

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
Mayor and Council Workshop
October 7, 2015**

The Mayor and City Council met at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor McCarron, Mayor Pro Tem Foster, Councilmembers Zambetti, Frazier, Wantz and Vigliotti.

Also Present: City Manager Heine, City Attorney Gullo, City Treasurer Fout, Zoning Administrator Wieprecht and Clerk Kalman. Councilmember Wantz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Statements – Michelle Mills from Draper & McGinley, P. A. provided a Power Point presentation and responded to questions from Mayor and councilmembers.

Approval of Minutes: Review of the minutes of the September 9, 2015 and September 14, 2015 regular meetings and September 14, 2015 closed session – Frazier moved to strike a statement about solicitations from the September 9, 2015 minutes.

Motion to move into an executive session at 8:07 to conclude a personnel matter by Wantz, 2nd by Foster - carried 5 – 0

Motion to continue the regular session at 8:26 PM by Wantz, 2nd by Foster – carried 5 - 0

Resolutions, Ordinances and Agreements:

Introduction:

Ordinance 17 – 2015 – Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 Operating Budget Final Amendment – no comments

Ordinance 18 – 2015 – Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 Operating Budget Amendment – no comments

Adoption:

Resolution 2015 – 12 – Water Allocation for October 2015 – no comments

Resolution 2015 – 13 – Community Development Operating Assistance Grants – In response to a request for clarification by Mayor McCarron, councilmember Zambetti and City Manager Heine explained that the reason for the resolution is to show that the mayor and city council members endorse the application for the grant.

City Manager Report:

- City Manager Heine reviewed highlights of his report and responded to inquiries from councilmember Frazier regarding the information contained in the Request for Proposals for a water billing system. Councilmember Frazier stated his understanding was that capital equipment was included in the proposal, however City Manager Heine advised that the proposal was for the software portion only.

Departmental Reports:

- Referencing Item #5 of the Public Works report, councilmember Zambetti inquired the procedure after a third attempt at contacting residents for water meter battery changes. Councilmember Frazier expressed concern about disconnection of water as a penalty for not responding to the notices. City Manager Heine explained that procedure would not be implemented unless council directed it and also explained the posting of stickers on properties as a means of making contact with the property owner. Discussion followed with concerns expressed by councilmember Frazier that bills would be issued with inflated figures to try to encourage residents to contact City office. City Manager Heine explained that practice was used as a test years ago and is no longer used as a method to encourage residents to call for battery change outs. Councilmember Frazier also questioned City Manager Heine about notice he received for a battery change out and other issues surrounding a property he owns. City Manager Heine responded that he will research the history of the account.

Legal Report:

- **Meadowbrook** – Attorney Gullo advised that the Public Works Agreement is signed and reported how the development will progress.
- **Ordinance 16 – 2015 Floodplain management** – Attorney Gullo stated that although the ordinance was passed by council and submitted to the state and FEMA, it was returned with a request for two revisions. If any member of council disagrees with the revisions they should present their concerns at the October 13, 2015 Mayor and council meeting. Councilmember Vigliotti asked that Attorney Gullo check to make sure the revisions are valid.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Water/Sewer Committee Final Report** – Mayor McCarron thanked the committee members for their efforts and dedication. Mayor Pro Tem Foster reminded Mayor and councilmembers that all action items were not agreed on unanimously by the members. Her suggestion was to take action on each item individually. She also extended thanks to the committee members and to councilmember Vigliotti. Councilmembers Frazier and Vigliotti reviewed the proposed action items. Mayor McCarron announced that Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties are sponsoring a leadership training workshop that will be addressing creative financing for sustainability projects and indicated it may be a means to gain more information before moving forward with the micro-grid concept. City Manager Heine stated he has had contact with several micro grid companies and has scheduled a presentation for council for the Tuesday October 13, 2015 Mayor and council meeting. Councilmember Frazier encouraged councilmembers to authorize the separation of the sewer plant from the power grid and build a micro grid. Mayor McCarron warned councilmembers to consider carefully the ramifications. Frazier expressed the need for resiliency in the infrastructure. Councilmember Vigliotti read aloud the introduction to the Water and Sewer Committee Final Report. Councilmember Vigliotti and councilmember Frazier described the thought process of the committee behind action item #4. Councilmember Wantz announced his findings from an analysis he compiled about the potential revenue that could be lost if the sewer rate was reduced and stated his concerns about how the revenue would be replaced. Councilmember's Frazier and Vigliotti explained the rationale described in the report with regards to action item #4. Discussion followed about the sale of grey water and elasticity. Mayor McCarron suggested that

perhaps a separate meeting could be held to discuss the action items and City Manager Heine encouraged the inclusion of City Treasurer Fout. Mayor McCarron again cautioned council to consider carefully before reducing any sewer rates. Councilmember Zambetti expressed his concern about the implication that the 2011 water sewer resolution should be abolished and he explained that the water and sewer rates are set every year and that the resolution is there to cap how much can be charged he also explained the reason for the higher rate for sewer versus water. It was decided to determine at the Mayor and council meeting on October 13 if a separate meeting will take place.

2. **Campaign Finance** – Attorney Gullo asked for direction as far as what should be explored. Mayor McCarron asked council to express their input at next council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015.
3. **Procedure for review of monthly council packet** – there was a brief discussion, in which councilmember Frazier indicated he was not in favor of creating such a policy. Councilmembers Zambetti and Wantz explained their intentions behind creating the policy.

New Business:

1. **Monthly Financial Report** – no questions, or comments.
2. **Accounts Payables** – councilmember Frazier stated his displeasure with the fees paid to Attorney Gullo.
3. **Freedom Broadband contract** – City Manager Heine and Attorney Gullo provided an overview of the contract.

Mayor McCarron read an email he received from a resident concerned with the water rates.

Councilmember Frazier announced that the ELITE Cheerleading squad won a competition and encouraged residents to attend the Athletic Association meetings.

Mayor and council received questions and comments from the audience.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 PM by Zambetti, 2nd by Wantz

Respectfully Submitted by: Clara Kalman, City Clerk