

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

September 13, 2023

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") conducted a workshop meeting on this date at 12:00 p.m. The following persons participated in person or via computer: 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; Assistant Finance Director A. Beth Moran; Director of Human Resources Andy Rodriguez; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, PE; Chief of Police Carolyn Rogers; Planning Assistant Quinn Krenzel; Assistant Town Administrator L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney John P. Downs, Esquire.

Mayor Alt called the workshop meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Alt, referring to a request to amend the Town Charter to provide for creation of a Collective Bargaining unit for non-sworn personnel, stated Town Administrator Lewis George is meeting with Town counsel on Friday, September 15th regarding the proposed amendment.

Mayor Alt stated the Board, while supportive of employees' rights to unionize, will await counsel's advice regarding amendment to the Charter administratively or via referendum.

Presentation - Weiner Benefits Group - Overview of Employee Investment Programs

Messrs. Louis D. Memmolo, Investment Adviser Representative, and Tom Guillebeau, Investment Associate, representing Weiner Benefits Group, introduced themselves to the Board. Mr. Memmolo stated the purpose of their appearance was to provide an overview of the Town's Investment Program.

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

Mr. Memmolo stated the transition of oversight of Town employees' investment portfolios from Nationwide to Weiner Benefits resulted in lowered fees and overall fund performance improvements.

Mr. Repole questioned the outcome if an employee left the Town prior to becoming vested in the retirement plan. Mr. Memmolo stated that if an employee leaves the Town prior to becoming vested in the retirement plan, the Town's contribution is returned to the Town as a forfeiture.

Discussion - Utility Billing - Steve Repole, Director of Finance

Director of Finance Mr. Repole stated the purpose of his appearance was to discuss the Town's current water and sewer rates and proposed Ordinance 5-2023. He stated Ordinance 5-

2023, if adopted by the Board, will provide increased revenue to the Water and Sewer Funds which will offset substantial increases in operational costs.

Mr. Repole stated the Board lowered water rates in 2015 and sewer rates in 2017, adding that operational and backup supply costs increased substantially within that timeframe.

Discussion ensued regarding increased expenses vs. decreasing revenues in the Water and Sewer Funds.

Commissioner Piner expressed concerns regarding the impending increases in fees. Mayor Alt, acknowledging the Board's previous efforts to delay increases to water and sewer rates, added that trash collection rates will also increase substantially. He stated the Board is faced with the burden of increasing fees to offset costs.

Discussion - Art of Living Foundation - World Culture Festival - Neha Arora

Ms. Neha Arora, representing the Art of Living Foundation, introduced herself to the Board. She stated the purpose of her appearance was to invite the Board to the World Cultural Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. during the period September 29th - October 1st.

Discussion

Mayor Alt, referring to Singerly Fire Company's request to amend the Town Charter in order to provide increased funding to the fire company, stated the Town will request an independent audit of the fire company's financial statements. He stated the purpose of the independent audit is to justify the substantial increase in real property taxes that would result from Singerly's request.

Commissioner Broomell questioned the status of out of state license plate enforcement. Chief Rogers replied that the State of Maryland no longer provides support for out of state license plate enforcement, adding that EPD will initiate enforcement at the local level, which will begin with public education, followed up with enforcement.

Commissioner Givens requested enforcement of untagged vehicles on private property.

Motion for Closed Meeting

ACTION: Pursuant to State Government Statutory Authority to Close Session, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b) (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; Commissioner Givens made a motion for a Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell 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 1:33 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.