



TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

A Port Towns Community
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Colmar Manor, Maryland 20722

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**Town Council
Work Session
February 7, 2023**

Minutes

Present: Mayor Monica Casanas, Councilmember Melinda Mendoza, Councilmember Irina Hobbs, and Councilmember Maliek Harding. Ward 3 vacant.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Greg Holcomb and Chief Tracy Stone

Call to Order 7:00 P.M.

Councilmember Irina Hobbs made a motion to call the meeting to order, Councilmember Harding seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken; motion passed.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Casanas asked for a moment of silence for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

Appointment of Town Attorney

Town Administrator explained the process for selecting the new town attorney. The recommendation of the sub-committee who interviewed the finalists selected Mr. Jason Deloach.

Councilmember Mendoza made a motion to appoint Mr. Jason Deloach as the new town attorney and his rate of \$175 an hour, billed on 10th of an hour increments. Councilmember Hobbs seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0, motion passed.

Update from Greenwill

Lesly Feliz provided an update on the legislative session. She noted that the group was working on finding operational funding for the town and debt forgiveness. Mayor Casanas added a special thank you to Delegate Fennell for her efforts to assist the town with finding this additional funding.

University of Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health

Mr. Vivek Ravichandran provided a background on the air pollution monitoring his group

performs and how it could be done in town free of charge. The Council agreed that the Green Team should be the lead on the project and to look for volunteers to assist in the project. The Council has consensus and agreed to move forward with the project. They directed the Town Administrator to work on an MOU with the Institute.

Proposed Council Rules

Town Administrator Holcomb discussed the need for Council rules. He further discussed the proposed rules and noted that he was not looking a decision tonight and was open to edits.

The Council agreed that the meeting should stay at 7:00 PM and to change the draft rules to state that.

Review of Town Non-Profit Grant Funding Proposals

Town Administrator Holcomb presented the grant proposals received for the town's ARPA community grant program. He noted that each organization requested the full \$5,000 and he recommended the approval of each.

He stated that the grants were to the Foundation of Greatness for youth programming, A Cat's Life Rescue for a cat neutering program in town, Artworks Now for a senior art program for town residents, End Time Harvest Ministries for youth summer employment program and mentoring, and Joe's Movement Emporium for invasive species removal at the Dueling Grounds and planting for trees and native plants.

Councilmember Harding moved to approve the five recommended grants for \$5,000 each. Councilmember Hobbs seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0, the motion passed.

Acceptance and Budgeting of the DHCD Public Safety Grant

Town Administrator Holcomb discussed the public safety grant received in January. He stated the Council needed to accept and budget the grant.

Councilmember Hobbs moved to accept the FY 23 Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Community Safety Works: Business District and Neighborhood Safety grant for \$87,500. Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0, motion passed.

Councilmember Hobbs moved to budget \$87,500 public safety grant in the FY 23 budget. Seconded by Councilmember Harding. A vote was taken, 4-0, motion passed.

Moving Town Meeting to February 15- Town Budget Listening Session

Mayor Casanas requested the February 14th meeting be moved to February 15th at 6:00 PM. Councilmember Hobbs moved to change the Council Meeting date to February 15th at 6:00 PM. Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0, the motion passed.

Tree Removal Request

An additional item was added to the agenda. Town Administrator Holcomb stated that there

was a dying tree on town property near a parking area on Lawrence Street and 39th Place. He noted the budget for tree maintenance was only \$1,000 and the price to remove the tree was \$2,485.

Councilmember Mendoza moved to allocated \$1,485 from unreserved to 5800 Public Works-Tree Service. Councilmember Harding seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0, the vote passed.

Adjournment

Councilmember Irina Hobbs made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion, a voice vote was taken and the council adjourned at 10:01 PM.