



# TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

*A Port Towns Community*  
3701 Lawrence Street  
Colmar Manor, Maryland 20722

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## **Town Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2023, 7 PM**

**Meeting ID: 826 7950 6698 Passcode: 3611**

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Casanas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **Roll Call**

Mayor Monica Casanas, Vice-Mayor Melinda Mendoza, Councilmember Maliek Harding, Councilmember Irina Hobbs, and Councilmember Brooks were present.

Staff: Chief Tracy Stone, Clerk-Treasurer Dan Baden, and Town Administrator Greg Holcomb

### **Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Harding moved to approve the agenda, Councilmember Brooks seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, motion passed.

### **Presentations**

MedStar Health, Dr. Hill-Daniel, Medical Residency Program Director, and Paula Wilborne-Davis, Community Health Educator

Dr. Hill- Daniel Fort Lincoln Medical Center has been in the community for the past 40 years. The site is home to the Medstar residency program. The primary mission of the center is community outreach.

Ms. Davis- the town is hosting a wellness day on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall and Community Center. Focus on social needs like access to food and services for new mothers.

Councilmember Hobbs asked about whether the center has access to dental screenings. Dr. Hill-Daniels stated they do not offer dentistry but can work with the town to find a provider.

Mayor Casanas noted she is a client and spoke about the gas station development and asked for support from the center.

Councilmember Brooks asked about follow-up for residents attending the health fair. Dr. Hill-Daniel noted that in addition to physician lectures, there will also be a health passport and other educational materials.

### **Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Harding moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal of the May 17, 2022, June 7, 2022, and September 13, 2022 minutes. Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Host Port Towns' Shopping Center Business Meetup, spoke about the meeting and the owner of DMV Convenience Store for coming out.
- Hosted the essay contest locally for the "Mayor for a Day" essay contest at Rodger Heights Elementary.
- Held meetings to re-establishing the senior club.
- Thanked Councilmember Mendoza, as President of PGCMA, for organizing a meeting with the County Executive. Mayor stated she brought up the gas station development with the County Executive and all the communities present.
- Meet with Councilmember Ivey, and meet with her staff next week over the gas station development.
- She noted she met with the Michaels NAI Company last week regarding the gas station and they were disrespectful to the town.
- Held our first Animal Welfare Committee meeting with a Cat's Life Rescue for the town's neutering program.
- Council is holding a retreat this Friday and Saturday.
- Health fair being held April 29th at Town Hall.
- Thanked Recreation Committee and New Covenant Church for organizing and helping with the Easter event.
- Ballertykes camp is happening on Saturdays.
- The town hosted a volunteer appreciation breakfast at IHOP for our volunteer committee members.

### **Councilmembers' Reports and Concerns**

**Councilmember Harding** attended a men's domestic violence meeting and met non-profit providers interested in working with the town.

He noted that he is receiving more calls from residents. Stated that if residents see issues in the community, they need to call the police.

**Councilmember Hobbs** noted she is receiving complaints regarding continuously barking dogs.

She stated it is spring and time for residents to clean up yards of garbage and old appliances.

Thanked the town for helping with the Ballertykes. She noted the town has many activities for different age groups and asked that in the future creating events for people with different abilities.

**Councilmember Brooks** stated that there is a 3600 block of 43rd where there is a sidewalk issue.

3600 Lawrence, overgrowth, town needs to clean up

Stated he is receiving concerns about lighting. He also noted that parallel parking happening by the church.

Reminded residents that the town does have a noise ordinance.

He stated many residents are asking about taxes. Further, stated higher pricing is causing taxes are going up for elderly residents. Mr. Baden stated the current budget has taxation that will not increase residents' taxes. Mayor stated we as a town council need to discuss housing prices and their impacts.

Asked about the ethics committee.

**Councilmember Mendoza** stated she received an email regarding bees. She reminded residents that the town has beehives in the community gardens. If you see bees swarming it may look scary, but we have a solution, and to call town hall.

She then updated residents on PGCMA. Stated the 27 municipalities used to meet with the County Executive, but it has not happened for a year. County Executive Alsobrooks met with the municipalities

### **Resident Concerns**

**Rufus Williams**- 3700 38th Ave. thanked Chief Stone for the parking notices. He stated the town is not built for car storage.

Mr. Williams stated the town can purchase LED lights and get a rebate.

Monroe and 37th. – Large tree that seems like it could be falling and is concerned.

**Councilmember Brooks** asked about doing an inventory and setting policies regarding trees. Mr. Holcomb stated the town has a tree committee that should be doing these types of activities.

**Mrs. Williams** stated 4200 block of Newark Road is dark and needs lighting. Stated there is a trailer with a truck on it. She noted it does not have a license plate. She said she has been reporting it. Stated that this past weekend an SUV hopped the curb, drove down the sidewalk, and hit a fence.

**Mayor Casanas** asked Chief Stone about the trailer issue. He stated that he has personally marked the tire and is tracking the situation. It is a town resident's vehicle and trailer and it is not in violation of the ordinance. Mayor Casanas asked Ms. Williams what the issue is with the trailer. Mrs. Williams stated it is a commercial trailer and shouldn't be allowed. She then stated there is a port-a-potty at the commercial property across the street too. Chief Stone stated trailers were allowed. Councilmember Mendoza stated that when the Council reviewed the ordinance in the past, the Council designated Newark as a non-permit zone to allow trailers. Mr. Brooks stated that the tags on the truck and the trailer were missing. The Mayor suggested our revisiting the parking ordinance at a future meeting.

**Rufus Williams** asked about Spanish classes for non-Spanish speakers.

**Resident-** 38th St. He moved in the past year and stated that a neighbor has seven vehicles and they are taking up too many parking spots. He also noted that one of his cars was scratched up very badly because of this. He said we all need to be neighborly.

**Morena Zelaya** - commented on the leaves falling from her neighbor's yard. Asked about having a container for composting. Mr. Holcomb stated that residents can paint an "X" on trash cans and place their yard waste in it and the trash company will compost them.

Councilmember Brooks asked if we could price a leaf service for the budget.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Re-allocating ARPA funds for police equipment**

Councilmember Mendoza moved to reallocate \$10,000 from ARPA Town Hall Furniture and \$4,000 from the ARPA Traffic Study to the ARPA Taser line and authorize the purchase of the additional Tasers. Councilmember Harding seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **New Business**

- **Budget Discussion-** Clerk-Treasurer Baden introduced and discussed the budget. He stated the budget maintains a constant yield rate.
- **Request for additional funding for tree removal** -Councilmember Brooks moved to transfer \$1,500 from unreserved to the tree maintenance line item. Councilmember Harding seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

- **Request for funding to replace the Town Hall water heater-** Councilmember Harding moved to transfer \$15,000 from unreserved to the Town Hall maintenance line and approve the purchase of a water heater. Councilmember Brooks seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.
- **Introduction of O-05-2023 Business License Amendments-** Councilmember Mendoza moved to introduce the ordinance. Councilmember Harding seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

Councilmember Harding moved to adjourn. Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.