



TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

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

Town Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023 7 PM

Meeting ID: 826 7950 6698 Passcode: 3611

Call to Order

Motion to open the Colmar Manor Mayor & Town Council meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion Councilmember Hobbs, second Councilmember Harding. Vote 4-0. Motion passed.

Roll Call

Mayor Casanas, Councilmember Harding, Councilmember Hobbs, and Councilmember Mendoza. Ward 3 vacant.

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

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor held a moment of silence for the victims of the flooding in California.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve November 2, 2021; November 9, 2021; and November 15, 2022 minutes, introduced by Councilmember Hobbs, second by Councilmember Harding. Vote, 4-0. No Discussion. Motion passed.

Presentation(s)

Habitat for Humanity: Sarah Reddinger presented on the various programs offered by Habitat for Humanity. She noted that they are interested in working with the town to assist residents. Specifically, she detailed the home preservation program and energy efficiency program. The Council agreed to follow up in February and to do a meet and greet and discuss programming.

Defensores de la Cuenca: Albert Arévalo presented information regarding the organization's mission to reengage individuals with nature. He outlined their programming including the ambassador program and the academy program. He further discussed engaging the town in an effort that Senators Sarbanes and VanHollen are working on to create a Chesapeake National Recreation Area.

Resident/Public Comments

- **Keith Brooks:** Asked about the status of the new legal counsel. Further asked questions about the police report's increase in premise checks and commercial alarms.
- **Debra Williams:** Thanked the council for the installation of new street lights and noted it is still dark.
- **Doug Bowles:** Thanked the council for their support during his tenure. He clarified why he resigned and stated it was purely for health concerns.

Community/Committee Reports

Board of Election Supervisors: Mr. Holcomb stated that the Board met at 1 pm on January 10th. The board set the special election date to February 17, 2023, from 10 am – 8 pm.

Recreation Committee: Meeting the following Thursday at 6 pm.

Garden Club: Garden plots are available for the 2023 season. The committee is picking items to use their ARPA fund on. They are meeting virtually on January 21 from 10 am – 2 pm.

Neighborhood Watch: Meeting January 26 at 7pm, they will be assigning block captains.

Hispanic Outreach Committee: The committee is working on registering voters in town.

Mayor's Report

The mayor invited committees to work on their project list and budget requests for FY 24 by March 1.

The mayor then appointed Melinda Mendoza as the Mayor Pro Temp. Vote 4-0, appointment passes.

Mayor Casanas then discussed her neighborhood circle ideas and story-sharing circles. She explained that she is also going to theme meetings to focus discussions.

The mayor then noted that she is sending a letter to neighboring mayors regarding the gas station development to gain their support in opposition to the project.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Hobbs moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021; November 9, 2021; and November 15, 2022. Councilmember Harding seconded, vote 4-0 passed.

Council Reports

Council Member Harding noted the collaborative effort that took place during the most recent town cleanup. He desired for the town to be more creative about Black History month celebrations and asked for the town to use its newsletter to share more stories and facts about the town.

Councilmember Hobbs discussed issues with enforcement of the noise ordinance and specified issues on New Years Eve. She further expressed concerns about homes with many cats and the growth in the stray cat population in town. She is going to work with Chief Stone on the stray cat issue.

Councilmember Mendoza asked the council to sign on to a letter of support regarding Lumis Health Maternity Ward that is being sent to Gov-Elect Moore. She further thanked Vivian Jackson and the volunteers who helped with the recent free store.

Staff Reports

Treasurer's Report- Clerk-Treasurer Baden provided the monthly Treasurers Report. Councilmember Harding moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Councilmember Hobbs seconded. Vote 4-0, passed.

Public Safety Report- Chief Stone provided the public safety report for the month of December. Councilmember Harding moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Councilmember Mendoza seconded. Vote 4-0, passed.

Town Administrator Report- Mr. Greg Holcomb stated that Adtek is targeting mid-January for submission of plans to DPIE. He noted that the traffic study is underway and expected to be done in a few weeks. He further added that the town received a public safety grant from the state for upgrades to

the business district. Finally, he noted that he has discussed our stray cat problem with a local non-profit and they will be applying for our grant program to assist us.

Resident/Public Comments

Mr. Keith Brooks asked about the advertising budget line increase. He further asked for clarification on the ARPA lighting budget line.

Ms. Julianne Bathea noted that Bates has missed trash and yard waste pick-up again.

Old Business

Car Wash lot development. The mayor stated that she is working with neighboring mayors in opposition and coordinating with Councilmember Ivey's office.

New Business

Approval of payment and transfer of \$20,731 from Unreserved to Code Enforcement line item for previous amounts owed to Cottage City. Councilmember Mendoza moved to transfer \$20,731 from Unreserved to the Code Enforcement line item and approve the payment to Cottage City, seconded by Councilmember Harding.

Adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Submitted by Greg Holcomb