

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Councilmember Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy (Absent), Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor (Absent), Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: LaTasha C. Gatling, City Administrator, Earl Ivey, Lieutenant and Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Lieutenant Ivey

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the agenda. The motion carried and the agenda was unanimously approved.

1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 7, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for

Monday, July 21, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, July 21, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Wednesday, August 6, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Special Session meeting minutes for Monday, August 11, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, August 11, 2014. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. None

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. Ordinance O-15-01 Amendment of Chapter 150 Speed Camera Administrative Fees. Ordinance O-15-01 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, July 21, 2014. The second reading was held on Monday, September 8, 2014. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve Ordinance O-15-01. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that Phil Martin, Volunteer Fire Department member had passed. He stated that Phil was diagnosed as an Autistic child and his mother was his support. He stated that Phil ascended to the ranks of Public Information Officer.
- Mayor Grant asked the Council and residents to keep Phil Martin in their prayers.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Government belongs to the people and when a major decision is made the people should make the decision. It should be put to referendum.
- Mayor Grant stated that he does not believe in term limits. He will not be supporting that change.
- Mayor Grant stated that when he makes a presentation to the Council he has already discussed it with the residents.
- Mayor Grant stated that it was privilege since 1965 that the Mayor was the Executive Head of the Government.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Legislative Branch made changes to this privilege without consulting the people.
- Mayor Grant stated that he had come in peace with the white doves to extend the olive branch.
- Mayor Grant stated that the citizens will come in peace. He stated that it's sad that we have to established Sergeant of Arms and have a over presence of police officers.

4.2. Council President Report

- Council President Yeargin stated that his report was on the Information stand for the months of July and August.

4.3. Dave McGill, Fire Chief

- Chief McGill was absent from the Public Session on Monday, September 8, 2014.

4.4. City Administrator Report:

- Ms. Gatling stated that the utility disconnection letters have been received for the demolition of the house located at 5825 Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway. The property has been inspected by the Department of Environmental Resources. We are awaiting on Prince George's County Permit office to process the demolition permit.

- Ms. Gatling stated that the Feggans Center demolition is nearing completion.
- Ms. Gatling stated that WSSC is replacing water pipes around the city. They have provided a notice to the residents and advertised in the Newsletter of the upcoming pipe replacement.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the house on Foote St has been demolished and debris has been removed.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the Departmental Reports are located on the table.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT

- Gloria Sistrunk-68th St.-Ms. Sistrunk stated that she has received property tax bill and \$1,500 goes toward Seat Pleasant. She would like to know what do the resident get in return for the money. She feels that if they eliminated some of the seats on the Council, then her property tax bill will be reduced. She stated that Seat Pleasant is small Municipal Government and it does not need that many members on the Council.
- Michael Stephenson-64th Pl.-Mr. Stephenson stated that he is concerned about the speeding of vehicles by the School. He stated that they are not stopping at the stop signs. Mr. Stephenson stated that the trench in front of Greig St and Martin Luther King, Jr., Hwy need to be filled.
- James Wright-70th St.-Mr. Wright inquired on the military vehicles donated to the City. He would like to know how will the vehicles be used for emergency conditions only and not make arrest. Mr. Wright stated that he feels that the Mayor and Council have each done great things for the City. However, he feels that the Mayor should have an office in City Hall. He stated that all people should conduct themselves professionally.
- Jacqui Battle-70th St.-Ms. Battle she has concerns about the increased on the business taxes. She stated that the action of the Council has upset everyone. She feels that the Council should consult the residence before they make any decisions. She stated that the meetings aren't publicized. She stated that residents have been calling for months without getting any results. She had come to City Hall with the resident and they did not get a resolution to their concern. She has stated that there are pot holes in the shopping center.

- Avon King-69th Pl.-Ms. King wanted to know why Mayor Grant was evicted from his office. She stated that she was so embarrassed to hear of the situation. She came here tonight to specifically get answers.
- Carla Hart-68th Pl.-Ms. Hart stated that she feels the Council need to stand up for the decisions that they have made. She stated that her neighbor does not cut his grass and they have trash in the yard, clothing on the fence and the roof of the house. She would like for the Code Enforcement Officer to do their job.
- Mary Barber-Crown St.-Ms. Barber stated she is concerned about the Mayor being put out of his office. She was told that the Mayor and Council will be working together. She would like to know what has happen. She stated that she called Councilwoman Simms and she did not return her call. She stated that they voted the Council in the office and they will make a decision to have them removed.
- Joanne Omega-Birchleaf Ave.-Ms. Omega stated that she has concerns with the property next door that has been vacant for 15 years. She feels that the Code Enforcement Officer is picking on her about her fence, which isn't her property. She feel that she's being harassed by the Code Enforcement Officer. She stated that the tall grass brings down the area and she do not feel safe. She stated that newsletter mentioned a program for property repairs. She would like to know if the there will be any other programs. She stated that she's concerned about the Mayor being put out of his office. She stated that the decision makes her leery of the Council.
- Ron King-71st-Mr. King stated that he would like to know why the Mayor was put out of his office.
- Aurella Hollis-Addison Rd.-Ms. Hollis stated that she wants to know the reason that the Mayor has been put out of his office. She stated that the sign on the corner says no parking, which is in front of her house. Where should she instruct her guest to park. She stated that the One-way next to the Fire Department and cars are coming out of that alley. She stated that she has requested smoke detectors from the Fire Department in July and it has not been installed. She stated that their basement floods when it rains and this has begun after Pepco was working on Addison Rd.

- Danielle Lockett-Field St.-Ms. Lockett would like to know the process to overturn the Council decisions, if the residents are not satisfied with the decision.
- Roosevelt Cox-Crown St.-Mr. Cox stated that he is concerned about the Mayor being removed from his office. He would like to know if the complaints against the Mayor was put in writing by the employees.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Vote of Council President

- The City Clerk passed out the ballots for the Council to vote the Council President seat.
- Council President Yeargin had nominated Councilmember Porter for the Council President seat.
- It was questioned by the City Council if a nomination could be made from the floor.
- City Clerk Lanham confirmed that in accordance to Robert Rules of Order Chapter XIV Nominations and Elections a nomination could be made from the floor.
- The City Council had a tie vote and agreed to meet on Monday, September 22, 2014 to conduct the vote of the Council President.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1. None

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Annual Crab Feast, Saturday, September 13, 2014 from 2:00p.m.-7:00p.m.**
- 8.2. Seat Pleasant Community Market, Saturday, September 20, 2014, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 11:00a.m.-4:00p.m.**
- 8.3. Regular Work Session, Monday, October 6, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.**
- 8.4. Seat Pleasant Fall Fitness and Fun Festival, Saturday, October 11, 2014, Goodwin Park from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m.**
- 8.5. Public Session, Monday, October 13, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.**

9 ADJOURN

ADJOURN-The meeting adjourned at 10:05p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham

City Clerk

APPROVED 10/13/14