

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Monica Higgs, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Kizzie Scott, Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk

Staff: Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Devan A. Martin, Interim Deputy Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Police, Jeannelle B. Wallace, Interim Chief Operating Officer

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Council President Porter

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the agenda. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. None

3. REPORTS:

3.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that the Office of the Mayor does not have a report for the Regular Work Session on Monday, December 7, 2020.

3.2 Chief Operating Officer Report

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the report is from October 1-31, 2020 the management team which included the Chief of Police, City Clerk, and the COO.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we will be submitting a budget review to the City Council in January.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the City hired an independent investigative team, and we anticipate the report will be submitted in December.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the City is working on number of grants to include the USDA loan and numerous of documentation to the USDA.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the bond bill application was submitted and requested in the amount of \$250,000.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the COVID-19 Relief Grant will be submitted this week.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Council approved to be a host for the Maryland Historical Grant to work in the Chesapeake Trail and making recommendation to the city to ensure the trail can be utilized.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we have been working with the City Attorney to arrange a meeting with SPICE.
- Mrs. Wallace stated we are working on the Maryland Historical Trust, the PALS Grant with University of Maryland to look at MLK HWY to secure funding and get development on the business corridor.
- Councilmember McCarthy inquired if the Council had decided to move forward on the Dog Park Grant or is it too early to apply.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the applications are due in April 2021, but she will verify with the Grant Manager.
- Council President Porter stated that we had conversation with regards to businesses coming into the city and the Watkins Building lower level will be set-up as a Smoke Shop. We need to check into obtaining authority of zoning with regards to businesses coming into the city that will have direct impact on public safety.

3.3. City Council Committee Reports

3.5 Finance & Budget Committee-Councilmember Sistrunk

- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the committee met on November 4, 2020 with Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Lanham to discuss SPICE and to get an update on the status.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the committee allowed Councilmember Higgs the opportunity to review the documents as it pertained to SPICE the

committee reconvened on November 10, 2020 with the City Attorney presents.

- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the committee discovered that the ordinance allowed SPICE to act independently, and that Mayor Grant was having issues with contacting SPICE.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that the City Attorney was requested to review the investment protection law and to amend the ordinance.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Camp were e-mailing to discuss the meeting with a list of questions to be answered during the meeting. The questions were approved and will be submitted to SPICE for preparation of the meeting.

3.6 Government Affairs & Technology Committee-Councilmember McCarthy

- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the committee met four times in the month of November. The first meeting was held on November 9, 2020 to discuss the Ethics Commission, which allows the Mayor a timeframe to appoint residents to the committee.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the Committee met on November 30, 2020 to review sections 1 through 6 and the recommendations were to amend C-310, C-401 and to create the process for removal of an elected officials.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the committee discussed the advertisement to change the language for advertisement to fill the Boards and Commission.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that we met on December 1, 2020 in the morning and we discussed the form of government and powers. The committee reviewed the charter to determine the form of government that the city was operating under. The city was operating under two forms of government, and the committee recommended the council-manager form of government.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the committee met in the evening on December 1, 2020 and the staff worked diligently to present the charter amendment for the committee to review.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the council thought they removed all powers, and they learned the charter was amended back to the same charter in 2016.
- Councilmember McCarthy stated that the charter amendment is on the agenda for the council consideration in the meeting tonight.

3.7 Human Services Health and Education Committee-Councilmember Higgs

- Councilmember Higgs stated that she met with Council President Porter and City Clerk Lanham to discuss resources and the list has been provided to the City Clerk.

3.8 Public Safety Committee-Councilmember Scott

- Councilmember Scott stated that the committee met on November 6, 2020 at 5:01pm. The committee discussed the update and annexation of central avenue and the internal structure of the department.
- Councilmember Scott stated that the committee scheduled a ride along for the committee members and the city clerk.

3.9 Environmental Justice Committee-Councilmember Love

- Councilmember Love stated that she met with the Acting Director to discuss the Operations of the Department.
- Councilmember Love stated that they discussed the senior homeowner grant, the snow removal plan, and the leave vacuum schedule.
- Councilmember Love stated that the department will train staff and arrange additional training through LGIT.
- Councilmember Love stated that the trash cans are wonderful and when the resident trash is not picked up, it is because the trash was placed in the wrong trash can.
- Councilmember Love stated that she will schedule another meeting with the director.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-06 To Amend the Charter of the City of Seat Pleasant.

Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-06 was introduced by the City Council and read by City Clerk on Monday, December 7, 2020.

Council President Porter asked why was C-305 changed to reflect the form of government.

Councilmember McCarthy stated the changed was to ensure that the form of government was clear.

Council President Porter inquired of the changes in C-310, C-403 d, C-902.

Councilmember McCarthy and City Clerk Lanham explained the changes and the City Clerk made another change C-403 d to reflect when the State of City Report will be submitted to Mayor and Council.

Motion to approve Charter Amendment Resolution CA-21-06 Amendment of the City Charter for the City of Seat Pleasant

Motion by Gloria L Sistrunk, second by Hope Love.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Monica Higgs, Hope Love, Shireka McCarthy, Gerald Raynor Sr, Kizzie Scott, Gloria L Sistrunk

Abstain: Kelly Porter

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. None

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Public Session, Monday, December 14, 2020, by Zoom Video at 7:00p.m. Meeting link details will be on the city's website.

7.2 Regular Work Session, Monday, January 4, 2021, by Zoom Video at 6:00p.m., Meeting link details will be on the city's website.

7.3 Public Session, Monday, January 11, 2021, by Zoom Video at 7:00p.m., Meeting link details will be on the city's website.

8. ADJOURN:

Adjourn and Logout-Request Motion to go into Closed Session under Statutory Authority 3-305(b) (1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals".

7:20pm to Closed Session Love and McCarthy motion and

It was motioned by Councilmember Love and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to come out of closed at 8:27pm.

The City Council reconvened in the Regular Work Session at 8:28pm

Approval of the Chief Operating Officer to Advertise an RFP for a City Attorney

It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Higgs

Higgs-Yes

Love-Yes

McCarthy-Yes

Porter-Yes

Raynor-Yes

Scott-Yes

Sistrunk-Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Submitted by,

DocuSigned by:

Dashaun N. Lanham

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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC

City Clerk

APPROVED 01/11/21