

Minutes

DAGSBORO TOWN COUNCIL

Bethel Center – 28307 Clayton Street

Monday, December 16, 2019

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Baull at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were: Mayor Brian Baull, Vice-Mayor Patrick Miller, Councilman William Chandler, Councilwoman Theresa Ulrich, Town Administrator Cynthia Brought, Town Engineer Kyle Gulbranson, and Town Solicitor Greg Morris. Councilman Norwood Truitt was absent. See attached sign in sheet for other members of the audience.

II. OATH OF OFFICE

Town Solicitor Greg Morris administered the oath of office to Mayor Brian Baull, Vice-Mayor Patrick Miller, and Councilwoman Teresa Ulrich for their new terms.

III. REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

A. Mayor

Councilman William Chandler nominated Brian Baull for Mayor. Vice-Mayor Miller seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

B. Vice-Mayor

Theresa Ulrich nominated Patrick Miller for Vice-Mayor. Councilman Chandler seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

C. Secretary/Treasurer

Councilman Chandler nominated Theresa Ulrich for Secretary/Treasurer. Vice-Mayor Miller seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

D. Assistant Secretary

Councilman Chandler nominated Norwood Truitt for Assistant Secretary. Vice-Mayor Miller seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilwoman Ulrich expressed her appreciation to Mayor Baull for doing such an excellent job on the Christmas parade. She stated that she expected a bigger turn out, but understands that it was cold; she also stated that Council appreciates all the hard work he puts into the parade. Mayor Baull stated that it was more than just him, it was the entire committee; he stated that he also wanted to thank everyone in regard to the date change for the parade.

Mayor Baull expressed his appreciation to everyone that came out for the Town elections.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 18, 2019 – Regular Town Council

Councilman Chandler motioned to approve the minutes with one amendment. There was one more public comment by the Pastor of Bethel UMC. Once that gets amended then all were in favor of approval of the minutes.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Police Department Report

Sargent Disciullo gave the report in lieu of Chief Flood's absence at the time of the report.

B. Treasurer's Report

C. Administrative Report

Town Administrator Brought addressed the rotten pole at the light by Prince George's Cemetery and Chapel Rd. She asked if Council was in agreement with replacing the electric wiring with a solar light for the flag pole verses the electric being put on a pedestal on the ground. Councilwoman Ulrich stated that if we can get a solar light that will hold up then she agrees with switching to solar lights. All were in favor.

D. Economic Development Committee

E. Building Official Report

F. Code Enforcement Report

G. Meeting Reports

H. Water Department Report

I. Prince George's Chapel Cemetery Report

J. Correspondence

Councilman Chandler motioned to approve the consent agenda. Councilwoman Ulrich seconded the motion. All were in favor.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DBA – Audrey Miller/Art Blanchette – Banners

Mayor Baull stated this is to be discussed at the next Council meeting in January.

B. Review Dates for 2020 Meetings & Holidays
(Change January/February Meetings) – Cindi Brought

Town Administrator Brought stated that the January date for Town Council wouldn't work out because it falls on Martin Luther King Day, the 20th, and Town Hall is closed for both the January and February dates. Town Administrator Brought stated that she asked the church if the Town Council meetings could be moved and they were agreeable with the new dates. The January P&Z meeting was scheduled for the day after New Year's Day so she asked the church if it could be moved to the 9th and the church was agreeable.

Councilman Chandler motioned to approve the submitted Town Council Meetings, P&Z meetings, and Holidays dates for 2020. Vice- Mayor Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

C. Police Car Discussion

Sergeant Disciullo stated that the Town currently has the 2011 Chevy Tahoe that is driven by Chief Flood, which has 96,000 miles on it and is in need of routine maintenance as well as some repairs. We have the 2014 Ford Explorer which is in the shop currently with an estimated repair of \$4500. It has some cosmetic issues that were not included in the quote, some mechanical issues and has 75,000 miles on it. We have the silver 2016 Ford Taurus currently in the shop for electrical repairs, which will be for the new hire. The white 2019 Ford Taurus has 2,000 miles on it.

Sargent Disciullo stated that they are asking for two new vehicles. That would give the ability to have a spare vehicle, which we do not have currently. Essentially we do not have enough vehicles for four officers as it stands.

