

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

April 17, 2024

The Mayor & Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") held a regularly scheduled meeting on this date at 12:00 p.m. The following persons attended the meeting either in person or virtually: Mayor Robert J. Alt; Commissioners Charles H. Givens, Sr.; Robert M. Massimiano; and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Assistant Town Administrator L. Michelle Henson; Planning Director Jeanne D. Minner; Director of Building and Zoning Charles Bromwell; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, P.E.; Human Resources Director Andy Rodriguez; Planning Assistant Quinn Krenzel; and Town Attorney John P. Downs, Esquire. Commissioner Jean A. Broomell was excused from the meeting.

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

ACTION: The minutes of the April 3, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present with no corrections.

ACTION: The Financial Report and the bills submitted for payment were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Discussion - Artesian Route 40 Interconnection Agreement

Messrs. Joseph DiNunzio, Executive Vice President and Adam Gould, Manager of Systems Planning & Design, representing Artesian Water, introduced themselves to the Board.

Mayor Alt stated the purpose of inviting Artesian representatives to the meeting was to discuss the provisions of the existing Red Hill interconnection agreement between the Town and Artesian, as well as the planned Route 40 interconnection. Referring to a drought that occurred several years ago, Mayor Alt stated the Town increased its draw through the Red Hill interconnection, triggering an increased minimum daily take. He asked if that increased daily take could be reduced, and further queried if the planned Route 40 interconnection agreement could be structured in the same way.

Mr. DiNunzio stated the agreements are structured to provide for a minimum draw, adding that required increased minimums result from Artesian having to reserve anticipated capacity, based upon the Town's daily draw.

Resolution R4-2024 Delinquent Water Renters - Presented for Approval

Ms. Henson presented Resolution R4-2024 for the purpose of clarification of the language regarding the fee to be collected by the Finance Department for delinquent water, sewer and trash

service payments, adding that the resolution also clarifies the term "Utility Bill" with regard to water, sewer and trash service billing. She stated Resolution R4-2024 and resultant Ordinance 3-2024 resulted from the Town's new billing system and bill generation.

ACTION: Resolution R4-2024 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

Ordinance 3-2024 Delinquent Water Renters - Presented for Introduction

Ms. Henson presented Ordinance 3-2024 for the purpose of amending the Code of the Town of Elkton Title 13, Chapter 13.04 Water Service System Section 13.04.050 Delinquent Water Renters.

Ms. Henson stated the Town's former billing system provided for utility billing solely to property owners, adding that delinquent properties were posted prior to termination of service. She stated the new billing system and bill format provided for direct notice of delinquency to residents as well as property owners via a mailed statement, resulting in amendment of the language associated with delinquent accounts, hence the introduction of Ordinance 3-2024.

ACTION: Ordinance 3-2024 Delinquent Water Renters was accepted for introduction on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt's Report

Mayor Alt stated the Town will host the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Cecil Harford Chapter Dinner meeting on Thursday, April 18th. He stated Cecil County Councilmen Bob Meffley and Al Miller are the scheduled speakers.

Mayor Alt stated the Town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to move forward with a study that is required prior to initiation of a planned flood mitigation project. He stated the Town received (3) proposals to conduct the study, and queried Ms. Minner for a recommendation of acceptance.

Ms. Minner recommended acceptance of a proposal in the amount of \$98,900 submitted by Verdantas Engineering.

ACTION: The request to accept the proposal in the amount of \$98,900 by Verdantas Engineering was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Commissioner Massimiano's Report

Commissioner Massimiano stated he attended the Cecil County Legislative Wrap Up Breakfast on April 16th. He stated the event was very informative.

Commissioner Massimiano stated the weather is promising for the Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, April 27th.

Public Comment

Mr. Angelo Giafes expressed appreciation for the Board's support of a community garden adjacent to the Family Education Center in the Hollingsworth Manor neighborhood. He invited the Board to attend a planting event on May 5th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Lisa Hutton, representing On Our Own, requested the Board's approval for placement of banners on Town-owned light poles commemorating Mental Health Month during May. Mr. Handley suggested placement of signage in the courtyard adjacent to the Elkton Alliance vs. use of Town-owned light poles.

Mr. Bryan Williams, owner of Crave Restaurant, advised the Board of his concerns regarding issues associated with signage regulations at his business.

Mayor Alt expressed his desire to have the entire Board present to hear Mr. Williams' concerns.

Commissioner Piner stated he previously met with Mr. Williams regarding his concerns. He advised Mr. Williams that the concerns he raised should be discussed in a closed meeting.

Commissioner Givens stated he also met with Mr. Williams, at which time he advised him to speak with Mr. Bromwell regarding his concerns.

Mr. Williams expressed concerns regarding a conversation that he had with Mr. Downs regarding the sign and potential citation.

Mayor Alt offered to meet with Mr. Williams and Mr. Bromwell to discuss Mr. Williams' concerns.

Motion for a Closed Meeting

Mayor Alt requested a Closed Meeting Pursuant to State Government Statutory Authority to Close Session, General Provisions Article, §3-305 (b) (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; Commissioner Givens made a motion for a Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt announced that the Public Meeting will not reconvene.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the meeting at 12:45 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.