

## COUNCIL MEETING

August 9, 2016

7:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hampstead was held at Hampstead Town Hall, 1034 South Carroll Street, on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. Mayor Nevin was absent; Council Member and Vice President of the Council Wayne Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following Council members were present: Mrs. Duff, Mr. Renehan, Mr. Roark and Mr. Unglesbee. Staff members present were: Town Manager Tammi Ledley and Lieutenant Stacey Gaegler.

Guests present: Debbie Armacost, Kit Bailey, Terry Mercer, Kristen Robinson, Lois Cellitto, Dora Frank, Fred Craven, Vivian Craven, Betsy Wertz, Joyce Mezick, Chuck Lohrfink, Nora Ward, Janice Hansen, Angie Cassetta, Chuck Cassetta, Bob Klingenberg, Dwayne Cover, Tom Moser, Wanda Dixon, Brett Wise, Bradley Shaffer, Donald Driscoll, Sharon Callahan, Jeff Taylor, Tim Duff, Ed Uhlman, James Sines, D. Mersinger, Nick Thompson, John Bacinski, Lee May, Wayne Cassell, Nancy Cassell, Mark Hennigan, Laura Hennigan, Betty Douglas, Diane Carlson, Don Stolkovich, Gerald Lynott, Todd Calhoun and Anthony Birdsong.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Mr. Unglesbee made a **motion to approve the Council Meeting minutes of July 12, 2016**. Mr. Roark seconded the motion. The motion passed with three votes for, no votes against and no abstentions.

### **REPORTS:**

All reports were made. Nick Thompson of the Hampstead Volunteer Fire Company was invited to make a report and did so.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Renehan made a **motion to approve conveyance of a deed of easement for a 0.147 acre of land at Lower Beckleysville Road to the Commissioners of Carroll County**. Mr. Unglesbee seconded the motion. The motion passed with three votes for, no votes against and no abstentions.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Unglesbee stated he had received information on traffic light poles from a vendor at the Maryland Municipal League convention. He stated the design was a classic design that would complement the street lights [lamp posts] for the Main Street Revitalization project. Mr. Unglesbee will obtain pricing for four (4) traffic light poles and will forward the information to Mrs. Ledley. The four (4) traffic light locations are at Wendy's [vicinity of North Woods Trail], at Houcksville Road [x Lower Beckleysville Road], at Gill Avenue [x Main Street] and Route 482 [x Main Street].

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Thomas read a statement from Mayor Nevin regarding the Main Street Revitalization project.

Mr. Stolkovich inquired whether the Town's contractor [that replaced the water and sewer lines] will be patching and paving Main Street because the road condition requires it, and stated that State Highway Administration still owns the road and must keep it in good repair.

Mr. Birdsong inquired when the new proposal for the Maintenance of Traffic would be presented. Mrs. Ledley responded that a date has not been set for a meeting but she estimated September or October. Mr. Birdsong asked what methods the Town would use to communicate the meeting date. Mrs. Ledley stated the Town will be advertising in the Northern News, on the Town's Facebook page and website. Mr. Birdsong inquired when the State would begin the project after the Maintenance of Traffic was agreed upon. Mrs. Ledley responded that the State would like to request bids for the project in November.

Mr. Craven suggested using WTTR to assist in communicating to the public. [Note: the Town presently utilizes WTTR for public communication.]

Mr. Calhoun asked at what point State Highway becomes involved in communicating to the public and at what point are they responsible for advertising the project. Mrs. Ledley responded that they communicate via notices and postcards to residents. Mr. Calhoun stated he believes the State should be involved in such communication now.

Mrs. Douglas asked for clarification on when the repaving would be performed on Main Street and also inquired about the equipment and gravel currently located near Mott Avenue. Mrs. Ledley replied with the current timeline for the State's commencement.

Mrs. Wertz inquired about the Maryland Department of Environment's reclassification of some of the Town's stormwater ponds to high hazard dams. Mrs. Ledley responded with additional information on said situation. Mrs. Wertz asked if any were located in the Roberts Field area and the response was given that there was indeed one located in said area near Boxwood Drive. Mr. Thomas summarized this situation thusly: the stormwater infrastructure was installed in 1985, the classifications were changed in 2015, an action plan for emergency response will be constructed, an inspection will occur to determine if further action is required. Additional discussion ensued on which locations had been identified.

Mr. Craven commented that the State of Maryland is violating the Constitution by changing regulations and forcing the Town to spend taxpayer money to update infrastructure to comply which is an ex post facto violation. Mr. Thomas stated that the Town often deals with unfunded mandates. Mr. Craven cited historical occurrences of the same.

Mrs. Dixon inquired about the deadline of the community being able to give input to the State about the Main Street project as far as the Maintenance of Traffic is concerned. Mrs. Ledley conveyed what she believes the State may do as far as taking the community's concerns into consideration. Mrs. Dixon also inquired about traffic flow and being able to exit driveways onto Main Street. Mr. Roark stated businesses and residents should not be blocked. Mrs. Ledley further explained the proposed Maintenance of Traffic.

Mr. Sines clarified the structure of the project's management at the State, the scope of the project and how the Maintenance of Traffic is only one portion. He suggested communicating with those in higher positions within State Highway if there are concerns to be addressed. The response was made that the Town has already been in communication with said personnel.

Mr. Calhoun stated that the Hampstead Merchants Association appreciated the Town's presence at their recent Main Street project workshops. He further iterated a list of compiled questions about the project which were answered by the Council and Mrs. Ledley.

Mr. Birdsong commented he does not believe it's commendable that the State agreed to consider a different Maintenance of Traffic insomuch as they should be listening to the community in the process anyway and the State has not done what they should have done regarding impact studies and ensuring the project was to be handled well from the beginning. He also commented on the statement previously made regarding why anyone would want to stop the project and responded that some in the community may have fear regarding the project and may not think the project is necessary, that our Main Street does not look as bad as others.

Additional discussion ensued regarding stormwater facilities planned within the scope of the project.

Mrs. Ledley responded to Mr. Birdsong's comments.

Mrs. Frank stated she believes there are gaps in communication and that not all in the community have access to the Town's Facebook page or website. She suggested also to develop a means to communicate to the Hispanic community and that she'd be willing to volunteer. Mrs. Ledley clarified that there were public meetings and updates have been made inasmuch as the Town is able. Mr. Thomas noted that the Carroll County Times has not been providing as much local coverage since that paper was purchased by the Baltimore Sun and that the Town does the best it can with the Northern News.

Ms. Mercer inquired where she could get more information on the stormwater ponds and why work was completed on the drains on both sides of Boxwood Drive near the elementary school. Mr. Thomas noted the drains are not connected with the stormwater pond and explained the distribution of stormwater in that area. Ms. Mercer inquired about the work performed on the stormwater pond on the elementary school grounds. Mr. Thomas replied said pond belongs to Carroll County and that Mrs. Ledley will get information from them and convey it to Ms. Mercer.

A comment was made on where drawings and renderings of the Main Street project could be viewed. Mrs. Ledley replied they are available in Town Office for public viewing.

Mr. Thomas commented on the current art exhibition in Town Hall.

No further comments were made.

Mr. Roark made **a motion to adjourn the meeting**. Mr. Renehan seconded the motion. The motion passed with three votes for, no votes against and no abstentions.

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**ATTEST**

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**MAYOR**