

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

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

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**1.1.5. Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, Jun3 3, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, June 10, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. Senator Joanne Benson**

- Senator Benson stated that 20743 has been targeted as an Health Enterprise zone.
- Senator Benson stated that we have 40,000 people with one health facility in the location.
- Senator Benson stated that she was informed that the new development in the City will have a 24 hour Health Care Facility.
- Senator Benson stated that the Governor has proposed to give the City of Seat Pleasant 1 Million Dollars.
- Senator Benson stated that the City will need to have a Health Department to come in to look into the area for the Health Care Zone.
- Senator Benson stated that they are looking for Doctors to come to work in the Health Care Zone.
- Senator Benson stated that the PG County Hospital is on the fast track
- They are proposing two sites on either Landover Mall or Largo Town Center.
- The hospital will still be used as a Health Center
- The Sears has been purchased and it will be relocated to the Capitol Heights Boulevard Shopping Center.
- The Prince George's County Public School is moving along and the finest selection of the Dr. Maxwell as the Superintendent.
- Mr. Maxwell attended Prince George's County School and he stated that he is in it for the long haul.
- The Bond Bill was put in for the Public Works Facility last year and she was disappointed that we did not get it.
- Senator Benson stated that she would like to put the Bond Bill in now and begin discussion with the committee members.
- Senator Benson stated that it is a top priority.
- Senator Benson stated that whatever Seat Pleasant needs her to do she is prepared to do it.
- Councilman Yeargin inquired if the City had received any bond bill money from the State.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City had received a bond bill from the State.
- Senator Benson stated that she will be working to get it extended for the use of the Feggans Center, or to changed the language.

- Mr. Ashton stated that time is running out on the use of the bond bill.
- Senator Benson stated that if the language is changed or the intended use, it will need to go before the Budget and Taxation Committee for approval.
- Councilwoman Stephenson had a question regarding the Section 8 waiting list being re-opened.
- Senator Benson stated that the list may not be opening anytime soon. They have some people on the waiting list for 10-12 years.
- Senator Benson stated that it is a serious case of foreclosure. There is a problem with a resident in Seat Pleasant that is 88 years old. The resident house is in foreclosures; her utilities have been cut off. She has relatives living with her that are taking her money.
- Senator Benson stated that the relatives will be prosecuted for taking her money.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the City would lose the money for the bond bill can the City re-apply.
- Senator Benson stated that the money will go back to the state and it would be reallocated.
- Senator Benson thanked the City Council for their work to get the 4.1 Million dollar project on Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Senator Benson stated that she is asking them to step up to the plate and address the businesses along Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Senator Benson stated that they need to have them do something with their businesses cosmetically, as it is black eye to the City.
- Senator Benson stated that if the City Council starts the process she and Councilwoman Toles will finish it.
- Councilman Raynor inquired on behalf of resident that has DUI that the MVA will not clear.
- Senator Benson requested for the resident to contact her office to speak with Robin.
- Senator Benson stated that the 202 coalition will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in September at St. Margaret's.
- Senator Benson stated the Prince George's County Education Coalition has particular concerns with what is going on inside of the beltway inside of 20743.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that if a child has the 504 Plan or the IEP can the coalition assist a person.
- Senator Benson stated that they can assist them, as you do not label the children.

- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired if the coalition had set-up a mentorship for the program.
- Senator Benson stated that the City Council needs to put a stop to what is going on with the Fire Station.
- Senator Benson stated that she would like to have an Emergency meeting with the City Council, Councilwoman Toles, Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor and a representative from the County Executive office.
- Senator Benson stated that this is one of the busy stations in the area and we cannot allow this to happen.
- Senator Benson stated that it is unacceptable and we need the community to be involved.
- Mrs. Feggans stated that she had used the Fire Station on last Saturday and they were at her door before she could hang up the telephone.

## **2.2. Jazz Lewis, Prince George's County Young Elected Officials**

- Mr. Lewis stated that he is a representative of the Young Elected Officials.
- Mr. Lewis stated that Senator Benson speaks the truths, as she sat him down to explain how government works.
- Mr. Lewis stated that they are looking for donations for the U-CAP and the Shelters to provide assistant with cleaning supplies and school supplies.
- VPOfprogramspgc.com The school drive is running from the July 2 through the July 26, 2013.
- They have two drop-off location, one is the City of Seat Pleasant and the Town of Capitol Heights.
- Mr. Lewis stated that they have an event on facebook and twitter on pgcyd

## **3. LEGISLATION**

**3.1. Resolution R-14-01 Approval of Seat Pleasant Recreation Council.** Resolution R-14-01 was introduced by Councilmember Kennedy on Monday, July 8, 2013 and the first reading was concluded. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution R-14-01. The motion carried.

**3.2. Resolution R-14-02 Council Recess.** Resolution R-14-02 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 8, 2013 and the first reading was concluded. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Simms to approve Resolution R-14-02. The motion carried.

