

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

November 6, 2019

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the “Board”) held their first scheduled meeting in November on this date at 7:00 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.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Chief of Police Matthew J. Donnelly; Director of Public Works J. Daniel Handley, P.E.; Senior Administrative Specialist L. Michelle Henson; Town Attorney John P. Downs, Esquire. Finance Director Steven H. Repole was excused from the meeting.

Mayor Alt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION: The minutes of the October 16, 2019 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 or amendments.

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

Budget Amendment 2020-02

Mr. George presented Budget Amendment 2020-02 to recognize the forfeiture of \$6,680 in seized funds and their funding of unbudgeted criminal investigation expenditures.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2020-02 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2020-03

Mr. George presented Budget Amendment 2020-03 to recognize the forfeiture of \$1,500 in seized funds and their funding of undercover Police operations.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2020-03 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation

Request to expand certain services at the Town owned Family Education Center (the FEC) located in the Hollingsworth Manor neighborhood.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) representatives Mr. Chris Benzing, Executive Director, Ms. Tammy Duff, Deputy Director and Ms. Lynda Woodside, Early Head Start Director and MRDC Board member Mr. Mike Brandon introduced themselves to the Board.

Mr. Benzing stated that the MRDC has expanded services such as Head Start at the FEC since acquiring the lease in 2016. Ms. Duff added the MRDC has also coordinated several neighborhood events with the Hollingsworth Manor Community Association and Elkton Police Department.

Ms. Duff stated the purpose of their appearance is to request the Board's approval to renovate the FEC building to enable the MRDC to expand programs to children and families. She added that the planned renovation includes a larger playground area and enhanced security for the entrance to the building. She stated placement of a temporary office trailer will also be requested.

Ms. Duff and Ms. Woodside provided an overview of services currently offered at the FEC, including early childhood learning programs, job and family counseling, and adult education. Ms. Duff stated the renovation of the facility will provide the opportunity to double the number of children served by the early head start program. She stated the MRDC's goal of providing care to children, giving their parents the ability to work outside of the home.

Ms. Duff stated families from throughout Cecil County are served by the facility adding that referrals come from several sources, including schools, homeless shelters and the foster care system. She stated transportation is provided when needed.

Ms. Duff stated MRDC's goal of developing a community center on the open lot adjacent to the facility. She stated this project will be in partnership with the Paris Foundation.

ACTION: The request to allow the Maryland Rural Development Corporation to initiate renovations at the Family Education Center was approved on a motion by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Elkton Housing Authority Request for Easement

Request for easement on Town-owned parcel adjacent to property located at 150 East Main Street.

Mr. Peter Kirsch, Esquire, representing the Elkton Housing Authority (EHA), Mr. Charles E. Hicks, V, EHA Board Chair, and Mr. David Holden, Ingerman Group, were introduced to the Board.

Mr. Kirsch stated the purpose of their appearance is to request an easement on a Town-owned parcel adjacent to the EHA-owned building at 150 East Main Street. He stated the property is not utilized by the Town, and an easement would be used to provide access to parking for tenants of the building at 150 East Main Street. He stated the easement, if approved, will be specifically for use by EHA.

Mayor Alt, referring to planned renovation of the building, questioned if the EHA property is being sold. Mr. Kirsch stated EHA will retain ownership of the property and will enter a long-term lease with the Ingerman Group.

Commissioner Broomell questioned the extent of the planned renovations. Mr. Holden stated the interior will be modernized and the exterior will receive architectural improvements. He added the bridge from East Main Street to the entrance of the building will be rebuilt.

Commissioner Broomell questioned if the easement is transferable. Mr. Kirsch answered in the negative, stating the easement is tied to the building.

Mr. Downs stated he approved the language of the easement for legal form and sufficiency.

ACTION: The request for an easement on a Town-owned parcel adjacent to the EHA-owned building at 150 East Main Street was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Town Administrator's Report

Resolution R14-2019 - Parking Meter Holiday

Mr. George presented Resolution R14-2019 Parking Meter Holiday, declaring the period November 27, 2019 - January 2, 2020 free from parking meter fees. A copy of Resolution R14-2019 was read and placed in the record of the minutes.