As far as vehicle choices, our first choice would be the Tahoe. The cost that we have factored into this includes some of the money we have left over from the second Taurus that was never purchased. That came out to about \$29,000 with a high up fit cost, which is the lighting, sirens, etc. We have some sirens and things from the Explorer and we would like to sell the explorer in lieu of repairing. We currently have two Tahoe's on hold, they are 2019 and we do not know the outcome of price if we lose those.

The second choice would be the Durango. It's a good vehicle and it is a few thousand dollars less than the Tahoe. The Durango has a 60-90 day turnaround time to get it from the dealership.

The last option is the Ford Explorer. Sargent Disciullo stated that being around police vehicles for a few years, the Explorer has some issues and would not be a first choice. Explorers tend to have electrical and mechanical issues. We have a vehicle with only 75,000 miles on it and it is basically falling apart.

Things to be considered are the estimated repair cost for the current Explorer. It's a good chunk of what a new vehicle would cost. The real issue going forward is going to full staff and we do not have four vehicles that are operational. If we get one new vehicle that would still leave us with Chief's Tahoe, which has about 100,000 miles on it and that will end up being a daily driver. Usually a vehicle with 100,000 miles on it, for a police car is a spare vehicle. Ideally, we would like to get two new vehicles and use the Tahoe as our spare vehicle. We would sell the Explorer and take the money we get for the Explorer as well as the lighting package and see if we can help lower the cost a little bit. They are not manufacturing Taurus' for 2020, which is what lead us to the SUV discussion. SUV's are great with 4WD, right now we have one vehicle that is 4WD. In the event of a snow emergency or inclement weather we are pretty limited on our response time as far as how far we can go and what we can do. Chief's current Tahoe also has a couple of concerns. When we were in the pursuit last month there was a concern with the safety of the brakes.

We are proposing to sell the current Explorer "as is" and hopefully we can get \$1,500 -\$2,000 for it. We can take the lighting package off of it to put on a new vehicle to help alleviate some of the cost. As far as the first SUV that we asked for, there is money that was budgeted toward another vehicle and Sergeant Disciullo believes that it would essentially cover the cost of the first vehicle. The second vehicle would need to be financed or leased for a period of time.

The third officer is basically through the hiring process, and I have finished his background check. We are looking to hire a fourth officer in February and we would like to have our fleet ready. With that being said, we have to get the vehicles, and up fit them with the lighting which will take days or possibly weeks to get done.

Councilwoman Ulrich asked Sergeant Disciullo if these vehicles were coming from Hertrich or IG Burton. She also asked Sergeant Disciullo his thought on the value of the Explorer with so many issues. He believes "as is" would be about \$1,500-\$2,000 with the mechanical and cosmetic issues.

Councilwoman Ulrich asked thoughts on purchasing one now and the other one at the beginning of February since we don't essentially have the staff yet. Councilman Chandler asked Sergeant Disciullo if his concern was with the hiring of new officers and not having the fleet ready. Sergeant Disciullo stated that there are two concerns, the two vehicles that we have on hold, IG Burton actually called and asked what the status was, and the concern is if they have others interested in them or not. Those are the last two 2019 vehicles on their lot. Sergeant Disciullo stated if we wait, the pricing may change because they would be 2020. The second issue is the timing of getting the lighting package installed. Councilwoman Ulrich asked if the price was the "negotiated price" or not. Sergeant Disciullo stated that it is the State contract price and he doesn't believe there is "wiggle room".

Councilman Chandler asked if the vehicles were to be financed, did he have a rough idea of the monthly finance charge and for how many years? Sergeant Disciullo stated that he was not sure and Town Administrator Brought would have to speak with the dealership regarding that.

Councilman Chandler motioned to purchase two 2019 4WD Chevy Tahoe's as proposed with the condition according to budget and the selling of the Explorer. Vice- Mayor Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

D. Snow Plowing – 2019-2020 - Gray's – Cindi Brought

Town Administrator stated that we need to sign a contract with Gray's for snow plowing, she knows a lot of people were disgruntled with the grass cutting and we will go out for more bids on that, but they did a good job with the snow plowing and they did not up the cost.

Vice- Mayor Miller motioned to accept the bid from David Gray for snow removal. Councilwoman Ulrich seconded the motion. All were in favor.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Comprehensive Plan/State Planning Office – Comments from State Agencies and new timeline to adopt Comprehensive Plan – Kyle Gulbranson.

Town Engineer Gulbranson stated that we are coming to a close here. We received comments back from the State agencies in late November. For the most part there was nothing surprising. There were some certification issues that we had to deal with and they were mainly housekeeping issues on updates and timelines and things of that nature. There were a couple of things that some State agencies wanted reworded, but for the most part a lot of the State comments were all recommendations and not requirements.