**3.3. Resolution R-14-03 Approval of Policies, Application and Receipt of Funding from Maryland Energy Administration.** Resolution R-14-03 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, July 8, 2013 and the first reading was concluded. It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve Resolution R-14-03. The motion carried.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant was absent on Monday, July 8, 2013 and no written report was submitted.

##### **4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:**

- Council President Porter stated his report was on the information stand.

##### **4.3 Dave McGill, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department**

- Chief McGill thanked the residents that attended the May 23, 2013 Forum to show their support for the Fire Department.
- Chief McGill stated that the volunteer staff are here and do not get paid for the services they provide to the citizens.
- Chief McGill stated that losing a Fire Department represents no economic development in the area.
- The Fire Department will be conducting their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Crab Feast on Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 2:00pm-5:00p.m. The tickets are \$30.00 per person with all you can eat crabs.
- Chief McGill stated that on July 1, 2013 the Fire Association lobbied for the Smoke Detectors with the ten year battery. Unfortunately, the Seat Pleasant Fire Department does not have the new smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors. However, the hardware store may have them.
- The new smoke detector has a silent feature when you are cooking.

##### **4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton**

- Mr. Ashton stated the WMATA would like to use Council Chambers on Wednesday, July 24, 2013 from 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.
- Mr. Ashton stated that they are applying for the Community Legacy application, which we apply every year under DHCD. The submittal date is August 15, 2013.

- Mr. Ashton stated that the we are applying for acquisition money to acquire properties along Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Mr. Ashton stated that they will be applying for money to provide Closing Cost assistance.
- Mr. Ashton stated that they will be applying for money to assist the businesses.

#### **4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that Department had identified the proposal for the updating the finance system in the Finance Department.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Chair of Budget & Finance would like to meet on July 26, 2013

#### **4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police**

- Chief Cotillo stated that the Fire Department building is a historic icon for the City of Seat Pleasant.
- Chief Cotillo stated that during the last hurricane the police department and City Hall had lost electricity, and the Fire Department had the generator connected.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the quarterly report from April to June shows a double increase from the previous quarter report.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the Fourth July was uneventful and the Police Department made an arrest of person with 10, 000 dollars worth PCP.
- Chief Cotillo stated that Bruce Minor died in car accident back in 1999 and they have scholarship fund in his name. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual fund Raiser will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 3:00p.m., to dusk at the Log on Largo Road. They provide scholarships to minors.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired if the Police was aware of the Stop Sign on 64<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the lines on the street will need to be re-done to improve the visual of the stop sign.
- Chief Cotillo stated that he is trying to get a speed camera on Central Avenue. He would like to know if we could get Senator Benson to assist.
- Councilman Yeargin inquired on the proposal of SUV request.
- Chief Cotillo stated that he is still working on the proposal and will provide it upon completion.

#### **4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson stated that the Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Department are boots on the ground for the City.
- Mr. Thompson stated that it means a lot to him as the Director of Public Works to support the Fire Department.
- Mr. Thompson stated that he wanted to support Mr. Ashton on the grant for the tree removal. He and Mr. Ashton met and agreed to have PEPCO provide the work.
- Mr. Thompson stated that we do have a commitment from PEPCO.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the signs were vandalized a long time ago and the sign was replaced by the Department of Public Works.
- Mr. Thompson stated that he spoke with Mrs. Reynolds and had the Supervisor of Public Works meet with her. They will be meeting with her to lay out a plan on the trees.
- Mr. Thompson stated that he wanted to report after two years of meetings regarding the issues of water running on Carrington. The County will be installing new pipes by 710 Carrington to address the issues by the end of the summer. The funds will be provided by the County.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the leak in the Council Chambers and the Office of the Mayor has been corrected. The leaves was covering up the drains.
- Mr. Thompson stated that on behalf of the Department of Public Works would like to thank the Council for their budget, as it shows they have confidence in him.
- Councilmember Kennedy stated that the City Council will be meeting in a Closed Session regarding the gasoline report.
- Councilmember Yeargin requested for Mr. Thompson to provide the Council with a report on how he will achieve the goals in his department.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the City has 178 vacant properties in the City.
- Councilmember Yeargin inquired if the Department could consider hiring a contractor to cut the grass on the vacant lots.
- **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**
- Mr. Martin Tillman stated that he is very new to area and he has some concerns with regards to solicitation.
- Mr. Tillman would like to know if the Council could come with an ordinance to address the concerns with solicitation.
- Mr. Tillman stated that cars that parking on the street to go to Bank of America ATM.

