



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session Meeting
Conference/Video Meeting
May 21, 2024**

The public was invited to call into the meeting via videoconferencing or audio by phone.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tome, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Tome, Jr., Deputy Mayor Brown, Councilman Berlin, Councilman Knight, Councilwoman Thiele, Town Administrator Rinkerman and PW & Code Administrator Jamison.

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mitch Rosenzweig voiced concerns regarding the condition of the granite retaining wall behind his property at 66 S. Main Street as the wall is bulging. He inquired about any suggestions the Council may have or if the town has any access to a structural engineer to look at the wall.

ORDINANCE 2024-03 – Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget

- Introduction
- Budget Presentation – Treasurer Gray provided an overview of FY2025 proposed annual budget and discussed budget changes from FY2024 to FY2025.
- Public Hearing – June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall or virtual via Zoom

RESOLUTION 05-2024 Participation in the DHCD Maryland Circuit Rider Program – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented Resolution 05-2024 regarding the program the town currently participates in sharing a part-time grant writer with the Town of Charlestown, Perryville, and Rising Sun.

Motion made by Councilwoman Thiele to approve Resolution 05-2024 Participation in the DHCD Maryland Circuit Rider Program. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT

Planning Commission – Shawn Branch – Fill Jeff Heck’s Term – 1 year – 2025

Motion made by Councilman Knight to appoint Shawn Branch to the Planning Commission to fill the remainder of Jeff Heck’s term. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Marina Park Events – Town Administrator Rinkerman

The Bad Adventure Company LLC – Matthew Stan – Private picnic lunch at the gazebo at Visitor Center for 25 kayakers.

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the event request application. Motion made by Councilman Knight to approve the event application as submitted. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried unanimously.

Farmer’s Market and Vendor Event – Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce – Toni Sprenkle, President – Marina Park, June through October on the 2nd Saturday- June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, and October 12, 2024 – 10am to 2pm.

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the event request application and if approved by Council, the terms/conditions of the seasonal permit that would be set forth and discussed with the Chamber.

Motion made by Councilman Knight to approve the farmers market application. Seconded by Councilman Berlin. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried unanimously.

Summer Concert Series and Vendor Event – Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce – Toni Sprenkle, President – Marina Park, June 8, July 13, August 10, 2024 – 2pm to 6pm.

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the event request application and if approved by Council, the terms/conditions of the seasonal permit that would be set forth and discussed with the Chamber.

Councilwoman Thiele voiced her concern of having 2 large events in one day and would suggest holding the 1st event (farmer’s market), seeing how it goes and then consider hosting the Summer Concert Series if all goes well. Deputy Mayor Brown understands Councilwoman Thiele’s concern and discussed ensuring that the regulations and conditions are met for approval. Port Deposit Chamber Treasurer Tania Fleming stated that the event has only had positive remarks and support from its members. Martha Barchowsky, Chamber member discussed concerns of planning, logistics, and benefits in such a short period of time. Councilman Knight stated that it is for the Chamber to decide what their risks are hosting the event and the Town to determine the conditions for approval of the use of public space relative to traffic, public safety, property damage, parking, etc.

Councilman Berlin inquired why the Chamber decided to host back to back events from 10am -2pm and then 2pm-6pm. Chamber Secretary Jenn Peterson stated that since Granite Run Taproom and Lee’s Landing host bands during the evening, the Chamber did not want to compete with the businesses and take business away from them. Councilwoman Thiele stated that the restaurants usually have bands starting around noon and then again around 5pm.

Motion made by Councilman Knight to approve the Summer Concert Series event application with the request that a follow up meeting is held ASAP after the June 8th event for a debrief. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Brown. Roll call vote: Thiele – Abstain, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried.

MHT Grant Tome Steps Phase II – Town Administrator Rinkerman provided an update on the MHT Grant Tome Steps Phase II and stated that the person who originally managed this grant with KCI had left the company and it was turned over to another individual. She has obtained an extension on the grant. The

RFP is in process and the town is working a company who is handling the RFP which requires an additional \$1436.00.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the funding request. Seconded by Councilman Knight. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Brown-Y, Berlin- Y. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Planters for Main Street – Town Administrator Rinkerman presented potential planters to replace holes from the trees that were removed on Main Street. Council concurred with the type of planter and to defer the size of planter and plants to the landscaping company that would be installing them on Main Street.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Berlin discussed the Snakehead tournament.

Councilwoman Thiele discussed the handicap spot, signage and flow of the parking lot in Marina Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Erica Berge, Community Connecting Us announced that the Port Deposit Heritage Corporation is holding their annual general meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

On April 22, 2024 the CCU will be hosting an Earth Day Concert featuring the Roedean Girls Choir at the CCU Cultural and Wellness Center.

Erica Berge announced that the Methodist conference has reached out to CCU and offered to pay the recordation fees for the transfer of the church building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024-03 Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget – Tuesday, June 4, 2024

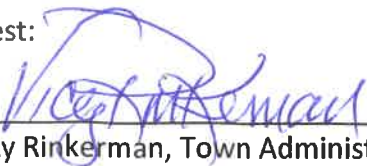
ADJOURNMENT to EXECUTIVE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion made by Deputy Mayor Brown to convene in executive closed session Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 3, Subtitle 3, Section 3-305 (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Seconded by Councilwoman Thiele. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Berlin- Y, Brown-Y. Motion carried unanimously. Council will return to open session.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Meeting audio is available upon request.

The Council convened in open session at 8:40 p.m.

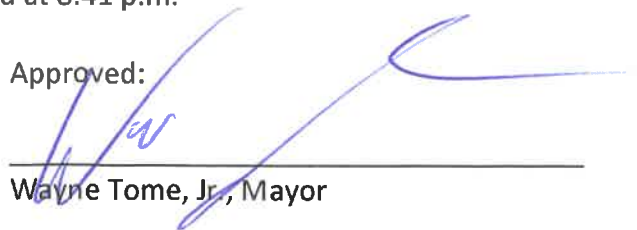
Motion made by Deputy Mayor Brown to approve the MOU with Cecil County regarding properties in cyclical tax sale. Seconded by Councilwoman Thiele. Roll call vote: Thiele – Y, Knight- Y, Berlin- Y, Brown-Y. Motion carried unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Attest:



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:



Wayne Tome, Jr., Mayor