This month the Planning Commission went through this letter and incorporated everything that we thought was appropriate into the Plan. The Plan is finished. The letter that we had to respond back to with the State, as to how we addressed their comments, is finished. Mayor Baull needs to sign the letter and we send that up to Dover. The State will then have twenty days to review the Plan again. At the January meeting you will be able to have a Public Hearing for Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan then goes to the Governor to certify and sign off on.

Councilman Chandler stated that he had a few comments. His first comment was a flagged section about the water with Millsboro stating that they don't feel this language needs to be in the Plan on page 23. Councilman Chandler believes it is incorrect and should be stricken from the document. The second question Councilman Chandler had was in regard to page 26 stating that we will be launching a K9 Unit as well as Bike Patrol. Sargent Disciullo stated that the mid to long term goal with the money acquired from the drug seizure, and the case is fully closed, they would then like to propose a K9 unit with the money from that seizure. There are only certain things you can do with the money and a K9 unit is one of them. It would include training of the officer, the program and the equipment so it would be of no cost to the town. Town Engineer Gulbranson stated that he did question Chief Toomey before he left and he wanted that to remain in the Plan. Councilwoman Ulrich asked if it wasn't the Explorer that was outfitted for the previous K9 unit. Councilman Chandler asked if the monies that we hope to get can be put toward a car and Sergeant Disciullo stated the money could be used toward the car for the K9 unit. Councilman Chandler asked if we were also going to reinstate the bike patrols? Town Administrator

Brought stated that Chief Flood would like to start the program again. Sergeant Disciullo stated that there is no one that is certified at this time, but he believes it is a weeklong class. Town Administrator Brought stated that it was Tyler Bare and Harry Litten that had an interest in this program previously.

Councilman Chandler stated that his only other comment was on page 28, a reference about the Town working with the Center for Inland Bays and the Botanical Gardens to educate the people of Dagsboro about buffers. Councilman Chandler doesn't believe it goes there. There is another reference similar on page 45, which specifically urges the Town to work with DNREC and the Center for Inland Bays and he asked if we couldn't just include the Botanical Gardens statement in this section. Town Engineer Gulbranson stated that he believes it was already moved but will take a look at it.

B. Curb Painting – Quotes- Discussion and Possible Vote – Bill Chandler

Councilman Chandler stated that we received a quote from Matt's for \$2340 for painting all the curbing in Town. Councilman Chandler thinks the painting of curbing is in the interest of public safety for the residents as he believes people are parking on yellow marked curbing near stop signs, which is illegal. Sergeant Disciullo asked if there was a timeframe on doing this as he was concerned in the event of snow that the plows would tear it up, along with the salt. The Council agreed to wait until Spring since the bid states it is good for six months.

Councilman Chandler motioned to accept the bid from Matt's for \$2340 for curb striping throughout the Town. Councilwoman Ulrich seconded the motion. All were in favor.

C. Quote for CPA Firm Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC – Audit – Cindi Brought

Town Administrator Brought stated that the last page of their packet had the quote. The quote is higher than what we already pay. Councilman Chandler stated that he was hoping to get a little competitive bidding, which was not the case. Councilman Chandler asked the Town Administrator to let them know that their bid wasn't as competitive as we would have liked.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Flowers, 31860 New Street, stated that in regard to the solar lights for the flag pole, be sure that it is bright enough and according to the flag code. He has seen so many of the solar lights that look like a candle lighting the flag instead of the proper lighting.

Pastor KC, Bethel UMC, stated that he enjoyed the Christmas parade in town and that he would like to see the Town have no sports on Sunday between the hours of 8-12; he would like to see the residents either come to church or stay at home for their spiritual needs.

Adjourn for executive session at 6:43 pm.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(To discuss police department personnel)

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESULTS

Councilman Chandler motioned to approve the hiring of Anthony Valenti for the open position of Corporal for the Dagsboro Police Department. Councilwoman Ulrich seconded the motion. All were in favor.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Chandler motioned to adjourn. Councilwoman Ulrich seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy West, Town Clerk

SIGN IN SHEET
DECEMBER 16, 2019
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

NAME	PHYSICAL ADDRESS OR COMPANY REPRESENTING
Cathy & Bob Flowers	Dagoberto DE
Pastor KC	/