- Mr. Tillman stated that the abandoned house is an eyesore and a health hazard. They have people dumping trash.
- Mr. Tillman stated that he would like to help not complain.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the City is addressing the concerns with regards to signs.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the City does have an Ordinance on the books with regards to solicitation.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the house of concern is on the list to be abolished.
- Councilmember Higgs thanked Mr. Tillman for coming out to the meeting. Councilmember Higgs stated that Mr. Tillman has done what was needed by coming out and in the future, please call the City Administrator.
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- Ms. Battle stated that the information on the Fire Department ruffled her feathers regarding the removal of the Fire Department.
- Ms. Battle inquired on the transportation policy in the City of Seat Pleasant, which states the bus cannot be used for seven days later.
- Ms. Battle inquired on the Council purpose for having an iPad and the waste of the City resources.
- Councilman Porter stated that the City Council had researched the cost effectiveness of having an electronic system to cut on the cost of paper waste. They were trying to keep in stride with the other communities.
- Councilman Porter stated that the demonstration this evening was to use apparatus in a more effective manner. We are in competition with other communities as we are competing for dollars.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that if you were to look at the City Budget online it breaks down how the budget is spent in percentages.
- Ms. Battle stated that the City iPad can be used to see the hole on 69<sup>th</sup> Place and the parking lot entrance to Best One. We have raggedy streets in the City and they are taking the cars to the shop for repairs.
- Councilman Porter stated that as Senator Benson stated we will be addressing the Business Community with regards to taking care of the property.
- Ms. Battle inquired on the purpose of them tearing up the streets on Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Councilmember Porter stated that they are raising the street and make it safer for the community. They are beautifying the community relatively similar to that of Riverdale Maryland.

- Councilman Yeargin stated that the in the black of the room the design display the complete work of Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Mrs. Amanda Feggans-69<sup>th</sup> Place stated that she was not going to say anything about the Fire Department.
- Mrs. Feggans stated that she was impressed with the response time of the Fire Department.
- Mrs. Feggans stated that she was happy to hear about the tree grant. Mrs. Feggans thanked Mr. Thompson and stated that he is best Public Works Director the City has ever had.
- Mrs. Feggans inquired on the status of the City Administrator.
- Councilman Porter stated that the Council had selected a City Administrator and he provided the City Council with a verbal acceptance. The paperwork has been sent for him to sign and accept the position.
- Mrs. Barbara Kennedy-Addison Rd, inquired on the Bus Trip for the seniors to the Monument.
- Mrs. Kennedy inquired how the advertisement was put out in the community for the seniors.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he could not answer the question regarding the advertisement.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he would need to get back with Mrs. Kennedy on the advertisement.
- Councilmember Porter stated that when it was brought to the Council attention they addressed it from a legal perspective.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the FY2014 Budget dictates how monies could be spent in the future.
- Councilmember Simms stated that it was not a City wide opening and it was unfair to some of the seniors.
- Councilmember Simms stated that all activities will be advertised to ensure that all can participate.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that to alleviate this from happening the Council had put things in place.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she would like to offer an apology and not being redundant and they would like to advertise the information in the future.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that the when the request had come over his blackberry he stated that his reply was “yes”, because it was for the seniors.

- Councilmember Yeargin stated that the event was put on by the Executive Branch.
- Mrs. Kennedy requested a copy of the list of the residence that attended the event.
- Mrs. Rosetta Higgs stated that she excited to hear and see the things going in the City.
- Mrs. Higgs stated that she thought Fire Works were illegal in the City. However, they had Fireworks on the street in Ward I and they were very loud sounding like guns.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that the Fireworks were so loud he thought he was back in Vietnam.
- Chief Cotillo stated that if the complaint was handled correctly the Police Department should have been called and the Fire Department could have issued a citation.
- Councilmember Porter stated that they have an article in the Newsletter regarding Fireworks being illegal.
- Mr. Ruffin stated that in 70's they had a Fireworks display in the Park.
- Councilmember Porter read the citizen comment from Mrs. Ginyard and requested for Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ashton to respond to the concern.
- Mr. Gary Jones-Mr. Jones inquired if the Kevin Durant event was open to the General Public.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he would not say it was closed event, but for security reason and it was by invitation only.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the shoe launch and the contribution event; where Kevin Durant had provided \$150,000, which \$50,000 was given to the Seat Pleasant Recreation Center.
- Mrs. Feggan stated the house is a concern with the junk in yard.
- Councilmember Simms stated that she would rather not discuss the matter in the open session.
- Councilmember Simms stated that the Police Department and the Code Enforcement Officer has cited him several times.
- Chief Cotillo stated that the Police Department will get on it and address the concern.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **6.1 None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

7.1. None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8.1. Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, July 25, 2013, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm

8.2. NLC-Nation Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Annual Summer Conference, July 31-August 3, 2013, Milwaukee, WI

8.3. National Night Out-Tuesday, August 6, 2013 from 6:00pm-8:00pm behind Seat Pleasant Elementary School-6411 G St., Seat Pleasant, MD.

Councilmember Simms stated that it was concern with regards to the location being handicap accessible. Chief Cotillo stated that he will discuss with Chaplain Ivey the relocation of the event to Goodwin Park.

**9. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned at 9:47p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk

APPROVED