

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

April 7, 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 12:00 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; Chief of Police Carolyn Rogers; Planning Assistant Nick Cannistraci; Assistant Town Administrator Joseph V. Zurolo; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, P.E.; Director of Parks & Recreation Mary C. Magaw; Senior Administrative Specialist L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorneys Lisa Blackson, Esquire and John P. Downs, Esquire.

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 March 3, 2021 virtual meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner 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 Broomell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

Public Hearing

Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal

Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing open at 12:03 p.m.

Assistant Town Administrator Joseph Zurolo presented the Comcast Franchise agreement (the agreement) for approval. He stated Mr. Matt Shiffermiller, Director of Government Affairs for Comcast was in attendance in the event the Board had questions or concerns.

Mr. Zurolo stated the agreement provides permission for Comcast to install infrastructure within the Town's rights of way in order to provide cable service for the community. He stated Comcast paid approximately \$250,000 in franchise fees to the Town in Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Piner stated he was approached by a citizen who is concerned about his monthly cable fees, and the impact to his fixed income. Mr. Shiffermiller stated Comcast will work with individuals regarding costs for services.

Mr. Zurolo stated the agreement contains a non-exclusive clause, which means another cable service provider can enter a franchise agreement with the Town.

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Mr. Shiffermiller stated Comcast offers low-cost internet services to communities in need. Commissioner Givens questioned how this information is disseminated to the community. Mr. Shiffermiller stated Comcast offers the program to non-profits, schools, etc.

Mayor Alt queried the audience for questions or comments regarding the Comcast Franchise Agreement renewal.

Ms. Pat Opal expressed her desire for Comcast to offer service discounts for non-profit entities such as the Historic Elk Landing Foundation.

Hearing no additional questions or comments, Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing closed at 12:12 p.m.

ACTION: The Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Broomell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

Public Hearing

Resolution R1-2021 Amending the Charter of the Town of Elkton, Section C8-14 [Taxable Property] to Clarify Taxable Property within the Town

Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing open at 12:12 p.m.

Mr. George presented Resolution R1-2021 for the purpose of amending the Charter of the Town of Elkton, Section C8-14 in order to clarify Taxable Property within the Town.

Mr. George stated Resolution R1-2021, which will be effective 50 days from adoption, was drafted in response to a business within Town that appealed the Town's assessment of Business Personal Property Tax. A copy of Resolution R1-2021 was read and placed in the record of the minutes.

Mayor Alt queried those in attendance for comments regarding Resolution R1-2021. Hearing none, Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing closed at 12:17 p.m.

ACTION: Resolution R1-2021 was adopted on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Discussion

Elkton Alliance Request for Road Closures for Downtown Events

Ms. Jessica Price, Executive Director, Elkton Alliance, introduced herself to the Board. She stated the purpose of her appearance is to discuss the list of previously distributed road closures to accommodate Downtown events.

Mayor Alt asked Mr. George to present the requests for Waivers of Alcohol Prohibition related to the previously mentioned Downtown events.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. George presented requests for Waiver of Alcohol Prohibition for the following events:

Location: 117-118 North Street to Main Street and from 107-109 West Main Street to Courthouse Plaza

* June 18, 2021 Dog Days of Summer 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* June 24, 2021 Downtown Car Show 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* July 9, 2021 Red, White & Brew 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* August 13, 2021 Corn Fest Event 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* September 17, 2021 Fall Fest 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* September 18, 2021 Fall Fest 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* November 24, 2021 Turkey Trot 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

* December 18, 2021 SantaCon 12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Location: Municipal Parking Lot located on the North side of Howard Street

* June 19, 2021 Dinner Theater Under the Stars 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

ACTION: The requested Waivers of Alcohol Prohibition for the above listed events were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Commissioner Massimiano questioned the status of his request for a road closure on June 5, 2021 to celebrate Tidewater Tattoo's 35th anniversary. Ms. Price stated she submitted the permit application and was awaiting follow up from the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Mayor Alt's Report

Mayor Alt, referring to the Board's previous discussions regarding appointments to vacancies on the Elkton Housing Authority (EHA), requested the Board's approval for the appointment of Ms. Araceli Campos to the EHA for a term which expires January 1, 2026.

ACTION: The appointment of Ms. Araceli Campos to the EHA Board for a term which expires January 1, 2026 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Broomell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt questioned the date of the upcoming Little League Parade. Ms. Price stated the annual Little League Parade is scheduled for April 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., adding that participants will begin lining up at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Price stated the Dunkin' coffee shop in Big Elk Mall will be celebrating its grand reopening with a ribbon cutting on April 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Givens' Report

Commissioner Givens requested a formal ribbon cutting ceremony for the Neighborhood Community Center.

Commissioner Givens thanked Chief Rogers for her active participation in with the public.

Commissioner Broomell's Report

Commissioner Broomell questioned the status of the Comcast "Lift Zone" Program under which internet service is provided to low-income communities, and asked if the program could be utilized by the Parks & Recreation Department at the Neighborhood Community Center. Ms. Magaw stated she is looking into the requirements of the program.

Commissioner Piner's Report

Commissioner Piner requested enforcement of disabled vehicles left on Town streets, specifically in the Walnut Hill neighborhood. He also requested enforcement of basketball hoops placed in the streets in that area.

Commissioner Massimiano's Report

Commissioner Massimiano stated he is hosting a fishing derby at Howard's Pond on May 22, 2021. He stated Chick-fil-a and UTZ snacks are providing donations and the VFW is also supporting the event.

Public Comment

Ms. Pat Opal announced the Historic Elk Landing Foundation's British Invasion Race to Ft. Hollingsworth virtual 5k.

Ms. Opal thanked Commissioner Piner and Mr. Joe Piner for filming the Elk Landing property.

Ms. Price stated the Alliance has initiated a traffic safety study in the Downtown area with the goal to enhance outdoor dining safety.

Ms. Price stated the Alliance's new logo will be unveiled during the Maryland Municipal League Summer Convention.

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Ms. Price stated she will keep the Board apprised of the anticipated opening of Enzo's at North Bridge Street and the 1-year anniversary celebration of the Pastries by Penny Dessert Shop.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the virtual meeting at 12:41 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.