

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7: 00p.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 Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Tiffani Darby, Receptionist, LaTasha C. Gatling, City Administrator, Kyrthlyn Rhoda, Administrative Assistant

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

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

**1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The City Council postponed the approval of the July and August meeting minutes until the October Public Session.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

Councilmember Kennedy presented three residents in Ward V with Certificates of Recognition for “Best Kept Yard” during the Summer of 2013.

**3. REPORTS:**

**3.1.**

## **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Grant was absent from the Public Session on Monday, September 9, 2013 and no written report was submitted.

### **4. City Administrator Report:**

- Ms. Gatling stated the City will be going to settlement on the Gaskins Property on September 11, 2013.
- Ms. Gatling stated the City is in the final stages of the tax sale for 5825 MLK, Jr. Hwy.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the recorder has been replaced in the Council Chambers on August 7, 2013 due to technical difficulties.
- Ms. Gatling stated the Code Enforcement department has Identified four houses that need to be demolished and acquired court orders for them. The house located at 5825 MLK, Jr. Hwy is part of the requested funding in the MD-DHCD MLK, Jr. Hwy Revitalization Grant. The funding for the remaining 3 will need to have a funding source.
- Ms. Gatling stated the Community Services Coordinator is working with Councilwoman Stephenson on the September Yard Sale event.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the Finance Department will be closed on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 for training on the Peachtree system.
- Ms. Gatling stated a company was contracted for the day to shred old documents from the Finance Department in accordance with the City's retention schedule.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the City has submitted a grant under the Community Legacy Open Space, Parks & Playground Program. The proposal is to place a fitness trail, playground equipment and replace the fence along the Cabin Branch Creek Tributary. The vacant parcel is located in the 6200/6300 block of Seat Pleasant Dr.
- Ms. Gatling stated the City has submitted a grant under the MD-DHCD entitled MK for acquisition and demolition of deteriorating properties on MLK, Jr. Hwy. corridor. The grant was accompanied by a letter of support from County Councilmember Karen Toles.
- Ms. Gatling stated the Human Resource Officer is working on strengthening the City's retirement plan and the safety requirements proposed by the annual LGIT City Government inspection.
  - Ms. Gatling stated that the police department was awarded the grant for the vest. The City matched the funding for the grant in accordance to Ordinance

O-14-01. Instead of 4 vests we will now have 6 provided to the Police Department.

- Ms. Gatling stated that the police department was awarded grant funding for the SPPD Law Enforcement Technology Initiative in the amount of \$36,583.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the Receptionist/Administrative Position in the Police Department was filled by a Seat Pleasant resident from Ward II. The person who filled the position is Joanne Booker. Ms. Booker began her employment with the City on Monday, August 5, 2013.
- Ms. Gatling stated the security camera has been installed at City Hall and the Public Works building. We have installed the No Trespassing signs on the City Hall Parking lot and on City owned property.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the construction on Carrington Avenue has begun by the County. The County saved the City money by them completing the construction.
- They installed a pipe on the back of their homes that will be connected (underground) to the sump pump and discharge at the end of the cul de sac for the effected residents. The residents that do not connect can be held responsible for future damages.
- Ms. Gatling stated A WSSC Contractor has been retained to design a water main replacement/relocation that will affect several streets around Seat Pleasant. The work schedule is forthcoming.

## **5. Citizens Comment**

- Claradean McClain; Ms. McClain inquired about activities for the children. Concerned about 68<sup>th</sup> St. and 68<sup>TH</sup> Pl., has pot holes in the road and nothing has been done about them.
- Marion Exum; Ms. Exum stated that the Speed bump on 68<sup>th</sup> Pl. near 122 is the highest speed bump in the city. Spoke to the Mayor about the speed bump, A friend visited and complained about the speed bump scraping her car. Has to travel around outer streets to avoid the speed bump. Wanted to know if the Code Enforcer had a schedule for checking on Ward 5. What is the schedule? Received a citation in February because gate was rusty during the winter. Ms. Gatling addressed the Code Enforcement regulations and process.
- Mike Stephenson; Mr. Stephenson had a complaint about the school zone. It does not have any stop signs. Worried that one of the children may be hit.

64<sup>th</sup> Avenue has 4 houses that has trash on the property and other things on the lots of the residents that do not belong. Some yards have broken down cars.

- Dorothy Taylor; Ms. Taylor stated that she's concerned about the plants on MLK Jr. Highway that are in front of the Auto Zone store. They are blocking the view of the drivers on MLK that are turning into the lot and the drivers coming out of the lot.
- Tammy Lake; Ms. Lake stated that she has been living on 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue for 17 yrs. with her 2 daughters. She had a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party and called Code Enforcement about the regulations for the party. Took notice around the neighborhood for b-day. On Sunday someone called and complained about her party. The police officers were rude to her and her guest. Shut down her party at 10 pm. On another night her daughter was on the way into the house and started talking to a friend. A light was shined into her daughters face and she was told to go into the house. Wanted to know what will be done about the disrespect of the officers.
- Officer Ivey addressed the comment from Ms. Lake regarding her party. Officer Ivey stated that citation were given to Ms. Lake due to the noise ordinance.
- Carlton Jones; Mr. Jones stated that he lives at 304 68<sup>th</sup> Pl. last house on the left. He's concerned about people going into park throughout the day. The gate has a large hole. The people are going to the liquor store and then hang out in the park. Mr. Jones stated that people are also urinating in the park and the smell has gotten really bad. Mr. Jones wants the gate to be repaired and closed. Mr. Jones stated that people are smoking in the park and have other illegal activities going on. Mr. Jones inquired about the Feggans Center and City Center project.
- Ron King; Mr. King stated that he is a resides at 403 71st St. He stated that Pepco has installed poles within the neighborhood. When they installed the poles on his street, a pole fell and hit his vehicle denting his truck. Pepco also left huge holes in the sidewalks that were uncovered. He called Code Enforcement to report the holes. Code Enforcement stated that they would come out and take a look. He called Pepco, who then came and fixed the problem. He would like to know the process for notifying citizens about work that is being done in the city.

- Barbara Kennedy; Mrs. Kennedy welcomed Ms. Gatling back to the City. Mrs. Kennedy stated that she knows Ms. Gatling will address the city problems. Mrs. Kennedy stated that she thinks Ms. Gatling is doing a fantastic job. Mrs. Kennedy stated that Ms. Gatling is on point and hands on. Mrs. Kennedy stated that she believes that this is a step forward for Seat Pleasant.
- Amanda Feggans; Mrs. Feggans stated that a property behind her home is growing lots of weeds and grass. Mrs. Feggans stated that the property is occupied and Code Enforcement said that he could not cut the grass on that property. Mrs. Feggans stated that the property owner is not taking care of the yard.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1. Vote of Council President**

- Council President Porter stated that he will relinquish his position in the running for Council President.
- Council President Porter congratulated Councilmember Yeargin as the new Council President.
- The City Council congratulated Councilmember Yeargin and welcomed him as the new Council President.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. None**

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENT**

8.1 Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Crab Feast, Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 2:00p.m.-5:00p.m. **TICKETS are \$30.00 for Adults and \$20.00 for Children 12 and under**

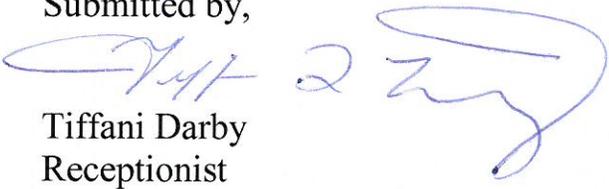
7.2 PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2013, 15901 Escalibur Rd, Bowie, MD from 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.

7.3. Community Yard Sale, Saturday, September 21, 2013, Goodwin Park, 311 68th St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 from 9:00am-4:00pm **RAIN DATE 09/28/13**

7.4 Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, September 26, 2013, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**ADJOURN**-The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,



Tiffani Darby  
Receptionist

APPROVED 01/13/14