

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

September 5, 2012

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") held their first regularly scheduled meeting in September on this date at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were present: Commissioners Charles H. Givens, Sr.; Charles E. Hicks, V; Mary Jo Jablonski and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven H. Repole; Chief of Police William E. Ryan; Planning Director Jeanne D. Minner; Zoning Administrator J. Craig Trostle, Jr.; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr., Esquire. Mayor Joseph L. Fisona was excused from the meeting.

Commissioner Givens called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION: The minutes of the August 15, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. 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 Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hicks and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2013-002

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2013-002 to recognize the receipt of a Program Open Space Grant in the amount of \$24,000 for the purpose of providing a Dog Park in Meadow Park East.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2013-002 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Budget Amendment 2013-003

Mr. Repole presented Budget Amendment 2013-003 to recognize the forfeiture and use of \$496 in seized funds to purchase an obedience collar for the Elkton Police Department's K-9 unit.

ACTION: Budget Amendment 2013-003 was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hicks and approved by all present.

Severn Trent Environmental Services

Water/Wastewater Treatment Services Report – Months of July & August 2012

Mr. Ken Benner, Area Manager, Severn Trent Environmental Services, presented the Water/Wastewater Treatment Services report for the months of July and August 2012. A copy of the report was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. Benner stated he completed and submitted the Town's Industrial Pretreatment Report and the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharge permit renewal to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Annual Planning Report for 2011

Ms. Jeanne Minner, Director of Planning

Ms. Minner presented the Town of Elkton's 2011 Annual Planning Report. She stated the purpose of the report was to provide an overview of development activity that occurred in Elkton during the calendar year 2011. A copy of Ms. Minner's report was placed in the record of the minutes.

Town Administrator's Report

Ordinance 6-2012 Amending the Town of Elkton Zoning Ordinance – Clinics Presented for Adoption

Mr. George presented Ordinance 6-2012 for Adoption. He stated the Ordinance was introduced on August 15, 2012. He said Ordinance 6-2012 amended the Town's Zoning Ordinance by defining clinics and providing for their permitted locations.

ACTION: Ordinance 6-2012 was approved for adoption on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hicks and approved by all present.

Old Business

Commissioner Piner requested Code Enforcement at the intersection of Delaware Avenue and Main Street regarding overgrown hedges affecting motorists' line of sight.

Commissioner Piner questioned the status of a pedestrian walkway adjacent to the Delaware Avenue bridge. Mr. George said the State Highway Administration (SHA) hired a consultant to determine a cost estimate for construction of a pedestrian walkway, adding that SHA would approach the Board regarding a local contribution toward the project as well.

Commissioner Piner stated he often saw young bicyclists obstructing traffic and riding without lights at night. He stated the youngsters typically got away before he could call 911 and identify them.

Commissioner Piner's Report

Commissioner Piner stated he was aware that SHA representatives were scheduled to appear at the September 12th workshop meeting to discuss changes to specific intersections in the downtown area. He expressed concerns regarding safety issues arising from the newly-installed 4-way stop at the intersection of North and High Streets. He said he received many concerns from business owners located near the intersection. He read comments regarding the 4-way stop from Dr. Paul Lavine, whose dental practice is located at 201 North Street. A copy of the letter was placed in the record of the minutes.

Commissioner Jablonski concurred with Commissioner Piner's comments, stating she felt a 4-way stop at intersection created a hazardous situation. She stated she received several complaints from downtown businesses as well as the fire department.

She stated she witnessed a lengthy backup of traffic on East High Street on Thursday August 31st. She stated employees could not exit the court house parking lot or the bank parking lot due to the backup.

Commissioner Givens agreed with Commissioners Piner and Jablonski, and questioned if there was an alternative plan for controlling the intersection.

Mr. George said SHA implemented the study to determine the feasibility of replacing the traffic light with signage. He said the signal equipment was placed on a pole that belonged to Verizon, and due to a planned fiber optic installation project, there would be no more room on the pole for SHA equipment. Mr. George stated he would forward the Board's concerns to SHA, and would request replacement of the traffic signal on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Hicks' Report

Commissioner Hicks, referring to a list of properties for which he previously requested Code Enforcement, requested an update on the properties. Mr. Trostle stated he made contact with a bank that took over a vacant property on Quail Court, and the violations were being addressed.

Commissioner Givens' Report

Commissioner Givens questioned the status of the Community / Recreation Center. Mr. George stated the project was still in planning, with pre-proposal letters being sent to architectural firms. He stated Mr. Repole was investigating options to finance the

construction of the planned facility. Discussion ensued regarding operating costs of the planned facility.

Commissioner Piner stated he and Commissioner Givens had discussed partnering with the YMCA of Cecil County to provide certain programs while preserving the Town's Parks & Recreation programs and staff. He stated utilizing the YMCA facility could save money for the Town.

Commissioners Hicks stated he agreed with Commissioner Piner's comments. Commissioner Jablonski expressed support for meeting with the YMCA management to discuss a partnership, if possible.

Commissioner Givens questioned the status of an advertised Caribbean concert. Mr. Trostle stated the organizer had not obtained proper State permits to hold a concert, adding the organizer changed the event from concert to carnival. He said the Health Department advised the organizer that he was still not permitted to hold the event.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Vacant Building Ordinance. Commissioner Hicks stated he wanted to assure the public that the Ordinance did not affect people whose homes were for sale. Mr. George stated the Ordinance did not affect homes that were vacant but maintained. He asked the Board to advise him of any amendments as soon as possible.

Commissioner Jablonski's Report

Commissioner Jablonski stated the Board should discuss contracting of grass cutting on properties that had been cited by Code Enforcement for high grass. She stated the Department of Public Works (DPW) needed assistance with grass cutting. Commissioner Givens expressed support for contracting of grass cutting, and asked Mr. Repole to investigate it as an option.

Commissioner Jablonski stated the Board received an invitation from the Cecil County Commissioners to participate in the "Paint the Town Pink" event in October, saying the purpose of the event was to raise Breast Cancer awareness. She expressed support for the event, and stated she would share the information with downtown businesses.

Commissioner Jablonski stated the Elkton Boys & Girls Club opened at 132 East High Street on September 4th. She said the facility's grand opening was scheduled for September 20th.

Public Comment

Mr. Robert Litzenberg thanked Mr. Trostle's department for quick response to and resolution of recent issues.

Motion for a Closed Meeting

ACTION: Pursuant to State Government Article § 10-508 to discuss (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; Commissioner Jablonski made a motion for a Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Piner and approved by all present.

Commissioner Givens announced that the public meeting would not reconvene.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Commissioner Givens adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Administration Office Secretary

AN AUDIO AND 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.