

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Workshop
May 4, 2022**

The Mayor and City Council Workshop was held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. **Present:** Mayor Wantz and Councilmembers Foster, Fuller, Haines and Hand. **Also Present:** City Manager Wieprecht, Attorney Gullo and Clerk Kalman. **Not Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Vigliotti was excused from the meeting. Councilmember Hand led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes: Review of the minutes of the April 6, 2022 and April 11, 2022 regular meetings – no changes were requested.

Public Hearing: Sewell Annexation – Mayor Wantz explained the hearing will be opened and will remain so until June 1, 2022. During that time additional comments from both residents and state organizations will be accepted with the official close of the hearing occurring at a June 1, 2022 special meeting. The annexation will then be presented to the council for debate and decision at the July Mayor and council meeting. Mayor Wantz explained the process of an annexation consideration and clarified, despite information on social media, annexation of a property does not change the ownership and contrary to comments from county groups, no enclave is created by the annexation. Mayor Wantz directed harassment against the property owners to immediately cease.

Mayor Wantz opened the public hearing at 7:35 PM and explained the guidelines for making public comment

Reception of Delegation: Sewer compliance update – Brian Lubenow, CDM Smith – Mr. Lubenow provided a review of completed projects, summarized both ongoing and future projects and responded to questions from Mayor Wantz relating to terra cotta pipe.

Councilmember statements regarding conflicts of interest on agenda items: none

Public comment pertaining to non-agenda items:

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Approval:

Introduction:

Resolution 2022 – 06 Capital Improvement Program – City Manager Wieprecht explained the following updates have been made to the program: refined cost estimates based on Mr. Lubenow’s presentation, acquisition of property related to Antrim Boulevard, a place holder for \$500,000.00 added every other year, the proposed new shop building for the Department of Public Works and the added water and sewer projects to serve that property and additional downtown parking. Wieprecht advised the resolution is to adopt the language and the program will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their recommendation.

Responding to Mayor Wantz, City Manager Wieprecht indicated the creamery building is not currently a part of the program. Mayor Wantz stated a decision needs to be made about the building and proposed the allocation of \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 to fund resolution of the building. The project will be added to the City Hall category. Wieprecht advised the Consumer Price Index could be used as a reference to estimate inflationary pricing

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Adoption of:

Resolution 2022 – 05 – Water allocation for May – no questions or concerns were expressed.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Wieprecht stated the first compliance report for the American Recovery Plan Act was submitted and advised the Roberts Mill Road reconstruction project meeting was very successful. Wieprecht explained two property owners have asked to be removed from the City's Growth Area and added to Agricultural Preservation. The potential plan would be to pursue acquisition of the 4 acre property and send notice to county agricultural and preservation advising the City does not object to the preservation of the property and intends to remove the property from the growth area with the next plan update. Another property owner has a tenant currently farming his property which includes a tree bank making the property less desirable for annexation. Each topic will be included on the May 9 agenda.
- Wieprecht clarified the Gettle Incorporated proposal for the well control system purchase included information referencing a savings on Verizon telephone line charges and explained savings will not occur until approximately July. The proposal included equipment to be installed in all of the well houses but it will not be immediately installed in wells 9,14,15, 6 and 17, which makes the current phone lines necessary. The equipment for the additional five wells can be completed a well or two at a time out of the materials and supplies line item. Wieprecht explained the Director of Public Works does not want to incur the cost of the installations all at once.

Department Reports: no questions or concerns were expressed.

Legal Report:

- Attorney Gullo explained the mechanics of the Sirian property acquisition and advised an authorization for a budget amendment will eventually be needed if the council decides to purchase the property.

Old Business:

- No items for discussion

New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Report – no questions or concerns were expressed.
2. Accounts Payables – no questions or concerns were expressed.
3. Legal assistance on code violations – Attorney Gullo explained an informal policy is in place wherein City staff does not file a lawsuit without authorization from Mayor and Council, which allows habitual code violators to leave egregious issues unresolved. Gullo expressed City staff is requesting authorization to allow the legal pursuit against these types of issues. City Manager Wieprecht advised a court order would provide insulation against liability and expressed most contractors do not want to enter properties without owner permission.
4. Approval of mowing bid – Mayor Wantz advised the only bid received is from Eckers Lawn Service and the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director is to accept the bid.

Public comment pertaining to agenda items:

Adjournment: motion to adjourn at 9:14 PM by Haines, 2nd by Foster – carried 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk