

**The Mayor and Commissioners
of the Town of Elkton**

June 16, 2021

In order to comply with Governor Larry Hogan's declaration of a State of Emergency as part of Maryland's response to COVID-19, and in order to limit public gatherings during this time, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") conducted a virtual meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. The following persons participated via computer and/or telephone: Mayor Robert J. Alt; Commissioners Jean A. Broomell, Charles H. Givens, Sr., Robert M. Massimiano and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven H. Repole, CPA; Assistant Town Administrator Joseph V. Zurolo; Planning Director Jeanne D. Minner; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, PE; Chief of Police Carolyn Senior Administrative Specialist L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney John P. Downs, Esquire.

Mayor Alt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and lead the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Alt requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Richard Lemen.

ACTION: The minutes of the June 2, 2021 virtual meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present with no corrections or amendments.

ACTION: The financial report and the bills submitted for payment were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

Joseph Zurolo, Assistant Town Administrator

Mr. Zurolo stated the current Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expires on June 30, 2021. He stated the proposed CBA renewal has a 2-year term, and includes, but is not limited to, compensation for Officers who provide field training for cadets, creation of a Senior Officer class and the option for an Officer to buy back missed service time, up to one (1) year lifetime, related to Worker's Compensation non-service.

Mr. Downs stated he reviewed the CBA and has no concerns.

Commissioner Givens questioned why the CBA expires in 2 years. Chief Rogers stated that the shorter term provides easier renegotiation once anticipated Police Reform Bills come into effect.

ACTION: The Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

**Resolution R5-2021 Strategic Demolition Grant Funding Application
Regarding Property located at 100 Chesapeake Boulevard**

Jeanne D. Minner, Director of Planning

Ms. Minner presented Resolution R5-2021 for approval. She stated the Board's approval of Resolution R5-2021 is required as part of a Strategic Demolition Grant Funding application regarding property located at 100 Chesapeake Boulevard. She added that the grant will be used for demolition of interior and exterior portions of the building in order to accommodate a nano-medicine research company.

Ms. Minner stated the Resolution includes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Town's administration and oversight of the grant funds, adding that the Town will have no financial obligation regarding the project.

ACTION: Resolution R5-2021 Strategic Demolition Grant Funding Application regarding property located at 100 Chesapeake Boulevard, was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Discussion

Discussion ensued regarding approval of the Town Administrator's execution of subsequent documents related to Resolution R5-2021 and the attached MOU.

ACTION: The Town Administrator's execution of subsequent documents related to Resolution R5-2021 and the attached MOU was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Petition for Annexation

Evan Rollins, Esquire, representing Preston and Laetitia Ayars, owners of property located in the Third Election District, Cecil County, Maryland, and identified on Cecil County Tax Map 027B (formerly Tax Map 303), Parcels 58, 807 and 2483 consisting of approximately 56.1806 acres with improvements erected thereon, and further described in the Cecil County Land Records in Liber WAS 469, Folio 493, Liber WAS 265, Folio 237 and Liber 265, Folio 233

Mr. Evan Rollins, Esquire, introduced himself to the Board. He presented the above referenced Petition for Annexation on behalf of property owners Preston and Laetitia Ayars.

Mr. Rollins stated that Cecil County Council considered a requested rezoning of the property associated with the Annexation, and during that process, Council expressed concerns regarding traffic impacts to Belle Hill Road.

Mayor Alt queried the Board for questions regarding the Petition for Annexation and related Annexation Resolution A1-2021.

Mr. George stated that the property is currently zoned RM (High Density Residential). Noting that the County did not act on the applicants' previous request to change the zoning to C-3 (Highway Interchange Commercial), Mr. George asked Mr. Rollins if the County Council has reconsidered the zoning change. Mr. Rollins stated his belief that the Council's concerns stemmed from their concerns about impacts to Belle Hill Road, adding that the property owners addressed the issue with an agreement that subsequent owners of the parcel will be responsible for maintenance of the road. He stated he does not feel the Council will take issue with the requested zoning change.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Alt requested a vote regarding the Petition for Annexation and related Annexation Resolution A1-2021.

ACTION: The above referenced Petition for Annexation was accepted on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

ACTION: Annexation Resolution A1-2021 was accepted for introduction on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. George stated the Elkton Colored School Museum & Cultural Center expressed interest in leasing Town-owned property at 205 Booth Street, and suggested selling the property to the organization.

