

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

August 10, 2022

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") held a regularly scheduled meeting on this date at 12:00 p.m. The following persons were present: Mayor Robert J. Alt, Commissioners Jean A. Broomell, Charles H. Givens, Sr., Robert M. Massimiano and Earl M. Piner, Sr., Finance Director Steven H. Repole, CPA; Director of Human Resources Andy Rodriguez; Chief of Police Carolyn Rogers; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, P.E; Stormwater Manager Sidney Ojofeitimi; Director of Human Resources Andy Rodriguez; Human Resources Benefits Specialist Renee McCormick; Director of Planning Jeanne D. Minner; Chief of Police Carolyn Rogers; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Assistant Town Administrator and Administrative Assistant Catheline Adams.

Mayor Alt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and lead the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Amendment 2022-05

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2022-05 to recognize receipt of a State of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Grant in the amount of \$655,504 for the Clene Facility Improvement Project at 100 Chesapeake Boulevard.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2022-05 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2022-06

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2022-06 to recognize the receipt and expenditure of the Elkton Downtown Façade Grant in the amount of \$11,133 through the Community Legacy Program.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2022-06 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2022-07

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2022-07 to amend the original budget for the over-expended accounts for Planning & Zoning-Engineering in the amount of \$90,000 and Waste Removal-Contracted Services in the amount of \$55,000.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2022-07 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2022-08

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2022-08 to amend the original budget for the over-expended salary account in Elkton Police Department-Support Services in the amount of \$25,000.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2022-08 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

Discussion - Weiner Benefits Group - Town 401 & 457 Retirement Plan

Mr. Andy Rodriguez advised the Board that he had requested a review of the Town of Elkton's 401 & 457 Retirement Plans from Weiner Benefits Group, with whom Mr. Rodriguez has done business in the past. He introduced Weiner Benefits representatives Mr. Louis Memmola, Ms. Stephanie Clendening and Mr. Tom Guillebeau to the Board.

Mr. Memmola stated Weiner Benefits Group reviewed Town's Retirement Plans, recommending consolidating the plans and designating an advisor to meet directly with employees.

Mr. Memmola presented a Power Point presentation of Weiner Benefits Group's recommendations, a copy of which was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mayor Alt questioned if Town employees are receiving guidance currently. Mr. Memmola stated the Town's 457 plan has a designated representative however the 401 plan has no advisor.

Mayor Alt questioned if employees will be updated throughout the process. Mr. Memmola answered in the positive.

Mr. Rodriguez stated a committee of Town staff will be formed to oversee the transition.

Discussion - PFA Class Action Suit - Jay Gullo, Esquire

Mr. Jay Gullo, Esquire, introduced himself to the Board. He stated the purpose of his appearance was to discuss a nationwide suit by water suppliers regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), which were added to numerous products by several manufacturers over many years, and which remain in the environment indefinitely.

Mr. Gullo stated the basis of the class-action suit is that the manufacturers, including DuPont, DOW and 3M, continued to use PFAS after learning that they were health hazards.

Mr. Gullo stated the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will establish benchmark limits of contamination of water supplies, adding that the suit, if successful, will provide water suppliers with funding for future cleanup costs. He noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment, (MDE) initiated state-wide testing for PFAS.

Mr. Gullo stated Baron and Budd, a law firm based in Texas, initiated the nationwide suit, adding that he is the firm's representative in this geographic area.

Discussion ensued regarding testing of the Town's wells. Mr. George stated testing from the Town's Well No. 4 indicated contamination above the established limit. He questioned if damages assessed against the manufacturers would be collected for cleanup affected water supplies. Mr. Gullo answered in the affirmative.

Discussion - Waste Management Services - Paul Bean

Mr. Paul Beane, Government Services for Waste Management (WM) introduced himself to the Board. He stated the purpose of his appearance was to discuss trash and recycling collection in the Town.

Mr. Beane presented a Power Point Presentation, a copy of which was placed in the record of the minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding costs associated with trash/recycling collection, including equipment and landfill fees.

Mr. Beane stated WM's goal of streamlining collection of trash and recycling on one day per week, with bulk pickup occurring once per month. He noted WM's plan to utilize trucks that lift and dump trash cans automatically.

Commissioner Givens noted that not all residents have the large trash cans that WM would use with the automated equipment. Commissioner Massimiano questioned if WM would provide the containers to all residents. Mr. Beane stated that could be provided to all residents at the Town's request. Commissioner Broomell questioned who is responsible for the cost of the containers. Mr. Beane stated it would be at the Town's cost.

Mr. Beane stated the revised schedule, which will commence in November, will include notices hand-delivered to residences.

Mayor Alt asked Mr. Beane to attend the Landlord meeting after the Board meeting in order to advise Landlords of the upcoming changes.

Discussion - CGI Communications

Ms. Amy Velez, representing CGI Communications (CGI), introduced herself to the Board. She stated the purpose of her appearance was to discuss the services of CGI and a potential partnership with the Town. She stated CGI provides welcome videos to new residents and businesses, the links to which are posted to the Town's website. She stated CGI creates partnerships with local businesses, which in turn fund the costs of the videos.

Mayor Alt expressed support for CGI's services, stating employers such as Terumo and Gore could utilize the videos for recruitment. Commissioner Givens concurred with Mayor Alt's comments.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Assistant Town Administrator

A VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Note: The minutes of regularly scheduled public meetings conducted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton, following their approval, are posted at www.elkton.org. The minutes, in hard copy format, are retained indefinitely by the Town of Elkton, Administration Office, 100 Railroad Avenue, Elkton, Maryland 21921.