

The Urbanna Town Council held its scheduled meeting on July 25, 2019 at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Members present and answering aye to the roll call were: Mayor Gravatt, Bill Goldsmith, Bill Smith, Larry Chowning, Barbara Hartley, Boyd Wiley and George DeVries. Also present were Holly Gailey-Town Administrator, Andrew Bury and 40 guests.

Mayor Gravatt called the meeting to order and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Mayor Gravatt opened public comment. Town Resident Dennis Durette voiced concerns about the recent happenings and comments from council members regarding policies, contracts and volunteers. The next public comment came from Bob Calves, who congratulated the elected town officials and Ms. Gailey for being debt free and fiscally responsible. Next, Ginny Sawkins requested that public comment be moved further down on the agenda to allow the public an opportunity to speak. She also asked that volunteers be recognized in some way by the town. Billy Mayo asked why taxes had not been reduced back down from the 8% increase to cover legal expenses from many years ago. The next public comment was from Wanda Hollberg in reference to Taber Park planning and how it should not include people who do not live in the town. Steve Hollberg congratulated council for keeping attorney fees under control and finishing the dredging at the town marina. He also stated that he was concerned about the council and their relationships with businesses. Dr. Malone offered a handout on Dementia Friendly America Communities. Dr. Malone stated that he and his wife, Gaylee, were hoping to bring education about Dementia and dealing with persons with Dementia to Middlesex County. Jody Anglin asked who was taking care of the bump outs and why the town is not providing care to the bump-outs.

Moving on, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hartley stated that she knew the minutes were difficult to write and that she felt that they needed to be spiffed up a bit. DeVries asked if anyone else had any issues with the minutes and the consensus was that it was a difficult meeting and that the minutes were a good representation. Chowning asked Hartley why she felt the minutes were not sufficient to which she explained that the minutes were hard to follow, not clear and didn't fully reflect what occurred. DeVries stated that he felt that the minutes were a good reflection of the meeting. At this time, DeVries made a motion to accept the minutes as presented to which Goldsmith seconded. Answering aye to a roll call vote were DeVries, Goldsmith, Smith and Chowning. Hartley voted no and Wiley abstained.

Next, there was a special presentation of the LUNA. This is ship project taking place in Deltaville. There is hope that the ship will call Urbanna its home port. Representing the Colonial Seaport Association was President and Chief Executive Officer, Jacque Collamore. He stated that the project focus was on developing a historic training platform, which is the LUNA (currently under construction). Chowning made a motion to give moral support and the LUNA being in Urbanna on a regular basis. Hartley asked to amend the motion to include Urbanna as a homeport for the LUNA. After some discussion, Chowning asked Hartley if she minded starting with moral support first and then as they progress,

consider further support from the town. Hartley stated she did not object. Bill Smith seconded the motion previously put on the table by Chowning. The following answered aye during the roll call vote: Chowning, Smith, Goldsmith, DeVries, Hartley and Wiley.

The next presentation was by Pete Mansfield representing the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Mansfield offered a narrative on the pollution of Urbanna Creek and what the future looks like without more regulations and fewer pollution credits for HRSD dumping into Urbanna Creek. Council Member Smith read a report on the sewer and future plans from HRSD and stated that at this point, we need to monitor this moving forward. A motion was put on the floor by Chowning to write a letter of support to HRSD on behalf of the town, seconded by Wiley. The following answered aye to a roll call vote: Chowning, Wiley, Hartley, DeVries, Smith and Goldsmith. Mr. Mansfield thanked the town council for the support and for the motion.

Moving on to old business, Ken Hetzer representing Net Interop, addressed town council concerning the agreement between the town and his company. Mr. Hetzer stated that articles in the Southside Sentinel did not represent his company in a positive way. He stated that Andy Bury called him and asked if he had any interest in introducing Net Interop to the town stating they might be looking for an IT Service provider. Mr. Hetzer stated that the company was focused on small to mid-sized businesses and would absolutely be interested. There was an introduction meeting on January 22, 2019 with Ken Hetzer, Diane Gravatt, Andy Bury, Holly Gailey, Traci Wright and John Gill. Mr. Hetzer stated that decisions were made and made fast noting that the towns computer system was one download away the City of Baltimore and one lightning strike away from losing all saved data. Mr. Hetzer was clear that his relationship to Andy Bury was professional and that he felt he was looking out for the town's best interest. He also was adamant that there has never been any request of private information in the town documents from Mr. Bury. Mr. Hetzer stated that he will gladly continue to provide IT services for the town and that if the town chooses a different path, he would work with the new company to transition over. He reminded council that the town is better off than it was previously, speaking directly about the computer system and its security. At this time, Dr. DeVries commented that it was not the status of the computer system as much as it was the process in which it was done. He asked Mr. Hetzer who he was referring to when he stated "the town" to which he replied Diane (Mayor), Holly and Traci. DeVries stated they are not the town; we (motioning to the council) are the ones that are charged with running the town not those other individuals. DeVries stated that the town was not casting any aspersions of his company or what he did but yet it was the process that he went through. DeVries stated that the council has not seen the agreement between Net Interop and the town. Council Member Smith stated that a special called meeting would have been in order and that it should have been advertised and town council should have been involved.

