

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene W. 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 Councilmember Higgs.

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love 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**

Approval of Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2020  
Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for Regular Work Session for Monday, December 7, 2020

Motion by Monica Higgs second by Gloria L Sistrunk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 7, 2020

Motion to Approve Closed Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 7, 2020

Motion by Monica Higgs second by Gloria L. Sistrunk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Approval of Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 14, 2020

Motion to Approve the Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 14, 2020

Motion by Gerald Raynor, Sr, second by Monica Higgs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Stephen Sturdivant- Mr. Sturdivant submitted the following comment:
  1. New snowplows for the City that were referenced in Nov 2020 Public Session
    - When were the snowplows purchased?
    - What was the cost per vehicle?
  2. Furloughed workers scheduled for re-hire.
    - How many employees will be brought back?
    - How many are from Public works?
    - Will the workers be brought back at their same salary and benefits?
  3. Cost overruns for City Hall, \$500k funding shortage
    - How will this shortfall be funded?
    - Please provide a detailed breakdown and explanation of the cost overruns
  4. Central Ave annexation
    - What is the benefit to the City and residents?
    - Where does the Annexation start/end?

- What is the impact to Seat Pleasant resident taxes?
- Jordan Baker-Mr. Baker submitted the following comment:

I am submitting this comment because I would like to provide recommendations for the app that will **a) make residents more comfortable submitting requests and b) hide individual contact information and residency in case of retaliation or harassment.** It is *critical* we introduce technology that allows for anonymous reporting channels by encouraging username creation, storing email and home addresses on the backend, and removing mapping.

- Barbara Kennedy-Mr. Kennedy submitted the following comment:

In the last public session meeting Council member President Porter brought up the subject of the purple line. I have two questions about the purple line.

1. The purple line is supposed to connect Bethesda with New Carrollton on the metro rail system. What benefit if any does it provide for Seat Pleasant?
2. Given delays in construction, (for example, it was reported in October 2020 that the contractor for the project had quit and, in December 2020 that the State of Maryland came to an agreement to pay \$250.00 million dollars by December 31st to settle contract disputes that caused major work on the line to stop in the fall) does councilmen Porter have any definitive information about the status of the project or when it will be completed?

Council member at-large Porter also stated that the city has six plows, four which are new.

1. When were the new plows purchase?
2. How was it funded and what was the cost to the city?

There were guest speakers in the meeting who spoke of art advertisements that would possibly be put on the bus stop shelters. I have a few questions i.e.,

1. Is there a plan to repair the bus stop shelters in Seat Pleasant, and if so, which shelters would be repaired?
2. Where will the funds come from?
3. Since the Metro bus stop shelters are not owned by the city, is the city coordinating with Metro?
4. Isn't it important for the repairs to be done before pursuing advertisements? When I go into other towns, the bus stops are equipped for inclement weather while waiting for the bus. Overhead and side closer etc.,

It was stated that there would be a conclusion by December 31st on the investigation of allegations against Mayor Eugene Grant. I understand that there is now a delay in the date. Is there a new conclusion date?

1. What is the result of the investigation?
2. The name of the firm of the investigation.
3. Will the residents be allowed to request a report?
4. How was the investigation founded and the cost?
5. Is there a plan moving forward to prevent such improprieties or even the appearance of them?

Mrs. Wallace report stated that sixteen potholes were filled.

1. Where are the location of the potholes that were filled, can I find that information in previous minutes?
2. Such as the dates they were filled and the cost. Or were they all in one location?

Also, a question that I have as well as other residents:

1. Is Mrs. Wallace back as a full-time employee?
2. And if so, is chief Devin Martin still working as deputy to the city administration? What position is chief Devin Martin holding currently?

Councilmember at-large Sharika McCarthy stated that the selection of the best decorated house for Christmas was still taking place. In the past there was three prizes given maybe President councilmen at-large Porter can work with you to fund the kind gesture.

Or maybe President Councilmen at-large Porter will continue the kind gesture that was done in the past, in the spring, for the best yard. It was a good incentive for residents who were already keeping their yards up. I remember residents taking such pride in receiving that award.

Although I am the person asking the questions, other residents asked that I be their voice for some of the questions. For one reason or another.

### **3. PRESENTATION**

#### **3.1. None**

### **4. LEGISLATION**

#### **4.1. None**

### **5. REPORTS:**

#### **5.1. Council President Report**

- Council President Porter stated that the monthly report can be viewed in Board Docs.

## **5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant**

- Mayor Grant report submitted a report in writing, and it was uploaded in Board Docs.

## **5.3. Chief Operating Officer Report-Jeannelle B. Wallace, Interim Chief Operating Officer**

- Mrs. Wallace stated that there are number of reports in Board Docs, which are the quarterly reports.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the investigation was delayed due to technical difficulties with our IT firm.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the report will be submitted to the City Council and a summary of the report may be provided, but the detail report will not be distributed publicly due to the personnel information being included in the report.
- Mrs. Wallace stated the 2019 Audit will be completed by next week and the firm will be available to present the report to the City Council. The delay was due to the previous finance personnel had carried from prior years, which typically should not be carried unless it is over expenditure and it will have a notation in the audit if it will be rectified in the next fiscal year.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Payroll responsibilities was moved to HR, which is a Finance function. This caused a delay in the audit. We are moving to place this payroll function back in the finance department.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the inspection was delayed due to COVID-19. We anticipate that we will be able to resume the inspection in the last two quarters of the fiscal year.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the city was awarded \$253,000 from the County for expenditures related to COVID-19.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the location of the potholes, signage and painting of curbs by DOEJ can be reviewed on the report.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we had numerous allegations brought against the city and the administration works closely with LGIT to resolve the allegations.

- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Public Engagement department distributed cards to residents in need, and the department along with Mayor Grant selected two families to receive a contribution.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that she will present the annual report in February that will provide many details of each department.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we had partnered with the UMD students and they will be doing a study on MLK and the Charrette will be held on February 2, 2021 at 7:00p.m.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1. None**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1. None**

## **8 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8.1 Regular Work Session, Monday, February 1, 2021, by Zoom Video at 6:00p.m., Meeting link details will be provided.**

**8.2 Public Session, Monday, February 8, 2021, by Zoom Video at 7:00p.m., Meeting link details will be provided.**

## **9. ADJOURN:**

9.1 Adjourn and Logout-Request Motion to go into Closed Session under Statutory Authority 3-305(b) (8) "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation."

It was motioned by Councilmember Sistrunk and seconded by Councilmember Love and approved by the City Council to go into the Close Session at 7:40pm

The City Council adjourned the Closed Session at 9:34pm

Submitted by,

DocuSigned by:  
*Dashaun N. Lanham*  
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Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC  
City Clerk