentation: Mayor Hemstock presented Community Vol Fire Company VP Amanda Crossley a donation check for \$3,000.00.

Susquehanna Operational Services Report: Reviewed

Kent County Sheriff's Report: No Report

Town Administrator Report: Admin Manning reviewed her report and provided an update on the senior housing project, Freeman Evans development, and Maloney's property.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed

Rental Property Report: Reviewed

Old Business:

Admin Manning informed the Council letters and project guidelines were mailed to local businesses. The application period is April 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024; Council will review submitted applications at the June meeting. Awarded projects and required documentation must be submitted to State by June 30th.

Admin Manning asked Council for their decision on business tax incentives for new businesses. Council agreed to waive the first-year business license free and to discount trash by 1/3 for the first year. A motion was made by Council Starkey; a second by Council Holland, a vote of 5-0 was entered for the business tax incentives.

Admin Manning asked Council to continue their review of the budget for 2024-2025. If Council wants to address any events or projects, she asked they discuss prior to the scheduled public hearing. Admin Manning reminded Council that we will need to raise property taxes,

water/sewer fees, and permit fees to attempt to meet the expenses incurred for the Town to be sustainable. Admin Manning will reach out to Tom Yeager to get his fee to update the board of appeals fee. Admin Manning asked Council to consider the expense to send representatives to the MML Conference as we consider raising fees to the residents.

Public Hearing:

A motion was made to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Linton, a vote of 5-0 was entered. A motion to open the public hearing was entered by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Seals, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Mayor Hemstock read into the record Resolution 2024-03 Chapter 26- Curfew. There was no public comment. A motion to adopt was entered by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Seals; a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Mayor Hemstock read into the record Resolution 2024-04 Chapter 27-Nuisance. Thomas Logullo commented there is a lot of trash along the railroad tracks heading into Queen Annes County and there is trash in the parking lot at Dollar General Store. Admin Manning explained to Mr. Logullo he would have to call the county about the railroad tracks, and letters have been sent to Dollar General regarding trash in the parking lot and surrounding areas. With no other public comments, a motion to adopt was entered by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Seals; a vote of 5-0 was entered.

A motion to close the public hearing was entered by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Linton; a vote of 5-0 was entered. A motion to open the regular meeting was entered by Council Starkey and seconded by Council Linton; a vote 5-0 was entered.

New Business:

Mayor Hemstock introduced Resolution 2024-04 Volunteer Fire Dept Property Tax Credit.

Mayor Hemstock introduced Resolution 2024-05-Operation Emergency Response Plans-Update.

Admin Manning shared with the Council we are receiving inquiries for the use of our meeting room by other organizations. An agreement template needs to be created. Council asked to consider a security deposit to be returned if there are no issues with the state of the room. User of the room must clean up after themselves; if not security deposit will not be returned, and any repairs will be invoiced accordingly. Admin Manning will make up an agreement and send it for everyone to review.

Admin Manning shared the draft reimbursement policy, draft reflects federal rates for reimbursement. Council Starkey and Council Holland said Maryland rates were higher than federal; Hemstock stated we should use federal rates. The policy will be presented at the April meeting for adoption.

Admin Manning shared information about recycling igloos, a suggestion by a few residents. Council's concerns are the attraction of rodents, keeping the area cleaned around the igloos. Manning shared dumping is monthly, and program is free. Council asked if the igloos could be dumped more frequent than monthly. Admin Manning will look into and get back with the council.

Admin Manning shared information from RiverNet regarding a town wide Wi-Fi service. There are 2 options available: option 1, wi-fi everywhere it would cost \$900/pole plus \$4,500 to provide service, monthly cost of \$780 for maintenance, updates, and service; option 2 create network, providing both private and public wi-fi throughout the town infrastructure costs = \$14,000 to bring fiber quality service to be available to everyone- connection fee for every property is \$100- \$150/ house for labor plus \$500/ house hardware. Council decided this system was too expensive for the Town and its residents.

Admin Manning asked the Council to review Chapter 29- Animals for discussion at the April meeting.

Public Comments:

Council Comments:

Council Holland shared her discussion with Secretary Day about the senior housing project. Holland shared his contact information with the Council for additional contacts. Mayor Hemstock said it's very important for the Council to call Secretary Day to keep pressure on our request for funding for this project.

Hemstock shared the County is moving forward on the sewer plant and should break ground 2025 after the issuance of all permits.

Correspondence:

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 8:06 PM was entered by Council Starkey, seconded by Council Linton, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Starkey, Town Clerk