



TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR

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

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Town Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023, 7 PM
Meeting ID: 826 7950 6698 Passcode: 3611

Call to Order

Mayor Casanas called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Roll Call

Mayor Monica Casanas, Mayor Pro-Temp Melinda Mendoza Councilmember (Virtual) Maliek Harding, Councilmember Irina Hobbs Joined meeting at 8:01pm and Councilmember Brooks was absent.

Councilmember Harding moved to excuse Councilmember Brooks from meeting
Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed.

Staff: Chief Tracy Stone, Clerk-Treasurer Dan Baden, and Town Administrator Greg Holcomb, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Flores.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

Eva Webb of I-SWG presented the FY 2023 audited financial statements.
Dhruv Maheshwari presented on the Obvio AI stop sign monitoring pilot project.

Consent Agenda

No minutes to approve

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 meeting to re-establishing the senior club2.
- 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 met 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 29 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.

Councilmember Brooks stated that on the 3600 block of 43rd where there is a sidewalk issue. Noted that 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 hurting 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

1) Strategic Plan

No action taken

2) Lariscy Park Conceptual Plan

Councilmember Harding moved to accept the Lariscy Park Conceptual Design Plan.

Councilmember Hobbs seconded the motion. Mayor requested roll call vote 4-0 passed.

New Business

1) Contract renewal for Thomas Michael LL for ARPA consulting

Councilmember Harding moved to amend the current agreement to hourly basis.

Councilmember Hobbs seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed.

2) Request for additional funding for tree removal

Councilmember Brooks moved to transfer \$1,500.00 from unreserved to the tree

maintenance line item. Councilmember Harding seconded that the motion. A voice vote was taken; motion passed.

3) Request for funding to replace the Town Hall water heater

Councilmember Harding moved to transfer \$15,000.00 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; motion passed.

4) 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; motion passed.

Adjournment

Councilmember Harding moved to adjourn. Councilmember Mendoza seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.