

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Workshop
November 8, 2023**

The Mayor and City Council Workshop was held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

Present: Mayor Miller, Mayor Pro Tem McCarron and Council members Foster, Chaney and Tillman.

Present Virtually: Council member Fuller **Also Present:** City Manager Wieprecht, Attorney Gullo and Clerk Kalman. Mayor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Minutes: Review of the minutes of the October 4, 2023 combined meeting - no changes were requested.

Proclamation: Municipal Government Works Month - Mayor Miller issued a proclamation declaring November 2023 as Municipal Government Works Month

Certificate of Recognition: Major David Stem - Mayor Miller issued a Certificate of Recognition to Major David Stem of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department for his valuable contributions and collaborative efforts with the Taneytown Police Department.

Certificate of Recognition: Brian's Safe Haven – Mayor Miller issued a Certificate of Recognition honoring the dedication of Brian's Safe Haven in providing vital food pantry and assistance services and their impactful support to a veteran.

Proclamation: Small Business Saturday - Mayor Miller issued a proclamation recognizing and celebrating Small Business Saturday on November 25, 2023.

Reception of Delegation: CDM Smith – Update on Dewatering Project – Brian Lubenow of CDM Smith reviewed the cost breakdown.

Council member statement regarding conflicts of interest on agenda items: none

Public comment pertaining to non-agenda items:

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Introduction:

Ordinance 09 – 2023 – Backyard Chickens – Council member Tillman expressed concerns from the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. City Manager Wieprecht explained procedure dictates the Ordinance will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission if it is voted to be introduced at the November 13, 2023 Mayor and council meeting. Responding to Mayor Pro Tem McCarron about enforcement concerns, City Manager Wieprecht advised there will be an initial inspection of the applicant's property. City Manager Wieprecht will make the requested changes for the November 13, 2023 council meeting. The Ordinance will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to a public hearing.

Adoption:

Resolution 2023 – 16 – Water allocation for November – City Manager Wieprecht responded to questions from Council.

Resolution 2023 – 17 – Check Signature Authorization – Mayor Miller and City Manager Wieprecht explained the resolution is needed because the Clerk/Treasurer position was split into two separate positions years ago, but a resolution was never adopted to specify the Treasurer is an authorized signer and the City Clerk is not.

Resolution 2023 – 18 – Public Records Custodian – Mayor Miller explained the resolution is to clarify the City Clerk is the designated custodian of City records for Public Information Requests.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Wieprecht reviewed his monthly report which included an update on delivery of police vehicles, Roberts Mill Road and Broad Street reconstruction, Riffles Lane to York Street drain and advised 3 proposals were received for the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Rehabilitation project.

Department Reports:

- There were no questions or concerns about the department reports.

Legal Report:

- Attorney Gullo provided a status of the polyfluoroalkyl substances lawsuit and explained the equation for determining the payout for the settlement. The City could receive between \$125,000.00 and \$150,000.00 per well, but the payment will not be received until approximately May of 2025.

New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Report – no questions, or concerns were expressed.
2. Accounts Payables – no questions, or concerns were expressed.
3. Dewatering Project change order – no questions, or concerns were expressed.
4. Engineering Services for Fiscal Year 2023 Sewer Rehabilitation Projects – City Manager Wieprecht advised three (3) proposals were received and the recommendation is to award the proposal for design to CDM Smith, in the amount of \$147,227.00.
5. Comprehensive Plan Upgrade outsourcing – Mayor Miller and Council member Tillman explained the City does not have the staff to handle such a large project.
6. Ratification of Purchase: Taneytown Police Department Body Worn Camera hardware – Mayor Miller and City Manager Wieprecht advised the City was awarded a grant to apply towards the purchase.
7. Nomination to Planning and Zoning Commission – Mayor Miller stated Chairman Jim Parker and Zoning Administrator Hale agree with the nomination of Barry Garner to fill the alternate seat.

8. Nomination of Police Chief – Mayor Miller nominated Adrian Baker to the position of Police Chief offering him a salary of \$130,223.61. Mayor Miller responded to questions from Council members and there was discussion about the rate of pay. Motion to accept the nomination by Tillman, 2nd by Chaney carried 4 – 1, with Council member Fuller abstaining. Motion to accept the salary of \$130,223.61 by Tillman, 2nd by Chaney – carried 5 – 0.
9. Approval of Special Event Permit Application – Woofstock – June 22, 2024 – no questions or concerns were expressed.
10. Approval of Lease Agreement – T – Mobile – Attorney Gullo explained the lease requires a correction and will be revised before the vote at the November 13, 2023 meeting.
11. Councilmember Fuller stated she would like to initiate discussion about a discrepancy she discovered between the City Charter and Code. Mayor Miller indicated he would have liked to have been aware of the additional agenda item prior to the meeting, so the public could have the opportunity to comment. Discussion followed about the procedure for adding items to the agenda. Motion by Foster to allow the item to be added to the agenda, 2nd by Tillman – carried 5 – 0. Fuller explained the City Charter and Code need to agree about how a City Manager and Police Chief are to be appointed and suggested the same rules should apply for the appointment of a City Attorney. Fuller also indicated she would like verbiage added to allow the City Attorney to speak individually with Council members about legal matters. Discussion followed about Attorney fees. Attorney Gullo will prepare an ordinance with the changes for introduction at the November 13, 2023 Mayor and Council meeting.

Councilmember Fuller stated she would like an investigation to determine who is responsible for sharing private City and Attorney/Client emails. Attorney Gullo stated the leak of information was obvious when a recent Public Information Act Request was received.

City Manager Wieprecht explained Fern Rodkey is on site at Bollinger Park to install security cameras. The proposal for this project is \$30,750.00 and the work has already begun due to grant funding timelines.

Public comment pertaining to agenda items:

Mayor Miller read a Presiding Officer's Closing Statement and advised Council will not reconvene in open session

Adjournment – motion to adjourn to a closed session at 10:15 by Tillman, 2nd by Foster - carried 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk