

Town of Millington

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

Presents: Mayor Kevin Hemstock
Council Zita Seals
Council Wayne Starkey

Town Administrator: Jo Manning

Public & Others: Melissa Ireland

Call Meeting to Order: Council Kevin Hemstock called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Minutes of previous meeting: A motion to approve the minutes for the March 14, 2023, meeting, was entered by Council Starkey; a second by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Organization for FY 2024 – Mayor Hemstock swore in Wayne Starkey as Town Council. Council members voted Wayne Starkey as Vice-Mayor for the next year, with 3-0 votes. The meeting schedule for 2023 – 2024 was approved.

Susquehanna Operational Services Report: No Report Submitted.

Kent County Sheriff's Report: Reviewed

Town Administrator Report: Reviewed

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed

Rental Property Report: Reviewed

Public Hearing: A motion was made to close the regular meeting by Council Starkey and a second by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

A motion to open the Public Hearing was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Mayor Hemstock read into record Resolution 2023-03, Special Events Permit. There was no public comment. A motion to adopt was entered by Council Starkey, a second by Council Seals; a vote of 3-0 was entered.

A motion was made to close the public hearing by Council Starkey and a second by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

A motion to open the regular meeting was entered by Council Seals and a second by Council Starkey, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Old Business: Admin Manning reviewed the draft budget and fee schedule and asked Council to review before the next meeting. Admin Manning asked Council to consider increasing the rate

for the special tax for Mill Village due to increase in costs for maintenance and supplies. Admin Manning shared with Council information regarding one of the participants in the past vandalism of the school; she obtained a picture posted on TikTok with admission to the location of the fire in the cafeteria at 172 Sassafras Street, and additional research provided a name. She has contacted the Sheriff's Department to further discuss this information; to date there has been no response.

Per a request at the last meeting, Admin Manning contacted MDOT to discuss parking along Sassafras Street in the area of Dollar General to the traffic light. According to MDOT, an agreement with the Town, is that even though MDOT is responsible to the curb and has an easement; the painting of the curb and enforcement of parking is the Town's responsibility. Manning recommended a review and revision of the current street ordinance.

Admin Manning provided an update on the senior housing project. The State has requested all housing units be located on the same property instead of units on Carville Drive and units at 172 Sassafras Street for safety purposes. Council asked Manning to advise contractors working at the site to refrain from allowing others to tour the building.

Admin Manning informed Council the need to erect signs on public property stating no alcohol consumption on public property. There is also a recently adopted Senate bill prohibiting firearms on public property. In addition to these mandates, our insurance company requires signage to announce these restrictions to avoid liability issues. Council agreed signs need to be erected on all town properties.

New Business: Owen Bailey, Director of Land Use & Policy, of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy explained programs and assistance their organization can provide the Town. They advocate Comprehensive Plans, connectivity, and creating healthy communities through park access. To provide this assistance they monitor meetings, help with drafting or understanding regulations, and advocating for the Town.

Mayor Hemstock and Council approved declaration of April as Fair Housing Month.

Mayor Hemstock introduced Resolution 2023-02-Construction Ordinance Amendment, amendments to allow for inspection of business properties. Council asked that ordinance tie to permit requirements. A public hearing will be held at the May meeting.

Mayor Hemstock introduce Resolution 2023-04 – Chapter 75 Mobile Food Units Ordinance, an ordinance that explains procedure and permitting requirements for Food Trucks and Mobile Food Units.

Admin Manning presented two special event permit applications for the Community Volunteer Fire Company. The first one was for Chicken 'n Dumplings dinners for 2023 and the second one was for a Car Show scheduled for May 20, 2023. Manning explained the Fire Company has requested a waiver of the permit fees. Council would like a Fire Company member attend in the future to request the fee waiver as well as be available to answer any questions regarding the event and permit. After discussion, Council approved the two permits but did not waive the fees.

Council reviewed the respondents to the RFP for Municipal Attorney. A motion was entered by Council Starkey to appoint Mr. Chris Drummond as the Town's Municipal Attorney, a second was entered by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 entered.

Admin Manning shared information about the Adult – Use of Cannabis Legalization that is to take effect July 1, 2023. She will work with the Planning Commission and our Attorney to draft appropriate ordinances, policies, and procedures to address this new law.

Public Comments: There was no public comment.

Council Comments: A comment was made regarding the use of 172 Sassafras Street for drone racing without discussion with the Town nor a special event permit approved. Manning will address this issue.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence

With no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM was entered by Council Starkey, seconded by Council Seals, a vote of 3-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Starkey, Town Clerk