

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene W. Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria L. Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Devan Martin, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Kelly Porter

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve the Public Session Agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting minutes for Monday, April 6, 2020. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Public Session Meeting minutes for Monday, April 13, 2020. The motion was carried, the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

- It was motioned by Councilmember McCarthy and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Special Session Meeting minutes for Monday, April 13, 2020. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve the Closed Session Meeting minutes for Monday, April 13, 2020. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Katrina Robinson stated that Mrs. Evans would like for Councilmember Yeargin to assist her with the replacement of her fence.
- Mrs. Robinson stated that she had seen the mail carrier who was out of work due to COVID-19 Virus and he was not wearing a mask or any other PPE gear.
- Mrs. Robinson stated that she was in CVS on MLK Highway and a few of the patrons did not have on a mask and the employees did not say anything.
- Mayor Grant informed Mrs. Robinson that request from Mrs. Evans for Councilmember Yeargin is personal in nature and Mrs. Evans needs to contact him directly. The concerns regarding the mail carrier should be addressed to the Postmaster General and the CVS incident needs to be reported to the corporate office of CVS.
- Jacquita Riley stated that she wanted to know the accountability and the criteria of the Invest in Hope Card for the residents. If the city intended to decrease the taxes for the Commercial Businesses considering the businesses has threatening to leave due to the high rate of the taxes.
- Mrs. Gzifa stated she wanted to know the information regarding the Invest in Hope for the residents.

- Garry Jones stated that we are experiencing illegal dumping at the bottom of Drylog Street and 71st Avenue. He wanted to know if cameras can be installed to catch the violators.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1. None

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Ordinance O-20-16 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget for GOCCP Grant Funding for the Police Department 2nd Reading

Ordinance O-20-16 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, May 4, 2020. It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve Ordinance O-20-16. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

5. REPORTS:

5.1. Council President Report

- Council President Yeargin stated that the monthly report for April 2020 can be found in Board Docs.

5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant read the letter from State Highway Administration regarding the MD704 Streetscape project.
- Council President Yeargin requested for Mayor Grant to provide a copy of the letter to the City Clerk.

5.3. Chief Operating Officer Report-Devan A. Martin, Acting Chief Operating Officer Report

- Mr. Martin stated that we have been constantly moving and very fluid with reshaping the Government. We had made some very tough decisions that has not been made in a silo. We are shutting down the temporary city hall and the original plan was to be in the building for an eight-month period. The problems occurred from the previous administration of USDA and we had been in the building for two years.
- Mr. Martin stated that we will update the Government Affairs committee and have Carlton Wilkins, Construction Manager attend the meeting. The buildings will be complete in August/September 2020.

- Mr. Martin stated we will provide an update on the move in writing so everyone can see the savings. The move will create a \$500,000 savings to the USDA project.
- Mr. Martin stated we had some changes in Finance as you know we had not had a CFO and we were using a temporary agency. He made the decision to bring on a CPA firm to assist with the transition. We had been using NetSuite and as you know the systems is only effective as the user.
- Mr. Martin stated that he would like to meet with the governmental affairs committee in the next two weeks.
- Mr. Martin stated that we have a wonderful staff that has been working remotely and we are working on a comprehensive telework report that will be submitted to the mayor and council.
- Mr. Martin stated that the county was able to release the federal funding that had come to the state and trickled down to the local government. They had ear marked \$15Million to the municipalities. They had prepared a formula, which the city was not aware of the formula. As you know Prince Georges County is a hot spot for the COVID-19 Virus and the 214 corridor is one of the hot spots. We were awarded \$291,000 and that is supposed to sustain us until June 30, 2020. There are several costs that can be used in the template. We know that is not enough to support the community and businesses.
- Mr. Martin stated that the City of Hyattsville had taken \$1Million from their budget and did not receive the return on the funding allocated. He will be requesting a Closed Session to refer matters for personnel in the next week or so.
- Mr. Martin stated that we must justify the funding in the parameters they set forth.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that she wanted to know if there was a reason the report for the project will not be presented to the full council.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1. Public Safety Committee Report

- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the committee met on May 6, 2020 via Zoom.
- The Public Safety Committee is concerned with subjectivity of the definition of civil emergency spelled out in the legislation. The Public Safety has recommended to analyze the following:

- Analyze past “civil emergencies” if any and determine if the city has struggled to operate within its current powers.
- Review and analyze crime data and statistics to reports trends and possible spikes in crime since the onset of the pandemic.
- Will there be a Memorandum of Understanding created between the County and the District for enforcement purposes?
- The Public Safety Committee believes this section(40-4A) infringes on the rights of citizens
- The Public Safety Committee has concluded the legislation needs further review and is not supported by the committee at this time.
- Council President Yeargin inquired when will the committee desire the answers?
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that they will submit a request in writing for the Police Department to receive the answer.
- Councilmember McCarthy requested for Council Clerk to draft an email in the morning for review to submit to the Public Safety Department.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Approval of Board of Supervisors Election Candidate to fill Vacancy

- Mayor Grant state that he has been trying to fill the vacancy on the Board of Supervisors of Election for the past year.
- Mayor Grant stated that we had advertised in the City newsletter for several months to fill the vacancy.
- Mayor Grant stated that the resume of Ana Romero is in BoardDocs for the City Council to review.
- Mayor Grant stated that the candidate had contracted the COVID-19 Virus and was unavailable to join the meeting.
- Mayor Grant stated that the previous Board Member spoke Spanish fluently and he was happy to find someone to replace her with the same capabilities.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that she would have wanted to speak for the person before being approving the appointment.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the appointment of Ana Romero to the Seat Pleasant Board of Supervisors of Election. The motion carried.
- FOR: Love, Maxwell, Porter and Yeargin
- Abstain: Jones, McCarthy and Sistrunk

7.2. Council Virtual Meetings

- City Clerk Lanham stated that the Council President Yeargin had requested for the Council Meetings to be hosted virtually.

City Clerk Lanham stated that she and the Council Clerk will meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 to discuss the implementation of the virtual meetings and additional information will be provided on how to access the meetings by telephone and virtually.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearing, Saturday, May 16, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, or by Conference Call from 10:00am-11:30am

8.2 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Review, Saturday, May 16, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, or by Conference Call from 12:00pm-5:30p.m.

8.3 Regular Work Session Meeting, Monday, June 1, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, or by Conference Call at 6:00p.m.

8.4 Public Session, Monday, June 8, 2020, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers-or by Conference Call at 7:00p.m.

9. ADJOURN-

The Public Session meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Submitted by,

DocuSigned by:

Dashaun Lanham

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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk