

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF SELBYVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MAY 3, 2021**

Mayor Murray called the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Selbyville to order at 7:00 o'clock p.m. Also in attendance were Councilmen Richard Duncan, Frank Smith, Clarence Tingle and Jay Murray.

1. Opening of the Regular meeting –

- A. Mayor Murray opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.
- B. Mayor Murray led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Presentation of the Minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting by Mayor Murray. Councilman Smith made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Tingle and carried by all.
- D. Presentation of the April 30, 2021 bills by Mayor Murray. After review by the Council, Councilman Smith made a motion to pay all bills as presented. Motion seconded by Councilman Tingle and carried by all.

2. Mayor's Report & Comments:

Mayor Murray thanked everyone for attending and stated all is well around town. We send our best regards to the Madara family in the loss of their daughter, Laura Madara.

3. Visitors in Attendance:

A. Atlantic General Hospital Representatives – AGH Annual Update

Michael Franklin, President, CEO of Atlantic General Hospital, thanked the Mayor and Council for giving them the opportunity to update the town on what's been going on at the hospital during the last year. He introduced the Director of the Emergency Department, Andrea West-McCabe. Mrs. McCabe stated that approximately on March 20th of last year an average day for them would be about 85 to 100 patients in the dead of winter. On Saturdays and Sundays in the summer they are over 200 patients per day. On March 20th of this year they started seeing 30 to 40 patients per day because people were afraid to come to the hospital for fear of COVID which was a big concern. It was hard for them and the nursing staff as far as learning new things every day, trying to make sure they were wearing the appropriate apparel, working 12 to 12 ½ hours per day, wearing gloves, masks and disinfection. A lot of changes to get used to. They even advertised stating how safe it was to come to the hospital. The patients starting coming back in time. They are really proud that none of the staff got sick from COVID patients. The hospital did an excellent job of making

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sure they had plenty of supplies they needed. She went on to say they had the chicken factories with all the people that were coming in and the staff adapted to all of that every day. It has been a very stressful situation but they continue to serve the community to the best of their abilities and reiterated the hospital is very safe and they are so proud of everyone for a job well done. She thanked the Mayor and Council for trusting their loved ones in their care. Mayor Murray stated he feels they have done one heck of a job.

Mr. Franklin reiterated what Mrs. McCabe reported that they are really proud of their staff in dealing with this serious infection. He gave an annual update as far as what they are doing as an organization and their teaching perspective. They are trying to focus on how they can better inform the community of how they can access to better educate themselves on how to deal with these types of issues that everyone has been confronted with in this past year. There has been numerous challenges throughout the pandemic with getting the resources across the Maryland and Delaware State Line. In conclusion, he stated they hope they never have to go through anything like this in the future. Councilman Murray thanked them for the good job they have been doing. Mayor Murray also complimented them on a job well done under the circumstances they have had to deal with and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Ms. Diane Schmidt, a resident of Barklay Estates and a member of the Selbyville Community Club, introduced Laurie Hall from the Phillip Showell Elementary School who is an art teacher in the school and has put together a really nice art project that she is going to inform everyone of. Ms. Hall stated she is also working with Ms. Jackie Bates of the Community Club to help put on the art show at the Library. This year because of COVID their show had to take a turn to the virtual platform but they felt the show must go on. This year they researched the history of Selbyville. The students have painted a Selbyville time line on the wall at the school. At the unveiling there will be tours along with featuring local artifacts to hundreds of visitors from near and far. At the beginning of the next school year she would like to invite the Mayor and Council to take a tour of the mural on the wall.

Ms. Dawn Lekites, a member of the Community Club, thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued support over the years. Mayor Murray stated the art program is a good one and always has been.

Mr. Zach Evans, a Mountaire employee, reported there was an odor complaint on April 15th. After doing an investigation they found the system had gone off line and the alarm had been sounded but there was no one there over night at the time the alarm sounded. The next morning the maintenance operator noticed the system was off line and put it back on. Mountaire is looking into an alarm system that would notify someone directly to their phone should the system go off line. Currently it is a physical alarm and loses its internet connection, therefore it isn't triggering anything.

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On the community relations side, Mr. Evans reported they celebrated Earth Day on April 22, 2021. On Arbor Day they tested a program where they actually worked with the local Soil Conservation District to identify native plant species to use as a vegetative buffer. Mountaire has planted vegetative buffers on two farms. Councilman Smith asked when the dirt they are moving around on the parking lot will be finished. Mr. Evans said he would reach out to Jay Griffith to get an answer to that question.

Mrs. Kirsch, a resident of Lighthouse Crossing, stated she had some information from the Library and they wanted to thank Stacey and the town for setting up their new picnic tables that were so nicely donated by Lord's Landscaping last year that they never got to use. She also reported the Library is now open. There will be live programming this summer instead of virtual. She reported the Library has a board vacancy that's being advertised. A construction manager has been hired, so everything is moving along with their construction project. Mayor Murray thanked her for bringing us up to date on their progress.

Ms. Dawn Lekites reminded the Mayor and Council about the trees and water in the ditches in the Meadow View Estates area. Mayor Murray stated that it has been cleaned out once and by now it is probably filling back up.

4. Reports

A. Police Report – J. Murray

Councilman Murray reported there were 245 calls for service, 128 tickets, 9 arrests and the fine revenue for the month of March has not been received yet. Chief Collins reported that the in-car and body cameras should be up and running by the 26th of May. On April 24th during the Drug Take Back approximately 200 pounds of drugs were collected. He also reported that one of their vehicles was involved in a very minor accident. Another vehicle got keyed which is on video and the two gentlemen responsible have not been identified yet. Chief Collins reported it has been a very challenging month. The State Police has been helping the department by taking care of coverage during the tragic accident involving Laura Madara. The new car came in a lot earlier than expected. All equipment has been ordered and it should be set up next month.

B. Code Enforcement – S. Long

See report for the month of April.

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C. Water Report – R. Duncan

See report for the month of April. Councilman Duncan reported all is running smoothly in the water department. As of now we are above the standard for TTHM's and hopefully after the next sample is taken we will be taken off the notification list. Last Thursday night there was a hydrant opened in the Williamsville area that affected the interconnect and gave us a slug of brown water in the Lighthouse Lakes development. We were able to get the interconnect shut down. Kevin and Trey started flushing out the Lighthouse Lakes area. Artesian thought we had it cleared up so they opened the interconnect again and caused another slug of brown water the next morning. We shut it back down again. There was a meeting with the Vice President of Artesian to discuss a solution to eliminate something like this from happening again. They are going to put a turbidity meter on the interconnect which will detect the cloudiness of the water that will set off an alarm. The interconnect would automatically shut down if this were to happen again. It was an unfortunate situation where the operator was out of the country on vacation and they forgot to set up contact information. Kevin now has all the numbers needed for any problems in the future. Councilman Duncan also reported that the CR-2 well is down to do some monitoring for now. He has been with Senator Carper working on introducing the American Rescue Plan, the water and wastewater infrastructure act where there is going to be billions of dollars for water and wastewater projects throughout the United States focusing on mostly small and medium municipalities and water systems. The Senate voted on it yesterday with an 80-2 vote. Senator Carper thinks if everything goes forward the money could start to be used by July which would be a great asset if we could get some of it.

D. Public Works – R. Duncan

Councilman Duncan reported the department has been rather busy doing daily maintenance, repairing water meters, reading meters, cutting grass, assisting in the water plant and cleaning storm drains.

E. Recreation – R. Duncan

Councilman Duncan reported he and Stacey have been having conversations about starting the pickle ball court. Hopefully they will be able to get that underway in the next few months.

F. Sewer Report – F. Smith

See report the month of April. Councilman Smith reported that the plant performed within the required permit parameters for the month. CDI is done hauling bio-solids out for the year or at least one-half of it. Town engineer, Jason Loar asked the Mayor and Council to review

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the possibility of going out to bid for the force main and pump station work before the next Council meeting. He stated there has been some minor issues with pump stations recently.

G. Planning & Zoning – J. Murray

No activity for the month of April.

H. Industrial Park Report – C. Tingle

No activity for the month of April.

I. Annexation Report – C. Tingle

No activity for the month of April.

J. Administration Report – C. Tingle

Councilman Tingle referred the Administration report to Stacey.

K. Administration Report – S. Long

Town Administrator, Stacey Long reported that during a Public Hearing a few months back many of the residents had questions about a property that had applied for Commercial zoning. In light of that, there may be a need for a lighter Commercial Use in that area. It is a recommendation that the Mayor and Council possibly create a lighter commercial district to allow the smaller commercial retail shops, donut shops and things of that nature. Stacey suggested holding a workshop with the Planning & Zoning Commission to discuss the possibility of creating a lighter commercial district. Councilman Tingle stated in his opinion that he thought that was a good idea and feels it is needed after assessing the concerns of the residents in that area. After much discussion it was decided to hold a workshop with the Mayor and Council & the Planning & Zoning Commission to see what can be done legally.

Stacey presented a request from the Sussex Rotary Club asking for sponsorship for Flags for Heroes. They could be flown on Memorial Day and 911 this year. Councilman Duncan made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Sussex Rotary Club for the Flags for Heroes benefit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murray and carried by all.

The next item on her agenda was discussion about the building permit and inspection fees. During the original presentation of the budget there was a discussion about consideration of increasing these fees. Our current application fee is \$25.00 and she recommends it be increased to \$50.00. The current inspection fee is \$50.00 times the number of inspections and she recommends it be increased to \$65.00 times the number of inspections. There's also

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a cost of 1% cost of construction which she recommends increasing to 1.25%. Stacey suggests on the commercial side of construction that there be a \$75.00 application fee plus \$100.00 per hour for review of the application plus the 1.25% cost of construction. Councilman Tingle agreed this would help offset the expense of these fees. Councilman Duncan made a motion to accept the proposed building permit and inspection fees as presented and to re-evaluate them again within the next six months. Councilman Tingle seconded the motion and was carried by all.

Stacey reported we have had an application come in from 5 W. Church St. which is Boss Hustle Boutique which is a woman's clothing boutique. We're just waiting for the Fire Marshall's approval.

On W. Church St. one of the buildings out there would like to open a Pop-Up Retail Shop and is inquiring if it is permitted. Stacey feels we need to look at the licensing aspect of this proposal because these retailers come in anywhere from two weeks to a month. Would the charge be a regular business license which is \$50.00 or a vendor license which is \$5.00? Stacey has conversed with our attorney and she said it could be shown as a permitted use being all sales are retail. This is becoming popular in the different towns. Councilman Tingle asked how we would keep track of it if we didn't have some record of what's going on. The Mayor and Council's perspective is that it would be a good idea to bring business into town. The owner would get a Business Rental License and it would be their responsibility to direct the retail business to purchase a vendor license.

Stacey informed the Mayor and Council that we received CT funding through our Representatives and Senators for various drainage projects which would include Baker Alley, Clendaniel Avenue culvert replacement and other repairs throughout town. The contractor will be in town next week to start these projects.

Councilman Duncan brought up the issue of Meadow View Estates again. He feels when the contractor is in town that he could go back there and look at it to see what can be done. Stacey informed him that she has that on her list for him.

5. Executive Session

There being no further business to discuss Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session and go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion seconded by Councilman Tingle and carried by all.

Mayor Murray adjourned the regular session to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters and thanked everyone for attending.

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Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. McCabe
Secretary/Treasurer

EXECUTIVE SESSION