ACTION: Resolution R14-2019 Parking Meter Holiday was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Proclamation P17-2019 - Small Business Saturday

Mr. George presented Proclamation P17-2019 Small Business Saturday, declaring Saturday, November 30, 2019 Small Business Saturday. A copy of Proclamation P17-2019 was read and placed in the record of the minutes.

ACTION: Proclamation P17-2019 Small Business Saturday was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

Proclamation P18-2019 - Municipal Government Works Month

Mr. George presented Proclamation P18-2019 Municipal Government Works Month. A copy of Proclamation P18-2019 was read and placed in the record of the minutes.

ACTION: Proclamation P18-2019 Municipal Government Works Month was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Broomell. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Request for Waiver of Alcohol Prohibition - Thanksgiving Eve Event

Ms. Beckie McMahon, owner of C3NTRAL Tavern, requested a Waiver of Alcohol Prohibition on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. in the area of 117-118 North Street to Main Street and from 101 West Main Street to 107 East Main Street.

ACTION: The request for a Waiver of Alcohol Prohibition for the Thanksgiving Eve event was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt's Report

Mayor Alt, referring to the Elkton High School Reunion Event that took place on October 4, 2019, requested a Proclamation declaring the first Friday of each October "Elkton High School Alumni Day".

Mayor Alt requested a consensus from the Board to conduct a Holiday Decorating Contest in 2019. It was the consensus of the Board to conduct a Holiday Decorating Contest in 2019. Mayor Alt stated the deadline to register is December 13, 2019 and winners will be announced on December 18, 2019.

Mayor Alt asked Mr. George to ensure that visitors to Town Hall have ample parking in the lot at the front of the building. Discussion ensued regarding employee use of the municipal parking lot located east of Town Hall.

Mayor Alt requested the Board's approval of the appointment of Mr. Sam Goldwater to a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the term of which expires January 31, 2021.

ACTION: The request to appoint Mr. Sam Goldwater to a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the term of which expires January 31, 2021, was approved on a motion made by

Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt requested the Board's approval of the appointment of Ms. Kelly Bedder to a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals (Alternate Member), the term of which expires January 31, 2021.

ACTION: The request to appoint Ms. Kelly Bedder to a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals (Alternate Member), the term of which expires January 31, 2021, was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Massimiano and approved by all present.

Mayor Alt congratulated everyone who participated in the annual Halloween Parade, and thanked Bobbie Ann's Dance Studio for assisting with the event.

Commissioner Givens' Report

Commissioner Givens expressed appreciation to the Elkton Police Department for recent successful arrests for illegal drug activity.

Commissioner Piner's Report

Commissioner Piner stated Parks and Recreation programs are maintaining high enrollment numbers.

Commissioner Piner stated the annual Holiday Dance recital is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2019 at Elkton High School.

Commissioner Massimiano's Report

Commissioner Massimiano stated the Small Business of the Year banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Stating he felt an obligation by the Board to attend the event, he asked the Board to consider rescheduling the Mayor & Commissioners meeting that is scheduled for that evening. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the December 4, 2019 meeting as well as the December 11, 2019 workshop, and conduct a meeting on December 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Massimiano, referring to Ms. McMahon's positive comments about Elkton, stated he saw many ups and downs in his 34 years as a business owner downtown, and is encouraged by the positive energy.

Public Comment

Mr. Don Hicks expressed concerns regarding clients of the Mary Randall Center, which is located near his Funeral Home. He stated while he recognizes the need for services provided

by the Center, funeral services are often interrupted by people in the street fighting, yelling and using foul language. He stated clients have panhandled people who are attending funerals. He expressed concerns that many people served by the Mary Randall Center are from outside of Cecil County, adding that there is no leadership at the Center.

Mr. Hicks stated he had to interrupt a funeral service earlier today due to a fight in the street. He stated one of the combatants threatened the other person with death.

Reiterating his recognition of needs for services, Mr. Hicks stated the Mary Randall Center opened under the auspices of a faith-based organization, and asked the Board to assist with the issue. Mr. Hicks stated his business will suffer due to loitering, panhandling and loud, abusive behavior.

Mayor Alt stated he will visit the Mary Randall Center on Thursday, November 7th.

Commissioner Givens concurred with Mr. Hicks' comments regarding loitering and the need to address management of the Mary Randall Center.

Motion for a 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 Piner and approved by all present.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the meeting at 7:59 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.