Before moving to new business, Dr. Goldsmith speaking as Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that the game plan was to plan for "asks" by asking the groups to fill

out a budget request as opposed to waiting until later in the year. He continued to say that he researched the previous year's minutes and that the request for Christmas Decorations didn't come before council until October 23<sup>th</sup> after the budget was already approved. He noted that walls went up and it was never the intention of council to dismiss the request. He noted that timing was not an issue but that it was the perception of how we got here is the real difference. Goldsmith said that the intent was to support these organizations but ask for them earlier in the process so that we can plan for the money in the budget. He continued to say that he apologized for the disruption and for the misunderstanding. He asks the beautification committee to please submit a proposal. At this time, Karen Lowe stated that they were in the process of putting the proposal together to submit. Dr. Goldsmith addressed an earlier statement by Wanda Hollberg about having input about Taber Park by saying this is just a concept and that more meetings would be held. Council Member DeVries who serves as the Chair of the Planning Commission stated that it is far from being finalized and that many meetings will be held and that the public's input is needed.

The first item under new business was a policy for public comment in the work sessions and town meetings. Council Member Chowning stated that the town was one of the few that do not have a second public comment at the end of the meeting. We are a public body that has a business meeting (work session) and feels that there should be a public comment because there are sometimes items that are voted on during this time. Chowning made a motion to add a public comment period at the end of the town council meeting and that a public comment period be added to the work session. At this time, DeVries stated that he was flummoxed when public commenters ask a simple question that he can't simply answer the question. He voiced his frustrations with the process of being able to address concerns directly. Ms. Gailey offered a suggestion of adding a "council concerns" or "council comment" period in the agenda and any council member that wished to address any item of concern could do so. The motion was clarified by Larry Chowning. to add a public comment period to our regular town council meeting and it will be added at the end so there are two and we also add a council comment period after the public comment. Chowning continued the motion to include adding a public comment period to the work session agenda followed by a council comment period. This motion was seconded by Hartley. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Chowning, Hartley, DeVries, Goldsmith, Wiley and Smith.

Moving on to the next item of new business, Mayor Gravatt stated that Robert Montague was interested in purchasing a historical marker for Sandwich. She stated that the project could cost between \$3000.00 and \$5000.00. Mr. Montague wanted to ask the town to assist with the purchase of the marker and possibly adding the stop to the Museum in the Streets. There was a brief discussion among members of council. It was determined that this subject warranted more discussion.

Next, a draft Code of Conduct was presented. Chowning stated, in an effort to have fewer issues in meetings and give council members a better way to deal with issues, a code of

conduct would help. Council Member Hartley offered a different option and the decision was made to table the drafts until everyone had an opportunity to review both documents.

Moving on, Mayor Gravatt presented a new piece of business which was to establish a public hearing for the 2019 Oyster Festival Master Plan. Council Member Smith made a motion to establish the public hearing for August 22, 2019. Seconded by Goldsmith, Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Smith, Goldsmith, DeVries, Wiley, Hartley and Chowning.

Mayor Gravatt asked for councils' stance on a special called meeting to meet with prospective candidates for the position of treasurer. It was determined that the candidates would be invited to the August 8<sup>th</sup> work session so that all council members could attend.

At this time, Council Member Wiley asked why there was security attending the meeting. Mayor Gravatt explained that after the previous meeting a council member was accosted outside leaving the town hall and this was done as a precaution.

Under announcements, Council Member Goldsmith noted that taxpayers are subsidizing the marina and that he feels that the bathrooms should be available to the public. He continued to make a motion to state that during the times the marina office is staffed, the bathrooms be open for public use and when the office is not staffed the restrooms are locked and only accessible to boaters with the code to enter. Council Member Hartley seconded the motion. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Goldsmith, Hartley, DeVries, Smith, Chowning and Wiley.

Dr. Goldsmith also wanted to note that there is still an issue with the trolley travelling down Kent Street. Town Council members discussed the route of the trolley. The consensus was the trolley should travel down Kent Street. Mayor Gravatt asked if this could be discussed at the upcoming work session. All members agreed. Dr. Goldsmith also announced that he had contacted several IT companies and set up appointments to meet with them.

With there being no further business, Council Member George DeVries moved to go into executive session pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1), Personnel Matters. Council Member Barbara Hartley seconded the motion. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: DeVries, Hartley, Chowning, Smith, Goldsmith and Wiley.

made a motion to re-enter open session to which Council Member Bill Goldsmith seconded. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: George DeVries, Barbara Hartley, Larry Chowning, Bill Smith, Bill Goldsmith and Boyd Wiley.

Upon returning to open session, DeVries moved to approve the following Certificate of Executive Meeting to which Council Member Goldsmith seconded:

Whereas, the Urbanna Town Council has convened an Executive Session meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Urbanna Town Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Urbanna Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (i) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Urbanna Town Council.

VOTE:

Ayes: George DeVries, Barbara Hartley, Larry Chowning, Bill Smith, Bill Goldsmith and Boyd Wiley.

Mayor Gravatt re-entered open session at 10:31PM. At this time, Mayor Gravatt stated the governing body wanted to make a motion of full support and a vote of confidence in the current administrator, Holly Gailey. This motion was seconded by Goldsmith. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Madam Mayor, Goldsmith, DeVries, Smith, Chowning, Wiley and Hartley.

Dr. Goldsmith made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Dr. DeVries. Ms. Called the roll to which the following answered aye: Goldsmith, DeVries, Smith, Hartley, Wiley and Chowning. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33PM.

---

Clerk