

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

The Mayor and City Council Workshop was held at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. **Present:** Mayor Wantz, Mayor Pro Tem Fuller and Councilmembers Foster, Haines and Chaney. **Present Virtually:** Attorney Gullo **Also Present:** City Manager Wieprecht and Clerk Kalman. Councilmember Foster led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wantz announced Councilmember Hand resigned from his position because he moved outside of Taneytown. Mayor Wantz stated his recommendation is to leave the seat open until after the May 1, 2023 election. Mayor Pro Tem Fuller concurred.

Mayor Wantz shifted the council liaison positions by appointing Mayor Pro Tem Fuller as liaison for the Planning and Zoning Commission and Councilmember Chaney as liaison for Parks and Recreation.

Review of Minutes: Review of the minutes of the February 8, 2023 and February 13, 2023 regular meetings and February 22, 2023 Budget workshop - no changes were requested

Councilmember statement regarding conflicts of interest on agenda items: none

Public comment pertaining to non-agenda items:

Mayor Wantz explained the search for a Police Chief is well underway and feels it would be inappropriate to delay the process to await the outcome of the May 1, 2023 election. Mayor Wantz advised he expects to present his recommendation for Police Chief at the April 5, 2023 council meeting.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Approval:

Introduction:

Ordinance 01 – 2023 – Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 – Operating Budget

Ordinance 02 – 2023 – Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 - Water / Sewer rate

Ordinance 03 – 2023 – Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 – Tax Rate

Mayor Wantz stated the water and sewer rate will remain unchanged, as well as the tax rate, which has been unchanged for approximately 16 years. City Manager Wieprecht stated the proposed budget is available on the City website. Mayor Wantz advised the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024 budget is scheduled for April 5, 2023 and the projected adoption date is scheduled for April 10, 2023. There were no questions or concerns from councilmembers about any of the ordinances.

Adoption:

Ordinance 04 – 2023 – Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 - Budget Amendment #2 – City Manager Wieprecht explained the ordinance includes increased expenses for lighting retrofit in Memorial Park and stormwater as built drawings and also shows the expenses will be offset by an increase to the anticipated interest from bank accounts and the movement of funds from Park fund balance.

Resolution 2023 – 04 – Water Allocation for March – no questions or concerns were expressed.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Wieprecht reviewed his monthly report which included an update on the Community Village overlay and the Roberts Mill Road / Broad Street project.
- Carroll Vista extended thanks to the Department of Public Works for an informational meeting held to educate the board members about the infrastructure in the community.
- Addressing concerns about trash pick-up complaints, City Manager Wieprecht advised the current trash company makes 160,368 pickups of trash per year resulting in only 152 complaints.
- Responding to Mayor Wantz, City Manager Wieprecht explained the Planning and Zoning Commission agrees with the concerns from council regarding Community Villages and are working to determine what the additional percentage of open space will be.

Councilmember Haines stated a distillery has expressed interest in opening a location in Taneytown. Economic Development Director Jay Meashey intends to apply for a grant through Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing Promotion Fund which would allow the City to sub-grant the pertinent organizations. Mayor and councilmembers will send a letter in an effort to strengthen the application.

Department Reports:

- No questions or concerns were expressed.

Councilmember Fuller stated the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department have been very successful in their pursuit of grants.

Mayor Wantz thanked Director of Public Works Kevin Smeak and Assistant Director of Public Works Randy Myers for conducting a successful water and sewer meeting and encouraged people to watch the video online.

Legal Report:

- Attorney Gullo explained the Sirian land purchase should be completed within the coming week. The property will then be transferred to the county and added to the piece of property the county already owns. Once the transfer is complete, the City will need to pursue the county for the entire parcel.

New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Report – no questions or concerns were expressed.
2. Accounts Payables – no questions or concerns were expressed.
3. Maryland Department of the Environment settlement offer – City Manager Wieprecht explained Maryland Department of the Environment has made the City aware of violations at the waste water treatment plant. The City responded with a letter advising measures are in place to maintain compliance, however MDE responded with a settlement offer of \$75,000.00. Staff explained the City is interested in a settlement, but the issue will need to go before Mayor and council to determine the merits of the violations and the dollar amount of the settlement. Mayor Wantz stated he will contact Senator Justin Ready to request his assistance.
4. Appointment to the Election Board – Mayor Wantz stated he intends to nominate Sue Billings, William (Bill) Kennedy and Judy Furbay for reappointment and will nominate Barbara Heltebride (who has served on the board previously) for appointment. Mayor Wantz advised there is still one position available.
5. Appointment to Ethics Commission – Mayor Wantz stated he intends to nominate David Buie
6. Mayor Wantz advised he has been working with councilmember Haines and County Commissioner Joe Vigliotti to draft a letter to the county requesting the addition of the by-pass to the county transportation list. The letter will be circulated to councilmembers for their review.

Public comment pertaining to agenda items:

Mayor Wantz read a Presiding Officer's closing statement

Motion to adjourn the public meeting and reconvene in closed session at 8:02 PM by Fuller, 2nd by Foster – carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk