

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF NORTH EAST
106 S. MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, MARYLAND 21901**

April 26, 2017

The Town Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert F. McKnight at 7:00 P.M. Present were Commissioners Eric Braley, Hilary Crothers-Moore and Paul Stark. Also present were Police Chief Darrell Hamilton, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Meekins, Town Administrator Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie, Director of Finance and Administration Ken Natale and Head Clerk Stephanie Racine-Dean. Absent from the meeting, Commissioner Michael Kline.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

-APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

A motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2017 was made by Commissioner Stark, seconded by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all. Commissioner Braley abstained from voting as he was not present for the April 12, 2017 meeting.

-GUESTS-

Ms. Pat Deamond, President and Mike Penhollow, Chief of the North East Fire Department

Pat Deamond, President and Mike Penhollow, Chief of the North East Fire Department wanted to introduce there selves as the newly elected President and Chief of the North East Fire Department.

-PUBLIC HEARING-

Water Rate Study

Mr. Robert Ryall, of Wilden Financial Services, 2301 Maitland Center Parkway Maitland, Florida 32073 gave a presentation on the results of the Water Utility Rate Study. The last study was performed in 2011. Mr. Ryall emphasized the Cost of Service Analysis he performed, Financial Management Plan provided by the Town's staff, as well as a proposed design for both In Town and Out of Town Rates, Major Facilities and Connection Fee Update.

The Director of Finance and Administration, Kendrick Natale gave additional information about the Water Rate Study. He stressed the need for the increase is driven by a bond payment for the renovations that were made to the Rolling Mill Water Treatment Plant. He stated is the rates are not being driven by the Capital Projects, they are being paid for by grants and loans which makes the impact on the rate minimal.

Mayor McKnight directed the public to ask any questions they have to Mr. Robert Ryall in regards to his presentation.

Mr. Robert Hodge, 11 Elk Side Farm Lane North East, Maryland requested more information in regards to the neighboring towns and would like to see the differential for in-town and out-of-town customers removed. Mr. Hodge stated the out of town rates would be more significant.

Raymond Glassford, 4 North Main Street North East, Maryland requested data from the 2011 Public Commission Hearing for comparison of the water rates that are being introduced tonight. Mr. Natale stated this information is provided on the town's website for review.

S.J. Anderson, 199 Mahogany Drive North East, Maryland had concerns in regards to the water potability and would like to know if the town has other projects that were not introduced tonight. Mr. Robert Ryall stated there are more Capital Projects in the process but only showed the three largest during his presentation. Mr. Natale reassured the public there is money in the Capital Improvement Plan for projects to improve water quality and all of these items will assist with the water quality.

Ms. Terry Hale, 1 Valley Forge Court North East, Maryland had questions in regards to the out of town graphs and why they were not presented tonight.

Mayor McKnight directed the public to express any concerns to the board about the proposed water rates.

Mr. Robert Hodge, 11 Elk Side Farm Lane North East, Maryland wanted to express his concerns about the out of town rates. Mr. Hodge also expressed his concerns the Town was going about the rate increases the wrong way. He believes the Town should seek permission from the Public Service Commission before increasing out of town rates.

Christopher Culler 232 Northwood's Boulevard North East, Maryland expressed his concerns on the rising water rates and poor planning by the Town in the past.

Raymond Glassford, 4 North Main Street North East, Maryland expressed his concerns about the aggressive water rate increase. He also questioned the quality of the water, with two recent violations for Total Organic Carbon (TOC).

S. J. Anderson, 199 Mahogany Drive North East, Maryland expressed her concerns in regards to the water quality violations for Total Organic Carbon (TOC). Ms. Anderson stated she would have liked to see the water quality in the earlier presentation and to see what direction the town will be going in regards to this matter. Also she would have like to see a breakdown of all Capital Projects not just the three largest that were displayed this evening. Mayor McKnight requested copies of the Capital Improvement Plan be available for the public this evening.

Mayor McKnight stated the town board will vote on the rate increase when it finalizes its fiscal year 2018 budget in June and the entire budget will be discussed during a workshop on May 10 at 5 PM.

The Public Hearing closed, 7:44 P.M.

-INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES-

None.

-ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCES-

None.

-REPORTS-

Mayor McKnight

Mayor McKnight reported he attended a meeting on Friday, April 21, 2017 with the County Executive's and the Mayors within the county in regards to common problems. It was a very productive meeting and he looks forward to working with them again.

Commissioner Stark

None.

Commissioner Crothers-Moore

None.

Commissioner Braley

None.

Water Plant Superintendent, Ronald Carter

Mr. Carter gave the March 2017 report for both the Rolling Mill and Leslie Water Treatment Plants.

Mayor McKnight asked Mr. Carter how much water the Town produced during the year. Mr. Carter stated approximately two hundred and forty million gallons a year.

Director of Finance and Administration, Ken Natale

None.

Town Administrator, Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie

None.

-UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

The Petition for Annexation, Stavros K, LLC

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie presented a Petition for Annexation from Stavros K, LLC; Apostolos Kalaitzoglou, Managing Member for 2305 Pulaski Highway, North East, Maryland 21901 Tax Map 0025; Parcel 100; 0.8264 Acres. This parcel is developed as Pat's Pizzeria. Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie is recommending to the board accept of the petition at the next meeting Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

A motion to accept the petition as recommended by the Town Administrator was made by Commissioner Braley and seconded by Commissioner Stark and approved by all.

-NEW BUSINESS-

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie presented to the board a Proclamation for the Month of May 2017 as Tourism Month, the Mayor signed the proclamation.

Mrs. Cook-MacKenzie presented to the board a Proclamation for National Safe Boating Week May 20th through May 26, 2017.

-MISCELLANEOUS-

Commissioner Braley stated he saw a billboard in regards to a Bass Masters Tournament. Melissa B. Cook-MacKenzie stated it's not an Elite Tournament and a majority of the Event is being held at Anchor Marina.

Commissioner Braley wanted to state one comment in regards to the Water Rate increase and the cost for an in town resident is one cent a gallon and out of town resident is two cents.

Mr. Natale wanted to give a reminder, there will be a Budget Workshop Session Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. prior to the regular board meeting.

Mr. Natale wanted to give a reminder, there will be a Public Hearing on the Tax Rate of the General and Enterprise Fund Budget Wednesday, June 16, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Natale reported on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 the adoption of the Tax Rate of the General Fund, Water Fund Budget and the Water Rates.

-APPROPRIATIONS-

A motion to approve Purchase Order 042617-001 Johnson's Excavating amount of \$7,896.00 for the Excavation, 432 Lakeside Drive, to locate a main, service line, main repair, replace service line, setter, crock and lid was made by Commissioner Braley, seconded by Commissioner Crothers-Moore and approved by all.

A motion to approve the invoices presented for payment was made by Commissioner Crothers-Moore, seconded by Commissioner Stark and approved by all.

-BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR-

James O. Womack, 160 Van Weaver Drive North East, Maryland 21901 requested the boards support in regards to the Bay View Elementary Destination Imagination (DI) Wolves. This unique group has successfully advanced to the Global Tournament at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. The DI program is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students' creativity, courage and curiosity through open ended academic challenges.

Mayor McKnight requested for the Director of Finance and Administration to follow up in regards to a possible donation for these talented youth that are in our community and requested for them to attend the next town board meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

-ADJOURNMENT-

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Braley, seconded by Commissioner Stark and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. McKnight, Mayor

Stephanie Racine-Dean, Head Clerk