

**Town of Urbanna
Town Council
Work Session
Council Chambers-390 Virginia St. Suite B
May 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Members of Council

Present

Mayor Bill Goldsmith
Marjorie Austin
Larry Chowning
Alana Courtney
Beth Justice
Sandy Sturgill

Absent

Merri Hanson

Others Present

Garth Wheeler-Town Administrator
Roy Kime-Zoning Administrator
Martha Rodenburg-Town Clerk
Michele Hutton-Town Treasurer
Andrea Erard-Town Attorney
Members of the public and press

Mayor Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
All present said the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Austin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented

Councilmember Courtney seconded

Austin, Chowning, Courtney, Justice, Sturgill, and Goldsmith voted yes

Motion passed 6-0

PRESENTATIONS

Virginia Municipal League-Essay contest winner-Viktorija Gobush

Joe Flores, Director of Fiscal Policy at the Virginia Municipal League (VML) presented Viktorija Gobush, a student at St. Clare Walker and resident of Urbanna, with a certificate and gift card to recognize her as the Region 8 winner of VML's "If I Were Mayor" essay. Her essay will be published in VML's monthly magazine "Virginia Town & City".

Miss Gobush read her essay to Council. If Miss Gobush was Mayor of Urbanna, she would build a teen center to keep the teens in our community busy & active.

Taber Fund Investment Options

Brain Manetz of Davenport & Company presented and reviewed different options for diversifying the Taber Fund investment funds, as well as fund managers.

Councilmember Chowning stated he looked at this as a means to grow the Taber Fund and replace the money withdrawn for the pool.

Further discussion took place regarding next steps.

Councilmember Austin made a motion to refer the review of possible diversification of Taber Funds to the Finance Committee for further study and return to Council with a recommendation.

Councilmember Sturgill seconded

Councilmember Chowning stated the public should be informed on a regular basis on what is being done to replace funds, and guidelines and restrictions should be developed for future withdrawals from the Taber Fund.

Austin, Chowning, Courtney, Justice, Sturgill, and Goldsmith voted yes

Motion passed 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE

There was no public comment

MATTERS OF TOWN COUNCIL

Ordinance 23-01

Roy Kime, Zoning Administrator gave an overview of the proposed Ordinance 23-01, which would amend the Town's zoning ordinance to allow, as a by-right use) the construction, modification, and operation of residential apartments and/or condominiums within the B-1 commercial district.

A joint public hearing of the Planning Commission and Council is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

Memorial Day Service

Garth Wheeler gave a preview of the Town's annual Memorial Day service to be held May 29, 2023 at the Town Marina.

Pool Update

Mayor Goldsmith reported the Pool Committee has shifted its focus to fundraising.

Well #6 Update

Mayor Goldsmith reported the observation well is completed, and the construction of well #6 is underway.

Roy Kime reported the well was going down to 850 ft.

- Core samples taken every 10 ft, show a layer of shells at approximately 80-90 ft., which indicates that was how high the sea level at that time.

ACTION ITEMS

Taber Fund

Requested action was taken earlier in the meeting after the presentation by Mr. Manetz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Goldsmith announced:

- Town had received a thank you letter from the Urbanna Oyster Festival Foundation thanking the Town for letting them use Town property
- Councilmember Sturgill has procured tables and chairs for the future pool, approximately 30 chairs and ½ dozen tables
- The items will be stored for us until needed

Councilmember Chowning inquired about the status of the Boundary Line Adjustment

- Mr. Wheeler responded the public hearings were being scheduled, with Middlesex possibly having their public hearing at their June Board of Supervisors meeting

Mr. Wheeler reported:

- Closing for 45 Cross Street (Old Town Hall) was scheduled for June 1
- Farmer's Market & Second Saturdays scheduled for May 27
- Abbey Road, a Beatles tribute band scheduled to play

Councilmember Austin reported there were 6 food trucks, 2 breweries, 2 wineries, and various vendors scheduled to attend the upcoming Second Saturdays

Councilmember Chowning recommended taking a look at [Oyster Rd] maintenance once the Montague marina is finished as this road has been historically maintained by the Town

Councilmember Sturgill inquired whether or not any grants had been applied for

- Staff responded that there were no current grant applications in process
- Staff has found a grant writer that will work on a per item basis

ADJOURN

Councilmember Austin made a motion to adjourn

Councilmember Justice seconded

Austin, Chowning, Courtney, Justice, Sturgill, and Goldsmith voted yes

Motion passed 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Submitted by:



Martha J. Rodenburg

Town Clerk

Approved by Town Council-June 22, 2023