

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF NORTH EAST
106 S. MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, MARYLAND 21901

May 8, 2019

The Town Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert F. McKnight 7:00 P.M. Present were Commissioners Cynthia Billig, Hilary Crothers-Moore, Michael Kline and Ray Mitchell. Also present were Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Meekins, Director of Finance and Administration Ken Natale and Director of Planning Betsy Vennell. Absent from the meeting were Town Administrator Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie, Town Clerk Stephanie Racine-Dean and Chief of Police Darrell Hamilton.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

-OATH OF OFFICE-

None.

-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting was made by Commissioner Kline, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved by all.

-PUBLIC HEARING-

Mayor McKnight opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Ordinance 2019-04-01 re: The Purpose Adopting Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

The purpose of adopting a Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, Real and Public Utility/Railroad Operating Tax Rates for the Taxable Year beginning July 1, 2019, and a Homestead Credit Percentage to be applied for the purposes of the Homestead Tax Credit under State Law; stating certain projected expenditure and expense allocations; specifying circumstances under which approval of the Mayor and Commissioners is required for modifications to revenues and expenditures; establishing comprehensive fiscal plan for the Town of North East for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Ken Natale presented the budget on power point. No one from the public signed up to speak regarding the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. There were no comments from the Mayor or Commissioners regarding the 2020 budget.

Mayor McKnight closed the public hearing at 7:18 pm

-GUESTS-

Lori Bouchelle, 957, East Old Philadelphia Road, North East, Maryland, Secretary of the Upper Bay Museum came before the Board regarding "The Edna Lockwood". The Edna Lockwood is a "buckeye schooner" known as the last working oyster boat of her kind. The Edna Lockwood is on the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Bouchelle reported that The Edna Lockwood will be on tour around the Chesapeake Bay this summer and they are requesting to dock at the North East Community Park July 9-11, 2019. A small tent would be erected to provide information to the public, tours would be available to the public. Mr. Natale reported that Ms. Cook-MacKenzie requested that he report that the Code of Ordinances for the Town of North East does not currently permit overnight docking at the pier, however, the Town Board was amiable to change the Code to permit overnight docking at the pier for this type of scenario. Mayor McKnight reported that this would be a great opportunity for the Town and requested that Ms. Bouchelle confirm and respond directly to Mr. Natale as to whether they will be charging an admission fee for the tours, and to confirm whether they would require electric service or security for the event.

-PUBLIC COMMENT-

Ms. Patel, resident of 2A Russell Street, North East, Maryland reported she had not received her water bill from her landlord in time to pay the bill, therefore, had received a late fee of \$16.00. Ms. Patel requested that the late fee be waived. Mayor McKnight responded that the late fee cannot be waived.

-INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES-

1. Ordinance 2019 05-01.

Mr. Natale presented the introduction of Ordinance 2019-05-01. An Ordinance for the purpose of adding to the Town of North East Code of Ordinances existing Chapter 7. Public Maintenance and the Environment, Article 7. Stormwater Management Ordinance, Sections 7-702 thru Section 7-706 to establish a stormwater management fund; adopting a stormwater management utility fee; providing for certain exceptions and credits; and generally pertaining to stormwater management utility fee.

-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCES-

None.

-REPORTS-

Mayor McKnight

Mayor McKnight reported that he and the Town Clerk spent the morning at Career Day on Friday, May 3, 2019 at the North East Middle School.

Commissioner Crothers-Moore

None.

Commissioner Kline

Commissioner Kline reported that he attended the reception for Missy Reynolds, along with Mayor McKnight.

Commissioner Kline reported he attended the Maryland Municipal League Dinner on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Charlestown Fire Hall.

Commissioner Kline entered into the record the March 2019 Maintenance Department Monthly Report.

Commissioner Mitchell

Commissioner Mitchell reported that he attended a reception for Missy Reynolds.

Commissioner Mitchell attended the Planning Commission meeting May 7, 2019 and reported that the North East Library final site plan, lighting, landscape and architectural plan have been approved.

Director of Finance and Administration, Ken Natale

Mr. Natale entered into the record the list of payments issued since the last Board Meeting on April 24, 2019.

Mr. Natale reported the Razor Strap Road water main break costs came to \$213,000.00 for the emergency repair and the breakdown of those costs were sent to the tablets.

-UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Opioid Crisis Litigation

Mayor McKnight reported that he met with The Kane Law Group, Joseph F. Snee, Jr. regarding a litigation team against Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors. Mayor McKnight stated that he was provided with a document to sign, which Dennis Clower, the Town's Attorney reported that there

were no objections to the Town signing. Mayor McKnight reported that the Town's only purpose in signing on with this litigation is to recover some of the expenses which North East has incurred due to the opioid crisis. Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve joining in with this litigation. Commissioner Billig seconded the motion and the motion was approved by all.

-NEW BUSINESS-

Proclamation, National Safe Boating Week

Mayor McKnight presented to the board a Proclamation for National Safe Boating Week, May 19 through May 25, 2019.

Proclamation, Tourism Month

Mayor McKnight presented to the board a Proclamation for the month of May as Tourism Month.

Water Allocation Request:

Ms. Vennell presented a water allocation application from Ms. Tara R. Carty, 404 East Cecil Avenue, North East, Maryland. Ms. Carty has requested water allocation of one Equivalent Residential Unit/250 GPD for her existing single family home. The property is located out of the Town's corporate limit, however there is a water main directly in front of her home.

The allocation was approved by Commissioner Crothers-Moore. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Billig and approved by all.

North East Community Park Planting Plan-update:

Ms. Vennell reported that in 2012, in an effort to provide trees, benches and landscape at the North East Community Park in methodical plan, the Mayor and Commissioners adopted a park plan, which included area "pockets" to be designed at a later time. This update to the plan is located in a "pocket" on the south west of the park adjacent to the kayak ramp, and proposes tree installations, tree removal and park benches. Ms. Vennell confirmed that trees and benches are typically provided typically at no cost to the Town, by way of donations, grants or "fee in lieu" landscape projects. Commissioner Kline made a motion to approve the update to the park plan. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion was approved by all.

-MISCELLANEOUS-

None.

-APPROPRIATIONS-

Contingency Request: NEPD Generator Replacement:

Mr. Natale presented a contingency request for the North East Police Department-generator replacement. Commissioner Billig made a motion to approve the generator replacement at the North East Police Department. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crothers Moore and approved by all.

-BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR-

None.

-ADJOURNMENT-

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mitchell at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. McKnight, Mayor

Betsy Vennell, Director of Planning