

TOWN OF MILLINGTON
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020

Present: Mayor CJ Morales
Council Kevin Hemstock
Council Wayne Starkey
Council Michelle Holland
Council Eli Manning

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: virtual meeting held through conference call due to coronavirus pandemic and State mandates; in attendance via phone were Trish McGee of Kent County News, Lauren Mench, Steven McClead, Wanda Moore, Nevin Steffy, Autumn Baxter, and two unknown wireless callers. Also, in attendance were Jody and Julia Gross.

Call meeting to order: Mayor Morales called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of allegiance was recited

Minutes of previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2020 meeting was entered by Council Hemstock; a second by Council Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Kent County Sheriff's Report – Report was provided for review via email.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed.

Maryland Environmental Services Report: Reviewed.

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed.

Engineer's Report: none provided

Old Business:

Council Hemstock stressed his concern with the SHA barricade at Food Lion and the confusion it caused with drivers. Many interpreted the sign to mean they could not come into Millington. Council Starkey explained the detour met all highway standards but agreed it was confusing.

Resolution 2020-05 – Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The public hearing was held at the July meeting with Council agreeing to review information on data centers. Mayor Morales explained he spoke with a manager of data centers and was informed there were no issues with noise, water usage, etc. A motion was entered by Council Hemstock to approve Resolution 2020-05, a second was entered by Council Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

219 Sassafras Street sewer issue – Jody and Julia Gross discussed the recent issue with their sewer lateral connected to the stormwater drain in error, the cost of the repair, the struggle with SHA, the denial of the claim by LGIT and the Gross' homeowner's insurance company, and a request for reimbursement of their costs. During this same time frame, Bramble broke their water lateral, repaired this line at no cost to

the Gross'. Why is this different then the sewer lateral? Morales explained the connection was made some time in the early 1960s when the system was installed, the Town does not issue plumbing permits so any permits issued or inspections would have been from the County, and the as-builts do not show this connection which proves their inaccuracy. Morales further stated the property owner is responsible for all repairs from the connection at the utility main. Mr. Gross shared the many problems they have experienced during the Urban Reconstruction Project with SHA and Bramble Construction; leaving garbage in their yard, blocking the sidewalk for months, removing trees without permission, etc. Mr. & Mrs. Gross asked why in the past has the Town paid for repairs to Maryland Massey's sewer line but refuse to pay for the repairs to their sewer line, they feel people should not be treated differently, and that SHA should take the responsibility. Mr. Gross felt they should be reimbursed for the sewer bills they have paid since purchasing the property if the waste was not being treated at the sewer plant due to this error in connection. Mayor Morales assured the Town will try to help by contacting SHA and Bramble or find someone for the Gross' to speak to regarding this issue.

New Business:

Resolution 2020-06, Master Parks and Recreation Plan – the Resolution to adopt the Master Parks and Recreation Plan was introduced, a public hearing will be held at the September meeting.

Street repairs on Hurtt Avenue – Administrator Manning reviewed the proposal from Bramble Construction to mill and repave Hurtt Avenue from the intersection at Sassafra Street to the tax ditch. The project includes the repaving of the Fire Company's parking with that expense to the Fire Company. Mayor Morales questioned the required storm drain in the Fire Company's parking lot. This was not originally part of this project. The project will be tabled until information can be obtained regarding the parking lot drainage.

Curbside recycling bins – Administrator Manning solicited bids for curbside recycling bins, a worksheet was distributed with the bids. A motion to purchase these bins from Orbis was entered by Hemstock, a second by Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Chapter 29 – Animals Ordinance – Council reviewed the current amendments to the animal's ordinance. Hemstock voiced his disagreement with the allowance of someone to come onto a property to investigate a complaint. The Council will review the ordinance and discuss at the September meeting.

Chickens & Other Animals – Council reviewed other Towns thoughts on raising chickens and other farm animals. Council discussed enforcement issues, basic standards, etc. and will continue discussion at the September meeting.

Chapter 64 – Road Names and Address Displays – Administrator Manning discussed a recent meeting with Emergency Management Services and Kent County Planning regarding the establishment of road names and address displays. A draft of an ordinance addressing these concerns and a new procedure to be established was reviewed. Council will discuss at the September meeting.

Resolution 2020-07, Nuisance Flooding Plan – the Resolution to adopt the Nuisance Flooding Plan was introduced, a public hearing will be held at the September meeting.

Public Comments:

Autumn Baxter inquired about the ability to raise chickens and farm animals in her property is annexed into Town. Mayor Morales reminded her this was a topic of tonight's discussion and will be part of future discussions prior to annexation.

An unidentified caller asked when the public hearing would be held for the annexation. Council stressed we are not at that step in the process, prior to the public hearing a notice will be mailed to everyone and their neighbors.

Council comments:

Hemstock discussed his concern with the increase of the use of golf carts, gators, trikes, 4-wheelers, and lawn mowers on the streets in Millington. The use of these vehicles on the street is dangerous and create a liability concern for the Town. A request is to be made to the Sheriff's Department to issue citations to offenders.

Hemstock recently spoke with Jay Falstead about the removal of the trees along Cypress Street as part of the SHA project. Mr. Falstead has requested the wood from these trees, if it can be preserved, to be used by St. Michael's Maritime Museum to construct something for the Town.

Holland explained the upcoming State election will be different than prior elections. There will not be polling place but a polling center, possibly in Worton at the High School. She is going to attempt to ask a center to be established in the Town of Millington.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence for review.

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM was entered by Council Hemstock, seconded by Council Starkey, a vote of 5-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator