

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

January 8, 2020

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

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 December 11, 2019 meeting was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Kline and approved by all.

-PUBLIC HEARING-

None.

-GUESTS-

None.

-APPOINTMENTS-

None.

-PUBLIC COMMENT-

None.

-INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES-

Ordinance 2020-01-01, Gifted Property owned by NE, LLC. Parcels 898, 1079 and 1140 found on Map 31; totaling 59.666 + /acres.

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie presented to the Board Ordinance 2020-01-01. An Ordinance for the purpose of acknowledgement their desire and intent to accept as a gift to the Town of North East certain parcels of land for the purpose of developing the property as permitted by the relevant local, county, state and federal permitting and government agencies into active and/or passive recreation for the enjoyment of the citizens of the Town of North East.

Mrs. Cook-Mackenzie advised the Board, Ordinance 2019-11-01, was previously approved on November 27, 2019 for the same purpose. However, that Ordinance required settlement to occur before December 31, 2019 as requested by the owner. Because the owner decided to postpone settlement, Ordinance 2020-01-01 is being introduced. Because the Town has not been made aware of a new settlement date Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie proposes providing the owners until June 30, 2020. Ordinance 2020-01-01 will be effective February 11, 2020; therefore, settlement can occur between February 12, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCES-

Resolution 2020-01-01, Friends Foundation of the Cecil County Public Library Donation

This Resolution memorializes the decision the Town Board made at their December 11, 2019 meeting. A motion to approve the Resolution 2020-01-01, Friends Foundation of the Cecil County Public Library Donation in the amount of \$75,000.00 was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Billig and approved by all.

-REPORTS-

Mayor McKnight

Mayor McKnight reported he attended the funeral service of Mr. Otis L. Isaacs, Jr. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 with the Chief of Police, Darrell Hamilton and the Town Administrator, Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie.

Commissioner Billig

Commissioner Billig entered into the record the November 2019 Crime and Traffic Breakdown for the North East Police Department.

Commissioner Kline

Commissioner Kline entered into the record the November 2019 Monthly Report for the Town of North East Maintenance Department.

Commissioner Kline reported he participated in the Residential Christmas Decorating Contest on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Commissioner Kline reported he along with Commissioner Mitchell will be attending Cecil Night in Annapolis on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at the Miller Senate Office Building.

Commissioner Mitchell

Commissioner Mitchell reported he participated in the Residential Christmas Decorating Contest on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Town Administrator, Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie reported she attended the following meetings since the December 11, 2019 Town Meeting:

- North East Chamber of Commerce Board meeting
- North East Chamber Annual Recognition Dinner
- Mayor McKnight regarding several projects
- Walk through with Delmarva Power regarding the LED lighting project
- Cindy Stone regarding the utilization of block grant funds
- Cecil County Human Resources peer group meeting

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie reported she and Water Superintendent, Ron Carter met with Entech Engineer, Steve Riley to provide him with their comments on the 20 Year Water System Master Plan. This item will be placed on the agenda for adoption on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

-UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Stony Run Water Line Replacement Project

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie advised the Board, the Stony Run Creek Crossing project on Razor Strap Road is moving forward. The new water main is in across the creek and up the embankments up to the sidewalk on both sides. The contractor is waiting to receive the permit from Cecil County regarding the road permit in order to complete the water line installation.

-NEW BUSINESS-

Election of Planning Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie presented to the Board the North East Zoning Ordinance, Section 9-4, Planning Commission Officers. The Planning Commission shall elect by the 31st of January of each year a chairperson and vice-chairperson who shall serve for one year. If the Planning Commission fails to elect a chairperson by the 31st day of January each year, the Mayor and Commissioners will appoint a chairperson. Due to the lack of agenda items,

Chairman Mark Dobbins cancelled the January Planning Commission meeting, therefore, there was no vote for a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

A motion to re-elect Mark Dobbins as the Planning Commission Chairperson and elect Michael Nair as Vice-Chairperson was made by Commissioner Kline, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved by all.

-MISCELLANEOUS-

Mayor McKnight reminded the Board, the Appreciation Dinner will be held Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Chesapeake Ballroom.

Mayor McKnight asked the Maintenance Supervisor, Phil Meekins if Mr. Robert Crouch contacted him regarding the removal of the Christmas tree decorations. Mr. Meekins advised the Board, the Maintenance Department staff did help with the removal of decorations. Mayor McKnight stated Mr. Crouch was very gracious for the help and thankful to the town.

-APPROPRIATIONS-

None.

-BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR-

None.

-ADJOURNMENT-

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Billig and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Stephanie Racine-Dean, Town Clerk

Robert F. McKnight, Mayor