

The Urbanna Town Council held its scheduled meeting on January 23, 2020 at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor Gravatt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present and answering aye to the roll call were: Mayor Gravatt, Bill Goldsmith, Bill Smith, Larry Chowning, Barbara Hartley, and Boyd Wiley. George DeVries was absent. Also present were Holly Gailey-Town Administrator, Michele Hutton-Town Treasurer and Andy Bury- Town Attorney. Also in attendance were 9 guests.

The first item of business was public comment. Town resident Dr. Paul Malone informed council that the St. Claire Walker Elementary 6 graders would be having their museum day and essay writing contest again this year. He stated that they will be visiting the museum on February 5, 2020.

The next public comment was from Billy Mayo. He expressed his concerns about the boat ramp and the needs for repairs. He also expressed his concerns about the town raising taxes to cover legal expenses several years ago and asked why the town has not lowered back to the amount before the town accrued higher legal bills.

Kristi Anzivino was the next public comment. She read a prepared statement on the water system voicing her concerns about the next phase of upgrading the water system and the importance of including entities that have a vested interest in the water distribution system, specifically the fire chief/department.

There were no further public comments.

Next on the agenda, Michele Hutton presented a treasurers report. There was a brief discussion on the meals tax compared to previous years.

At this time, David Layman who is the Middlesex County Emergency Services Coordinator addressed town council concerning the rescue squad and the modified space that has been granted to them at the Middlesex County Fire Department in Urbanna. The town council voted previously to donate \$9000.00 to the effort to modify the space to accommodate the rescue squad. Mr. Layman stated due to increased utility cost, it will be necessary for the rescue squad to pay rent to the fire department. President of the Rescue Squad, Debbie Holladay requested the town consider continuing the annual donation that the town has done in the past to offset the cost of the rent. It was noted that the amount of funding needed to cover rent would be \$8,400.00 annually. He also noted Middlesex County gives \$140,000.00 annually. There was no discussion about the future of the funding following the presentation.

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing for budget amendments. Ms. Gailey requested that town council postpone the public hearing as she has been out of the office on sick leave for the previous 2 weeks. She stated that the amendment was to move funds from the Water Fund Reserve into the operating budget for the sole purpose of satisfying the payment to AH Environmental for mapping the system. Ms. Gailey stated that the new public hearing would be set for February 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting. Addressing concerns, Ms. Gailey explained that the invoices have been paid in full and this amendment was to reimburse the General Fund for an equal amount. At this time, Bill Goldsmith made a motion to move the public hearing to February 27, 2020 and Boyd Wiley seconded the motion. Bill Smith asked if the AH Environmental total bill came in under budget. Ms. Gailey noted that in fact it did and that it was roughly \$13,000 under budget.

At this time, there was a discussion about what defines a golf cart as a golf cart. Ms. Gailey explained that the carts available today are not really considered the same type of golf cart that is rented on a golf course. Ms. Gailey stated that this is important as the town has a need for a utility cart, which would allow for ease to read water meters, reduce gas usage in town trucks and in general be more cost effective. She also noted that the town would be in violation of its own ordinance by the purchase of a utility vehicle. Mayor Gravatt asked specifically about including utility carts (i.e. Gator and Kubota) in the town's ordinance. Andy Bury explained why these types of carts were not included from the beginning of the golf cart discussions. Boyd Wiley stated that at the time, these types of carts were not as popular as they are currently and that the language in the ordinance did not include these vehicles. He continued to say the golf cart community concept was new and they wanted to see how the golf carts worked out. Larry Chowning stated that he had concerns about why the council at the time would not have included utility carts. Ms. Gailey noted that she would research the minutes from the time period and see if there was clarification as to the decision at the time. There was a discussion about how the town could regulate the code for violations on golf carts and their usage. There was no conclusion on how to regulate. This will be discussed again in the near future after research has been completed.

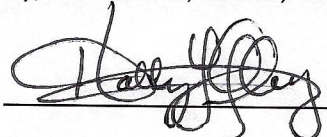
Moving on to the second public comment period, Dr. Malone expressed his praise for the rescue squad after a recent emergency where they were dispatched to his home. He also complimented the council by saying it is a delight to see members of council laughing and showing a unified front.

Under announcements, Ms. Gailey noted a flyer in the packet concerning Local Government Day at the State Capital.

George DeVries asked if anyone watched HGTV Hometown Makeover and announced a nationwide search for a US town that needs a makeover. He stated that there were persons in the community that want to fill in the application for the town. There was no opposition to going through the application process.

At this time, Boyd Wiley asked if there was a master plan for the Polar Plunge/Chili Cook-off. Ms. Gailey noted that a master plan had not been submitted for the event. Wiley asked for someone to contact the UBA about the event and have a master plan submitted.

With there being no further business, Hartley made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Smith. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Hartley, Goldsmith, Smith, Wiley and Chowning. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM.



Clerk