

TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 9, 2020

I. Patrick J. Mahoney, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance remotely were: Dr. Valerie Beaudin, Derek J. Favret, L. Charles Fink, Lawrence P. Jaworski, Gregory J. Morris, and Keith L. Pardieck, Council Members, Holly K. Wahl, Town Administrator, Sharon L. Humm, Town Clerk, and Dale Clark, Town Treasurer.

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate the Council on a job well done, being re-elected for another four years. The Mayor stated there are still 10 provisional ballots yet to be counted and should know something by the end of the week but would not affect the election results.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked a moment of silence for the passing of Anne Nicholas, beloved wife of Councilman Fink and dear friend to all.

III. <u>Informational Discussion on the following items:</u>

1. Resolution R-20-5, a resolution to virtually swear in the Mayor and Town Council.

The Mayor stated this resolution provides as a backup plan to virtually swear in the Mayor, Town Council, Town Treasurer and Town Clerk in the event it cannot be done in person. The Mayor will be sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Prince Frederick, the Council will be sworn in and recorded at the dais and shared at the Town Council meeting. The Town Treasurer and Clerk will be sworn in virtually at the meeting that evening.

The Council was in support of the Resolution with the recommendation that the mayoral language be duplicated with the Council language. Also noted was assurance that this process would be legal and could not be contested. The Mayor stated the Town's legal counsel has confirmed that it is legal.

2. Light Up the Town- Mrs. Wahl stated the Town is currently preparing for the annual Light Up the Town event to be held on November 29th. Due to the COVID-19, the Town has been reviewing options to keep the public safe, while still providing the event. Mrs. Wahl highlighted some options currently being reviewed.

1. Holding a socially distanced Light Up the Town outdoors in several areas, where citizens could view when the Mayor switches the lights "ON".

- 2. Provide Santa with ways to greet the children, such as virtual conversations, and a drive around with the NBVFD.
- 3. Virtual lighting tour where citizens could follow on their own to see the displays in Town and also produce a virtual lighting tour video.
- 4. The Barbara "Jo" Finch Brightest Beacon incorporating the entries and winners in the same way as the virtual lighting tour. The citizens would be allowed to vote for their favorite displays, versus having a volunteer panel to select winners, and a recorded video awarding presentations at the locations.

The Mayor asked Council for comments.

The Council thought all the ideas were great! The Council added a few suggestions such as possible participation of the Beach Elementary School Band, incorporate walking routes into the virtual lighting tour and possibly adding audio, and work on the Santa drive-by that will allow for all children the opportunity to be a part of. Another thought was possibly coordinate with State Highway to block off a portion of 260 for a period of time so citizens could walk and view the light displays.

Mrs. Wahl stated that the Mayor flipping the switch would be live streamed and be on our YouTube channel.

IV. Council Lightning Round -

- 1. Dr. Beaudin wanted to congratulate the Mayor and Town Council on their reelection, thanked the Board of Elections and the election judges for a great job and thanked the town administration and public works. She looks forward to another four years!
- 2. Mr. Fink echoed Councilwoman Beaudin's comments in relation to the Election. Mr. Fink stated he cannot put into words how appreciative he is to the Mayor, the Council, Holly, and everyone for their support during this challenging time that he is going through right now.
- 3. Mr. Jaworski wanted to thank the Election Board along with everyone that contributed to the smooth process during all the uncertainty of everything. Mr. Jaworski commented the biggest challenge of the day was turning people away that thought they could vote at town hall for the national election. He thanked all the voters that turned out to vote and those that sent in absentee ballots as well.
- 4. Mr. Morris commented a job well done on the Election and the eblast advertising, and thanked town hall on their astute and consistent use of Zoom. Moving forward and looking past this pandemic, he sees valuable use of the Zoom and other similar tools in making it easier to provide better service and resident inclusion in town matters. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Stay safe and healthy.
- 5. Mr. Pardieck congratulated everyone on their re-election and looks forward to their continued work together over the next four years. He thanked all that came out to vote commenting it's important to keep our democracy working whether it's through voting or through our committees that we all serve on.

6. Mr. Favret echoed his colleague's comments regarding the Election noting it was a model in how to run a really good election, and despite the circumstances, had a really good turnout. On the Walkability Communities' Group, the boards will remain out through the end of the week, along with the online survey, so please share your thoughts if you have not yet.

V. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Fink. Seconded by Councilman Jaworski, all in favor.

Submitted by,

Sharon L. Humm

Town Clerk