

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Dec. 10, 2024

Attendees: Mayor Yeager, Comm. Bush, Comm. Carver, Jeannette DeLude

Public Attendees: Ben Vaness – Rauch Engineering,

The meeting was called to order at 6pm

The minutes from the Nov 2024 meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Train Station/Town Hall Reno Bid Opening – Ben Vaness (Rauch Engineering)

Three bids received – See Rauch breakdown

BRS, Harper and Sons, St. Mary's roofing

Breakdown of bids from Ben Vaness:

- BRS and Harper and Sons competitive, St Marys was higher
- BRS has a personal stake in the projects. They are from this area. They followed up after submitting the bid and asked many questions. They seem very interested.
- Harper and Sons has also called with follow ups. Rauch has worked with them previously and they have had good experiences.

The cost has come to almost double what was expected and what we had grant money to cover. Rauch recommended we phase in the project. They will talk to the bidders to explain why the project now must be phased in

They recommend we start with BRS and explain to them we must phase in. If they don't agree we could go with the second bid of Harper & Sons.

Mr. Vaness reported the plan would be to get the building encapsulated and maybe do the interior work and site work in the 2nd phase.

Rauch Engineering has a meeting with the DNR head to discuss reallocation of funds to meet the current needs. He explained they may have to push back the contract start date.

The Town hall project is ok and we can sign a contract by the end of month for using ARPA funds. Rauch will have it prepared for signature by the end of next week at the latest!

A motion was made by Comm. Bush to pursue negotiations with BRS. Comm. Carver seconded the motion, The motion was unanimously approved. If the contract is not successful with BRS then the council will agree to go with Harper and Sons.

Comm. Bush questioned why the entrance is going through the medical center parking lot. Mr. Vanness stated that was their directive and they had to do it because of conflicts with railroad easements. He stated we may be able to change it if we do phased project because we will have more time to deal with the State of Maryland and the Railroad.

Old Business:

Helipad – Ms. DeLude and Comm. Bush met with the medical center, EMS and the engineers. It was determined they don't need an actual helipad; they just need to provide a space for the helicopter to land. Everyone looked at the site and determined the site appeared to be suitable for helicopter needs. The Medical Center is okay with them landing behind their building. The possibility of signing an MOU was discussed. The MOU would be between the medical ctr. and emergency services. Comm. Carver stated for the record she works at the medical center now; therefore, she will recuse herself.

Tree in back parking lot – Unity Landscaping will be coming to look at the tree and will give a report on what they think, if anything needs to be done to make sure it doesn't fall on Mr. Jackson's garage.

Mulch in park – The Mayor contacted Danny Hutchinson, and they will be doing mulch for the park and cleaning up the leaves.

New business

Groundbreaking – The groundbreaking for the train station project is tabled until we get the contract signed and know when the start date will be taking place.

Lighting contest – Comm. Carver asked if we would be doing the Christmas lighting contest again. The council said Yes, they would like to do it again. They will judge the houses when they do the Santa ride around.

The rental licensing was discussed. There are a couple of properties who have not had their inspections yet. Ms. DeLude reported letters have been sent and the next step would be to take the owners to court if the council wanted to proceed with the current path. The mayor noted that there is another property they discovered is renting a trailer on their property. Ms. Delude was asked to send them a letter so we could get it completed. A letter will be sent to 308 & 310 Church Lane to get a landlord license and inspection.

The council voted to give a \$500 Christmas bonus to Jeannette DeLude.

Public works report attached.

Council Comments – None

Sheriff's dept report – attached

Tm Report – attached

Comm. Carver will confirm the time for council to be at the fire house for the Santa Ride. The Mayor will call about borrowing a golf cart again. Comm. Bush and Comm. Carver will decorate the golf cart.

Appreciation Night – Appreciation night will be held at the next meeting for volunteers and the Fire Dept. Comm. Bush suggested we give coffee mugs with something in it for the gift this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 701pm