Mr. Downs, noting the historical significance of the property, stated the Town could retain ownership or draft a long-term lease to the organization. He stated restrictions can be incorporated into the Deed to assure that the property's history will be preserved.

Mayor Alt queried the Board for a consensus regarding sale of the property to the Elkton Colored School Museum & Cultural Center with Deed restrictions in place to protect the property's history. It was the consensus of the Board to support the sale of the property with the referenced Deed restrictions.

Mr. George, referring to the Board's previous discussions regarding relocation of the July 4th fireworks site to Meadow Park West, suggested permitting pedestrians in Meadow Park East during the event. Discussion ensued regarding the relocation of the display and closure of Meadow Park West to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Chief Rogers expressed concerns regarding concentration of spectators at or near the fireworks site. Mr. Handley added that identification of viewing sites will be posted at locations throughout town.

Mayor Alt stated the relocation of the fireworks site was necessary due to issues with the previous site. He stated the new site provides for larger shells which will travel higher, resulting in a wider viewing area throughout town.

Mayor Alt's Report

Mayor Alt questioned if the Department of Public Works (DPW) had begun sidewalk grubbing. Mr. Handley answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Alt asked DPW to address every pothole in Elkton as a priority.

Mayor Alt commended Parks & Recreation staff for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Town's Neighborhood Community Center (NCC).

Mayor Alt, referring to the recent 35th anniversary celebration of Tidewater Tattoo, stated he missed the event due to a previous commitment. He presented Commissioner Massimiano a Certificate of Recognition commemorating the anniversary.

Commissioner Massimiano expressed appreciation for support of his business' 35th anniversary event.

Mayor Alt commended Mr. Handley and his family for creation of the Town's Memorial Day Parade float.

Commissioner Massimiano's Report

Commissioner Massimiano stated DPW employee Mr. Ed Dowell proposed to build a new arch and replace the railings at the walkway between the Howard Street parking lot and Main Street. Commissioner Massimiano stated Mr. Dowell is a talented artist and should be given free reign for the design of the project. Mayor Alt expressed support for Mr. Dowell's project.

Commissioner Massimiano expressed support for a baseball / softball event sponsored by former professional baseball player Joe Vanasky. He stated the event is scheduled for August 7th.

Commissioner Massimiano, referring to the recent death of Mr. Richard Lemen, stated he will miss Mr. Lemen's participation in Town meetings.

Commissioner Piner's Report

Commissioner Piner stated he enjoyed the recent Parks & Recreation dance recital, which was held outdoors. He expressed his desire for Parks & Recreation to obtain large tents and picnic tables to accommodate outdoor events at the NCC.

Commissioner Piner expressed his admiration of Mr. Lemen, stating he will be missed.

Commissioner Givens' Report

Commissioner Givens stated he enjoyed the 35th anniversary of Tidewater Tattoo.

Commissioner Givens announced the Juneteenth celebration at Wrights AME Church is scheduled at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 17th.

Commissioner Givens commended the Parks & Recreation staff for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the NCC.

Commissioner Givens confirmed that the Town of Elkton is scheduled to host the Maryland Municipal League Cecil Harford Chapter dinner in July.

Commissioner Givens questioned the status of recruitment for a Human Resources Manager. Mr. Zurolo stated the job description is currently being reviewed.

Commissioner Givens questioned if the NCC had a full time custodian. Mr. George answered in the negative, stating that Parks & Recreation staff perform janitorial duties.

Commissioner Givens stated Mr. Lemen always provided positive input during Town meetings, adding that he will be missed.

Commissioner Givens noted a request from Chief Rogers to DPW for yard signs regarding recruitment for the Elkton Police Department. Chief Rogers stated she is looking for creative ways to publicize recruitment efforts, including referral incentives for Elkton Police Officers.

Chief Rogers commended Elkton Police Officers for engaging in community activities and sponsors, the Boys & Girls Club and the Ripkin Foundation.

Commissioner Givens commended Elkton Police Officers for their involvement with the community. He noted the stress involved in being in Law Enforcement. Chief Rogers stated it is critical for Officers to have support from the community as well as the Board.

Commissioner Broomell's Report

Commissioner Broomell stated she will miss seeing Mr. Lemen as a neighbor as well as a meeting participant.

Public Comment

Ms. Pat Opal echoed the Board's comments regarding Mr. Lemen, stating the Town lost a great citizen.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the virtual meeting at 7:05 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Sr. Administrative Specialist

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.